

## 2005

- Jan 4 **Vandals strike at Christmas** - No 1 Building Services based at The Bank; Low Street was the target for Christmas week-end yobs who hurled stones into the compound where the firm's vehicles were stored over the holiday period doing considerable damage to a number.
- He escaped from the tsunami** - A Fochabers' man Richard Pratt survived one of the worst natural disasters of modern times. He managed to escape from the damage done by the tsunami created by an undersea earthquake measuring 9.0 on the Richter scale which took place in the Indian Ocean on Boxing Day. A number of countries felt the worst effects of the giant waves including Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India and Thailand hit by a devastating wall of water whose destructive force also touched nations on the east coast of Africa. Mr Pratt, an award-winning photographer who was based at Hikkaduwa in Sri Lanka was with four friends when the waves struck. The hotel they were in was swept away but the five somehow were able to hang on for dear life to escape with nothing more than cuts and bruises... He phoned his mother on December 27 to let her know that he was okay.
- We need more light on the subject** - A call has been made for the junction of the A942 with the A98 to be illuminated during the hours of darkness. The request has been passed on to Buckie Community Council by various people who in turn have relayed it to Moray Council.
- The sinking of the Evangeline** - January 16/17 2005 will mark the 100<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of the sinking of the Portknockie sailing vessel Evangeline BF1952 off the Orkney islands with the loss of eight men, seven of whom came from Portknockie and one from Cullen. One body was never recovered. The crew of the Evangeline was – David Wood 'King', skipper (49) ; Alex Mair 'Shavie' (38); Wm. Mair 'Shanker', (32), James Mair 'Shanker' (34), Joseph Mair 'Bobbin' (24), John Wood 'King' (33); Alex Mair 'Bobbin' (17) and George Findlay of Cullen who was 19.
- 'Friends' and fund raising** - The Friends of Seafield and Community Patients had reason to praise the generosity of local folk when they were able to raise the sum of £965 from two events; £407 was raised at a coffee morning with £558 through a day's bag-packing at the local Co-op.
- New Year's Day baby** - A baby was born to Linda and Bruce Paterson of 10 Mill Crescent Baby Neve arrived on the first day of 2005 at Dr Gray's Hospital in Elgin, weighing 9.3.5lbs. A sister for three year old Dana.
- Jan 11 **From Findochty to Buckie on foot** - A track that begins near the former Rathburn Hotel then runs on through Portessie and on to Station Road in Findochty has been completed. The money to pay for the work on the path came from the Community Economic Development Fund and was a European Union Project.
- He was responsible for the V.C. plaque** - An obituary is found on page 5 for the late Robert 'Robbie' Gordon, a native of Buckie but domiciled in Musselburgh for many years,

who was responsible for having the plaque for George Imlach McIntosh VC erected in the New Cemetery last September. It was written by his brother in law Allan Fraser.

**New Year's Day 5k** - This year the 'Sair Heidie' race was won by John Goodall with a Dutch lady Maretta Van der Linden crossing the line first for the weaker sex. Both received a bottle of wine.

This year saw a considerable increase in the number of runners with 48 taking part coming from Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Cheshire as well as foreign climes.

**The good resolution went down the Swanee** - Buckie Thistle lost their first game on the New Year going under by three goals to one away to Cove Rangers.

The team was Main, Small, Lamberton, Souter (McGuigan), Angus, Munro (Catto), More, Macdonald, Stewart (Souter), Coutts and Pirie. Subs. Murray, Gairns.

Jan 18 **Dying man denied a doctor** - (Headline on front page) George Herd, 63, lay at home in Findochty as his health deteriorated while it is claimed centre staff refused to dispatch a doctor citing rules that prevented them doing so when the call for help came from a non relative.

**A stormy time** - Last week saw vicious storms pound Scotland as a whole with some areas experiencing gusts of up to 100mph. The worst parts were the west coast and Highlands but the Buckie area was not left unscathed, a sandstone cross on the North Church was blown down, thankfully through the night when there was no one walking near by, as big lumps of stones were scattered over a considerable area.

**Need for lights** - Councillors Longmore and Mackay joined in the plea made by Buckie Community Council for something to be done at the two junctions leading into Buckie where visibility is poor during the hours of darkness.

**In aid of the tsunami victims** - Many organisations throughout the local area were involved collecting funds and all kinds of goods for the thousands who had lost their homes and everything as a result of the tsunami in the Indian Ocean on Boxing Day.

**Buckie Youth Club football team** - On page 15 (Look Back to the Past) a photograph shows Buckie Youth Club football team taken before the match at Kynoch Park, Keith in 1946 when they played Inverness Youth Club in the Final of the North of Scotland Pennant. Buckie won by three goals to two.

The team was – George Innes, G. Cowie, Adam Cowie (G.K), J. Reaich, Sandy Murray, John. Jappy, Peter Cormack, B. Wilson, B. Smith, J. Currie and Johnnie Reid.

Jan 25 **Accident at the Barhill Junction** - There has been a number of accidents at this junction and this recent one would tend to highlight the need for something to be done to improve the situation. (In December 2006 Buckie Community Council were still fighting for something to be done here and at the Toll Bar where two accidents took place in mid December.)

**Mobile Cinema** - On Wednesday and Thursday of last week the 'Screen Machine', a mobile cinema was parked on the car park on East Carlton Terrace as local folk, young and old, came to

see the range of films on offer. The films were – ‘The Incredible’, ‘Bridget Jones’ ‘Edge of Reason’, and ‘Ladies in Lavender’.

Promoted by Moray Arts Development team the operation was run by Ian McColl and Neil McDonald.

The size of the cinema was deceiving with a complement of 110 seats and the inside just like an ordinary cinema. There is 35 mm projector and a 12 speaker digital Dolby Surround Sound and also air conditioning.

The mobile cinema is ideal for rural or isolated communities such as the western isles where it gives people the opportunity to see films they would not normally see. Mr McColl has been with the company for 7 years and has toured all around the islands as well as abroad to such places as Bosnia where he has been twice. As is to be expected there is a big demand for the cinema and from Buckie they were off to Argyle

**For the Tsunami Appeal** - Forrest the Bakers sold over 3000 morning rolls (butteries), in their shops on Saturday morning on Saturday 8 January and has donated the entire proceeds to the Tsunami Appeal. A total of £1033.13 was raised, £782.25 from the sale of the rolls and £257.18 rose from kind donations from customers.

**Fine for some bit nae abidy** - A car park has been laid out on an area fringing the sea in Findochty known to residents as the ‘Greenie’. Not everyone has welcomed the development which was done without asking the people.

\*\*\*\*\* Allan Fraser had a letter published on page 8 where he tells a story from the just after VE Day in August 1945 when as 15 year old apprentice plasterer he laid down his tools to clean out some hen houses on the ‘Greenie’ and was paid handsomely for doing it. He was encouraged to do the work by his journeyman Davie Grant.

**Less parking spaces** - Changes have taken place for the parking of cars on Cluny Place outside the library. There are far fewer spaces now and almost exclusively for the disabled.

**The De’ils good tae his ain** - The winner of a TV and DVD player in the recent Buckie Thistle raffle was Alistair Ingram of Titness who is seen in a photograph receiving his prizes from George Murray of the Buckie Thistle Social Club and Alistair Jamieson President of Buckie Thistle Supporters Club. Both items were generously supplied by R. S. Cruickshank and Co. Ltd.

Feb 1 **the fishing scene** - Last week seven boats came in to Buckie harbour to land their catches. In total this comprised – 464 boxes of white fish, prawns and squid, also 260 bags of clams. The boats were Genesis, Clarness, Wave Crest, Kestrel, Carisma, Zephyr and Nordic Way.

Feb 8 **‘Drifter Closure causes outrage - Moray Council axe grant of £54,000’** The dark clouds of uncertainty are hanging over the ‘Buckie Drifter’ after it became apparent last week that Moray Council were preparing to withdraw its funding . **See front page.**

**Portessie Public Hall** - The afternoon of Saturday February 5 2005 was a proud moment for Portessie when the newly revamped Public Hall was declared open.

Doing the honours was Gordon Baxter from Baxter's Food Group whose 'Baxter's Foundation' granted the project £20,000 in October 2003. To mark this extremely generous donation a room in the facility has been named the 'Baxter Room'.

A photograph shows Gordon Baxter and his wife Ina Baxter with Gillian Bailey and Rosella Smith two lady members of the hard working committee who saw their dream realised. **See the report on page 1.**

**A poem/song in found on page 3 and columns 1 and 2.** It was composed by Frank Reynolds and tells the tragic tale of the sinking of the Portknockie fishing boat 'Evangeline' that was lost with all hands in February 1905. **See the report on page 3.**

**The Fishing scene** - Last week nine boats landed 297 boxes of white fish, prawns and squid also 258 bags of clams at Buckie harbour. The boats were Wave Crest, Arnbog, Carisma, Vigilant, Zephyr, Pisces, and Rival. Carolyn and Kestrel.

Feb 15 **A Liberal Democrat stalwart - An obituary** written for Gordon Holm is found on **page 5**. He was well known in the area for his stalwart work for Moray Liberal Democrats. He stood as a candidate in the Buckie East and Findochty ward election in 2003 and Buckie west in 2004.

**The Rotary Club of Buckie** is to celebrate the centenary of the Rotary Movement with a celebration dinner in the Cullen Bay Hotel on Wednesday 23 February at 7.30pm. The guest speaker to be James McPherson, former Lord Lieutenant of Banffshire.

Feb 22 **Buckie 'Citizen of the Year'** - For the first time an organisation rather than an individual has been voted Citizen of the Year. From the list nominated by readers of the 'Advertiser'; the most votes were cast for Buckie Christmas Lights Committee. **See front page.**

**Closure of the 'Buckie Drifter'** - The withdrawal of funding by Moray Council was fiercely condemned by Buckie Community Council at their meeting last week. The chairman Derek Horrobin called for a new funding and strategy package to be put in place.

\*\*\* **Davy to stop his ice-cream round** - Davy Higgins, 63, a native of Cork in Southern Ireland is set to retire after 33 years doing the rounds of the town with his ice cream van **a report is given on page 7.** He is to carry on with his video business doing weddings and other commercial work.

**A big attraction** - The Wildlife Centre at Spey Bay attracted more than 21,000 visitors in 2004.

**D.I.Y Volunteers** - The Buckie area is set to benefit from the skills of a group of dedicated D.I.Y volunteers. The group of 20 members or so form the Handyperson Services of Moray who carry out a range of jobs around the house for those who are elderly, disabled or disadvantaged and have no one to help them out.

**Betty calls it a day** - A photograph on page 15 shows Enrolled Nurse at Seafield Hospital Betty Gauld as she receives an envelope with money from Helen Robbins and a framed poem from

Staff Nurse Rita Easton to mark her retirement. The poem entitled 'Fair Weel Tae Nurse Betty' is to be found on page 15 columns 3 and 4.

**You shouldn't park there** - On February 26 1980 Grampian Police gave warning that they were to stamp down on people parking their vehicles on pavements. Where vehicles are parked on pavements it means that people have to go on the streets to get past putting themselves in danger. In addition utilities such as gas, water, electricity, telephone, and drainage systems are found under the footpaths all of which are liable to be damaged by the weight of the vehicles.

Mar 1 **Bus stance plans defeated** - The controversial plans to turn the south west quadrant of Cluny Square into a transport interchange for buses were turned down last week by Moray Councillors by a margin of 20 – 3. The plans had the full support of the community council and also many people in Buckie who use **the buses** including Peter Bruce of West Cathcart Street who wrote two letters on the subject and who was most scathing of our local Moray Councillors, also Allan Fraser, not as a member of the community council,, but as a private individual on this occasion.

**Obituaries are found on page 5** for Duncan Hilditch , Portsoy, famed for his prize-winning porridge and Mrs Iris Bell, Portgordon, one of the best bowlers in the region who went on to compete at National level.

**You did well Jim** - P.C. Jim Thomson, the popular Buckie Community Beat Officer scored a double first for Grampian Police by scooping the top prize in both the Scottish and British Inter Force Skiing Championships.

\*\*\*\*\* **Buckie Rovers who intend to return in August to north junior football** in the Scotscoup League are on the look out for a new manager. This is the league below that in which they played the year before they went into abeyance in season 2004/05

Mar 8 **the 'Buckie Drifter' will not re-open** - The Board of Directors of the closure-threatened 'Buckie Drifter' have confirmed that the centre will not be re-opening this year in its current format.

**Church for sale** - St John's Church, Deskford, a grade B listed building has been put on the market at an asking price of £50,000.

**She taught for many years at BHS - An obituary is found on page 5** for former Buckie High School language teacher **Miss Alice 'Allie' Slater** who died at her home in Portknockie last week at the age of 102.

**Headmaster resigns** - John Trodden, who was head teacher at Millbank Primary School for 14 years left last week and is to start a new job with Moray Council. A photograph shows him receiving a number of presents from pupils (a watch) and from the School Board and PTA.

**Top of the Form** - Cluny Primary School were this year's winners of the annual Rotary Club Quiz Competition. The schools involved were – Cullen, Portgordon, St Peter's, Millbank, Portessie, Findochty and Portknockie. Cluny will now compete in the regional competition. The members of the Cluny team were – Sarah McKinley, Debbie Carnell, David Chappell and Michael Ewen. They scored 104 points to runners-up Cullen with 96.

**Money left over from VC Fund handed over** - The Special Education Department at B.C.H. S. were £123 -50 better off last week thanks to a campaign to honour a local hero, George Imlach McIntosh VC. This sum was left over after all the bills had been paid and the late Mr Robbie Gordon had stipulated what should be done with it. This was expressed by Mr Kenny Anderson who acted as treasurer for the campaign who also took the opportunity to thank the generosity of local people and organisations for their help in seeing the project through to completion. Mr Peter McKay teacher, with a certain responsibility for the Department, offered his thanks and said that the money would be used to purchase items for the greenhouse which had just recently been acquired.

**I had hair then** - A photograph on the 'Look Back to the Past' page shows the boss and work force of Wm. Douglas and Sons, building Contractors, Buckie, as they celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the firm in 1969. All those in the photograph, including yours truly. I had by this time left the building trade and was now at Aberdeen University but worked with the firm as a plasterer during holidays.

Mar 15 **A vet who became a biology teacher - An obituary is found on page 5** for former Buckie Community High School biology teacher **Mr Joseph Doyle, Keith**, who died in London aged 78.

Mar 22 **The front page headline** - 'Supporters of a Fochabers by-pass were breathing a huge and long awaited sigh of relief last week when the Scottish Executive finally gave the go-ahead to the scheme. ('Fa pit on the brakes? At the beginning of 2007 the proposed by-pass is as far ahead as it ever was A.F.)

**Closure of factory 'soul destroys destroying** - The future of the 'Pork Factory' in Buckie was under review with a possible closure threatened. At the March meeting of the community council the chairman Derek Horrobin described the possible closure as, "soul destroying, both for the workers who rely on the factory for their livelihoods, and for the economy of the town as a whole."

**The fishing scene** - Last week nine boats landed 366 boxes of white fish, prawns and squid together with 184 bags of scallops at Buckie harbour. The boats were - Carisma, Zephyr, Carolyn, Adele, Majestic III, Charisma, Clarness, Rival and Pisces.

**Wis somebody cleaning oot?** Two nice little framed pictures were left lying at my door last week by someone who left neither his name or his footprints. Whoever you are read my wee note of thanks - A. F.

**Can you explain this conundrum?** On Saturday September 4 1965 a man named Mike Bibby scored for Buckie Thistle in a league game at Grant Street, Inverness against the Clach which resulted in a defeat for the Jags by 6 goals to 2. What was odd about his inclusion?

Mar 29 **The answer to the above** - The Thistle had struggled to field a team for this away game and had enlisted the services of a number of Rovers' players to help them out and make up the eleven, or so they thought. When they arrived in Inverness, however, it was found that they were still a man short. Into the breach stepped volunteer Mike Bibby. Mike was the taxi driver who had taken the Clach's contingent of Aberdeen players through to the match and offered to play. He played outside right to John Christie 'Busty', a Huntly man presently serving in the Navy, who had just arrived back after an overseas posting. For interest sake his brother Tommy also played for Buckie. To add to the fairy story Bibby scored Buckie's second goal.

**One hundred years not out** - Bob Rennie a native of Linwood in Renfrewshire but who has been living in Buckie at Wallace Avenue for some years celebrated his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday at his home with some members of his family and friends. He also received the customary telegram from the Queen delivered by Alan McIntosh, Buckie, and Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Banffshire.

**Opening announcement at 25 (a) West Church Street** - Motovation - selling parts and accessories for motor vehicles. Proprietor – Ian McAllion.

**Vandalism again at Cullen** - Last Friday the village saw the latest acts of vandalism by some mindless morons. On this occasion it was the Community Centre that suffered at their hands with a number of window panes being smashed.

**Opening announcement at 50 East Church Street** - Clothes Encounter of the second kind - Dress agency now open stocking men's ladies and children's clothing.

**Advert** - Flicks – Hair and Beauty, 2 West High Street, Portgordon. Coloured hair and extensions available

**Removal and storage** - Local and weekly service to Glasgow, Edinburgh, Birmingham, London and abroad to Holland and France. Malcolm Grant, Low Street. .

**Unemployment ups and downs in Moray** - The total amount of people out of work and registering rose from 1217 to 1231 in February. Buckie east and Findochty the numbers rose from 56 to 59; Buckie west the numbers fell by two from 67 to 65 and in Buckie central from 53 to 47. There were falls also in Rathford from 31 to 25 in Lennox from 42 to 41.

**Easter procession** - A photograph shows the ecumenical Easter procession as it makes its way over the Victoria Bridge from St Peter's en-route to various other churches in Buckie. There were over 100 people involved.

**'The Adventures of Little Mo'** A photograph shows former postman and later Postal Officer Gordon Smith as he shows off a book that was written by his late wife, a retired school

teacher who wrote the series of adventures over 50 years before. Gordon came upon the manuscript when he was sorting out some things and his brother in law took this to a publisher who agreed to have it published. All the proceeds are to go to the Macmillan Cancer Relief.

Apr 5 **First for Cullen playwright** - Tuesday March 29 was a successful first for a Cullen playwright when he had his first radio play broadcast to the nation.

Simon Farquhar, 32, was in his native village to enjoy the airing of his play 'Candy Floss Kisses' detailing the trials and tribulations of a summer teenage romance.

Apr 12 **The Grampian Pork factory** - Concern remains over the future of the 'Pork Factory' in Buckie following a meeting between Angus Robertson Moray MP and senior managers of Grampian Country Foods Groups.

**Vandalism in Portknockie** - The community council have made plain their determinism to stamp out a recent surge of vandalism and graffiti which has been plaguing the village.

**Buckie apprentice comes out top** - Gary Cruickshank (22) whose parents Alan and Margaret live in Buckie has brought back a prestigious award for apprentices to the town. Gary, a North Sea operations trainee with Energy Giants BP has just scooped the coveted Tallow Chandler medal for final year apprentices at ceremony at the Tallow Chandlers Hall Dowgate Hill, London.

This represents a hat-trick of victories for the area as he follows in the footsteps of Malcolm McIntosh (2004) and Jamie McPherson (2003).

Gary received the award from the Lady Mayoress of London, Fiona Savoury. **See the full report on page 3.**

**Choral Union conductor to retire** - Donald Barr who has been conductor of Buckie Choral Union for 31 years is to retire after the Spring Concert on April 23. He will be 64 then and has decided that it is time to call an end and leave the position open for a new and younger person.

**A Skate Park for the Linzee Gordon** - Moray Council have shone the green light for the construction of a Skate Park within the confines of the Linzee Gordon Park. The plans for such a facility to be constructed within the next five years have been approved. The Skate Park will measure 15 metres by 30 and laid out to the north side of the gate parallel to the High Street. A fence 2metres high will be set up around the whole.

**New strips for the United** - Buckie United who play in the Elgin and District Welfare League were recently given two new strips - a home and an away. These were donated by the Thistle Bar and Gardeners' Builders. A photograph shows the strips being handed over.

**Anyone for tennis?** A new start for tennis in Buckie will be made on Sunday April 17 at the courts in the Ian Johnston Park. **A note** - When first laid out here the site was known as **Tarbuckie.**

**The London Marathon** - Dr Bernie Welsh a GP at Ardach Health Centre for the past 7 years is set to tackle the 25<sup>th</sup> London Marathon in aid of charity. He raised the sum of £1250 last year

for the medical charity Merlin. This year he is to support Oxfam and is inviting people to sponsor him.

**Apr 19 The 'Pork Factory' to close** - A devastating blow was dealt to the Buckie economy last Friday when it was announced that Grampian Country Pork factory in the town was to close its doors in October with the loss of around 330 jobs. **See report on the front page**

\*\*\*\* **A murder in Gordonsburgh** - A woman was arrested when the body of a new born child was discovered at 5 Rathburn Street, Gordonsburgh, Buckie, and last Wednesday. Beverley West, 19, a hairdressing student at Moray College in Elgin was charged with the murder of a new born baby boy and attempting to pervert the course of justice by hiding the body.

\*\*\*\*\* **Moray and Banff VC's** - **On page 12** Allan Fraser has written an article in which he lists the names of all the men from the Banff and Moray area who were made recipients of the Victoria Cross. In the article he takes time also to set the record straight with regard to two holders of the V.C. who some people believed were natives of Buckie

**Apr 26 Killed on the road** - A local businessman Joe West (42) who ran the garage and tyre business 'Tred-Rite' on McLaren's Brae was killed on Sunday 24 April in a three vehicle accident at the junction of the A9 with the B952. Joe a keen motorbike enthusiast riding one at the time was pronounced dead at the scene. He was an extremely obliging and popular with a great many people. He leaves a wife and three children.

**Anzac Day was remembered at Dallachy War Memorial**, Bogmoor last week. The RAF was represented as was Moray Council, Lennox Community Council, and The Royal British Legion, Buckie. Monsignor Edie Traynor led the service while wreaths were led on behalf of all the organisations present starting with Maureen Fearnley of the Spey Bay Hall and Amenities Association.

**Probus Club** - There was a record turn out of 37 members at the annual general meeting of Buckie and District Probus Club held in the Cluny Hotel on April 14.

The retiring president Bill Blanche gave a brief resume of activities while Bob Jamieson gave some statistics - the average number of members attending the weekly coffee mornings during the past year had been 29 with 22 attending the monthly lunch meetings.

Mention was made of two members who had passed on during the year – Bill Beattie OBE and Hugh Munro.

During the year they had been entertained by 12 speakers on a wide range of subjects.

The new president elected was John Fowlie with vice president John Smith. The secretary, Bob Jamieson, treasurer, Hugh Patience and auditor Ian Stephen expressed their willingness to continue in office.

Committee members – John Legge, Bill Cecil, Jim Pirie, also retiring President Bill Blanche.

**A photograph in this edition, taken outside the Cluny Hotel, shows the members of the Probus Club taken on its 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary.**

**Buckie Rovers** - The new manager appointed to take the Rovers back into north junior football are George Brodie, Aberlour who was chosen, or so we are told, from a strong field of

candidates. He has previously had experience of football management with Aberlour Villa while he has also been Youth Coach with Rothes and has recently been coaching with Dufftown. His assistant is to be Colin Nicol who has been associated with the Rovers for many years as a player and more recently as a coach.

May 3 **The fishing scene** - Last week 11 boats landed 1247 boxes of white fish, prawns and squid at Buckie also 7 bags of clams.

The boats were Loranthus, Genesis, True Vine, Wave Crest, Arnbog, Deeside, Regent Bird III, Radiant Way, Ellen Mac, Apollo and Staronia.

**Vandals in Portessie** - It was Portessie's turn to suffer at the hands of the vandals with a car having its back window smashed and two pot plants with soil tipped over the back seats.

**The late Joe West** - Many tributes poured in from all kinds of quarters for local businessman Joe West who was killed in a road accident, all described him as being most obliging. His funeral service in the North Church was well attended including a large contingent of motor cyclists who escorted the cortege to the West Cemetery.

**Buckie Rovers** - The 'Advertiser' interviews the new manager George Brodie and assistant Colin Nicol. **The account is to be found on page 14.**

May 10 **General Election** - Angus Robertson held Moray for the SNP, holding off the challenge from Labour and Conservative to more than treble his majority.

**Cullen's new flag** - A new flag to replace the one destroyed by vandals was unveiled last Thursday. A fund began by Robbie Innes, Fochabers; a former bobby raised the £570 to pay for it.

**Floating trees down the Spey** - A bygone era of Strathspey's forestry and shipbuilding history was recreated when two local foresters piloted a raft of logs down the river recently. A photograph shows them near the bridge at Fochabers.

This fascinating story of how trees were floated down river from the forest of Rothiemurchus near Aviemore to the shipbuilding yards at Kingston at the mouth is recalled in a book by local historian Jim Skelton entitled 'Speybuilt – The Story of a Forgotten Industry'.. **See page 3**

**Buckie Lyric Theatre Group** for this year's spring production are to present an adaptation of 'Mary Poppins' in the Fishermen's Hall on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of next week.

**Buckie and District Round Table** - The new chairman is Stephen Grant, proprietor of the Fry Inn on East Church Street. He took over from John Cushine.

**Were you there then?** A photograph seen on the 'Look Back to the Past' page shows the pupils of Findochty Junior Secondary School during session 1947/48. All the pupils are named.

May 17 **No, sorry, but we have no wish to take it on** - Buckie District Fishing Heritage Museum turned down a request by Moray Council to take over the 'Buckie Drifter' on the grounds of practicality. The building was seen as being too big to manage by the members of the museum who are all volunteers.

**Advert** - 'Dreams 4 Peace' - web designed personalised wedding invites and others for all occasions Phone 01542 8.....

**Advert** - Russell O'Hanlon, Plumber and Heating Engineer, Portknockie.

**We are open** - Buckie District Fishing Heritage Museum opened its doors for the new season on Monday. Seen taking a photo call are members Stuart Smith, Hugh Patience, Alex Hendry, Andrew Garden and James Slater.

**Buckie Lyric Theatre Group** - A report on the latest production - 'Mary Poppins' is given on page 8.

**Buckie Thistle 4 Fort William 0 (H/L)** With 'Jagsman' unavailable A.L. Nath was invited to make the trip to watch the game and write the report. He described the game as an 'A Stroll in the Sun' for Buckie. He said that he had thoroughly enjoyed the trip; it had been a most beautiful day, weather-wise, showing off the scenery to its best advantage.

The Thistle team was - Main, Murray (Lamberton), Angus, Pirie, Davidson, Small, Munro, Catto, Shewan, Smith (McGregor), McDonald. Sub. D. Fraser.

May 24 **Honour for Round Table member** - A photograph on page 1 shows Albert Phimister a member of Buckie and District Round Table for 21 years after he had received the honour of becoming the first member of the local Round Table to become Chairman of Round Table Area 44 Grampian. He was nominated by Buckie and Turriff Round Tables.

**Thistle Player of the Year** - Paul Lamberton was voted the '*Banffshire Advertiser*' Player of The Year for season 2004/05

**Probus Club** - The speaker at the May lunch meeting of Buckie and District Probus Club was Bill Cook, Shielburn, a retired Principal Teacher of History at Buckie High School. Bill spoke of visits he and his late wife had made to Alabama in the Southern States of America, the different people he had met and the activities he had got up to.

**Dolphin Defenders** - A photograph shows the pupils of class 6/7 at Portgordon Primary School who came first in a project entitled 'Dolphin Defenders'. Laurie was a member of the group and also had a speaking part.

**Travellers will not be moved** - Despite complaints registered by Buckie Community Council passed on to them by members of the public Moray Council said that they would be taking no action to have the travelling people moved on. The land in question, between Buckpool and Portgordon in private property and the owner had shown no concern.

June 7 **Site of the former gashouse is being cleaned.** - A 10 week programme of work to remove 9000 tonnes of contaminated material from the site on Baron Street has begun. The material excavated was loaded on to lorries and hence on to ships at Buckie harbour before being taken to Teeside for disposal on a licensed land-fill site. The rejuvenation of this brown-field site by the owners Second Site Property is the first in Scotland.

**The Fishermen's Hall and the Town House** - Allan Fraser had a letter in **page 10** of the 'Advertiser' saying how the places in Buckie were continually being wrongly spelt even by Moray Council employees and the Town House by organisations advertising events to be held there.

He explains how the first opened in January 1885 was built for all fishermen not one fisherman while the Town Council by a majority vote agreed to call the building they had bought on Cluny Place in 1922 - the Town House.

June 14 **The fishing scene** - Last week 13 boats landed their catches at Buckie harbour. The total catch comprised - 953 boxes of white fish. Prawns and squid together with 144 bags of clams. The boats were Corona, Phoenix, Carisma, Rival, Voyager, Nordic Venture, Carolyn, Tjeerd Jacoba, Wave Crest, Loranthus, Regent Bird III, Pisces and Kelly

**He was president of the Flower Show** - Bill Milne, one of the founders of Buckie and District Flower Show in its present form died at his home 29 Bryson Crescent, Craigbo on May 31 after being unwell for some time. He was 72.

For the last three years he had been both President as well as Show Manager. A joiner to trade he did lot of work both making staging and framing and repairing these where necessary. He was an enthusiastic and successful exhibitor especially with fuchsias and geraniums. He really enjoyed the Flower Show scene and attended a great many both locally and further afield and was also a judge. He was a regular attendee of the Episcopalian Church. He is survived by his wife Sheila also a founder member of the Show and son Kenneth.

**Move for church minister** - Rev Mark Bentham, minister of Buckie Baptist Church for the past seven years is to move to Ayr shortly. He has been a member and regular attendee of Buckie Community Council meetings since joining two years before.

June 21 **Local soldier dies in Canada** - Buckie soldier, Dale Cowie died while involved on exercises in Canada. His parents live at Douglas Crescent. Dale aged 18 was a member of the 1st Battalion of The Highlanders who he joined last year. It is understood that he died following injuries sustained when trying to clear a machine gun which had become jammed.

**The Buckie Festival** - Saturday June 18<sup>th</sup> marked the start of the third Buckie Festival and heralded a whole week of entertainment aimed at all members of the family.

**He played cricket and football - An obituary**, written by A. F. For **George 'Zieg' Smith** who died last week after suffering ill health for some time **is found in this edition** He was 72. An electrician by trade he served his time with the firm of which his father was a partner - Walker and Smith, Buckie and immigrated to South Africa in 1972. He returned to this country in 2002 and made his home in Fochabers.

He played cricket for Buckie and also football going on trials with different senior clubs. He is survived by his wife Anne and their four children.

**Buckie Rovers** - A photograph on page 15 shows George Brodie, manager and coach Colin Nicol with a number of lads who turned up at Merson Park on Saturday for the first training session

**Buckie Thistle signed 22 year old Shawn 'Biscuits' Scott** who was formerly with Lossiemouth. A photograph shows him being welcomed to the club by Captain Paul Lamberton. The signing of Scott is seen as something of a scoop as he is known to be a regular goal scorer. (In December 2006 he was playing at junior level for Lossiemouth United scoring against the Rovers on December 23.)

June 28 **Community Council convened meeting** - A public meeting convened by Buckie Community Council was held in the Town House hall last Wednesday evening. The main item on the agenda was the imminent closure of Grampian Country Pork factory in Buckie with the loss of 350 jobs. The company were told that there would be a Business Park in Buckie within 6-12 months. *(This was so much pie in the sky since by January 2007 when this was being typed up neither hide nor hair of such a facility was in evidence.)*

**Citizen of the Year hand over** - A photograph shows Derek Horrobin chairman of Buckie Community Council handing over the Community Shield to Alan Cruickshank of Buckie Christmas Lights Committee, this year's winner of the competition, prior to the June meeting of the community council. Past and present members of the Christmas Lights Committee were present.

**Funeral of Buckie soldier** - The funeral of Dale Cowie, a Buckie soldier killed while on exercises near Calgary in Canada, took place from the North Church on Monday 27 January. It is understood that he was killed whilst trying to clear a blockage on a light machine gun. He was buried with full military honours, including a firing party, in the New Cemetery.

**Moray Youth Development League** - Boys born 1n 1993/94 are invited for trials for the new Buckie Thistle Youth Development at Victoria Park on Sunday 10th July at 10 a.m. David Findlay.

**The 'Drifter' has finally sunk** - Any fading hopes that salvation may still await the under threat 'Buckie Drifter' were crushed recently with the announcement that it is to be wound up. The local Moray councillors were barred from the final discussion in case they showed a vested interest. *This was something queried by Ian Moir a member of Buckie Community Council who said that it didn't appear to be democratic.* He asked how the councillors could have a vested interest in the proceedings it was not as if they were selling carpets or whatever.

**Opening announcement** – Headgear, Hairdressing Salon, Ladies and Gents, Children and OAP's- 1a Chapel Street, Findochty.

**Clever quine** - The winner of the Miller Medal and Dux of Buckie Community High School this year is Sarah Campbell. She was presented with the medal by the Lord Lieutenant of Banffshire Clare Russell.

July 5 **To start** – The building of a new centre for adults with learning difficulties is to start next week adjacent to Ardach Health Centre on Highfield Road.

**Gates at the Linzee Gordon Park** - Allan Fraser secretary of Buckie Community Council is seen standing beside the new gates made to replace those taken away and sold to a private individual by Moray Council. They were installed last week after a two year battle - **See report on page 3.** (What came out later was that the Park formed part of the Common Good Fund and is owned by the people of Buckie being given to the town in 1934 by the Laird of Cluny.)

**Spey Bay Wildlife Centre.** The Underwater World section was opened last Saturday by TV personality Shauna Lowry, a presenter on 'Animal Hospital'. There is an audio visual display.

**Advert** - The Parklands Group are holding a Garden Fete at Parklands on Saturday 9 July 2005.

**Commemorative Service** - The Royal British Legion (Scotland) Buckie Branch are to hold a VE/VJ Commemorative Service at the War Memorial, Cluny Square, on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> July at 2.00pm.

**Widespread vandalism** - Vandals have attacked and damaged places and features in many places during the past year with the latest place to receive the attention of the morons being Rathven Church Hall on School Road, Portessie, where part of the slate roof has been damaged.

**Two pieces of doggerel found on page 14** – An '*Ode to Our Councillors*' written by Pearl Murray and Catherine Ritchie, members of Portknockie Action Group. The second item is entitled 'Save Portknockie School' by Portknockie Resident. **See columns 5 /6**

July 12 **Commemorative Service** - Sunday saw homage paid to local people who made the supreme sacrifice in the defeat of the Axis Powers in 1945. A photograph shows Clare Russell, Lord Lieutenant of Banffshire at the Buckie War Memorial with ex servicemen standing on parade behind. Buckie was the scene for a parade and service to remember those momentous days in 1945 when first VE Day in May and VJ in August were declared.

**Canada Day at Dallachy** - Canada Day was marked at the Dallachy Strike Wing War Memorial at Bogmoor last week. Present were Rev Mark Kennard RAF Kinloss; Rev. Bob Shorton, Maureen Fearnely Chairman of Spey Bay Hall and Amenities, Sandy Horne and Elizabeth Ellingham of Lennox Community Council and John Stewart Chairman of Buckie Royal British Legion.

**The late Jimmy Ewen - An obituary for James 'Jimmy' A. Ewen** written by a long time friend and neighbour Allan Fraser is to be found on **page 5.** Jimmy a former far worker was a

retired school janitor at Buckie Community High School as well as greenkeeper at the school and also Victoria Park.

**Bound for Brazil** – Margaret Bruce a member of Buckie Baptist Church is to set off for Brazil on August 6 to spend a month working with different groups of people. She is travelling with a group from the Bible College in Wales. Missionary work will not be new to Margaret since she spent time in Tunisia when a student at the Bible College.

**The Rovers receive a knock back** - With the new season less than a month away Buckie Rovers were rocked last week when their manager George Brodie resigned from the club.

The Rovers, however, have quickly appointed Keith Ingram, a man with much experience in the game having previously occupied the hot seat at Forres Thistle, Lossiemouth United, Burghead Thistle and Fochabers. Colin Nicol will continue as assistant manager with Mike Munro as goalkeeper coach.

Mr Brodie has accepted the post of assistant manager at Dufftown and acknowledged that he had made a personal mistake in taking on the task of managing the Rovers and had found it difficult to find players.

July 19 **The fishing scene** - Last week 30 boats landed their catches at Buckie harbour. In total this comprised – 1202 boxes of white fish, prawns and squid together with 292 bags of clams.

The boats were – Osprey, Pegasus, Oceana, Vigilant, Lynn Marie, Ellen Mac, Ocean Starlight, Radiant Way, Carolyn, Wave Crest, Loranthus, Regent Bird III, Staronia, Primrose, Enterprise, Loyal Friend, Carona, Arnbog, Shekinah, Phoenix, Coral Strand II, Peter M, True Vine, Propitious, Freeward, Shalimar, Silver Fern, Moray Endeavour, Majestic III and Discovery.

**Buckie Rotary Club** - The new president is Malcolm Watt, Cullen

**Holiday Bible Club** - The Holiday Bible Club ran by the Church of Christ on West Church Street and boasting the theme ‘Land Lubbers’ attracted a great many children between the ages of 5 and 11.

**Missing Buckie woman** - Mrs Patricia Duncan of Main Street is believed to have been seen in Devon.

**Assistant manager at Buckie Rovers** - David Robertson who replaced Colin Nicol as assistant manager in an interview with the ‘Advertiser’ found on page 13 set out the situation and the plans he and Keith Ingram have for the future of Buckie Rovers.

**Friendly match** - Buckie Thistle 3 Partick Thistle 2

July 26 **The late Findlay McKay** - **An obituary for Mr Findlay McKay**, known to many as ‘Mr Strathlene’ because of his long association with Strathlene Golf Club, is found on **page 3**. A native of Sandend and a former fisherman he was for 40 years a member of the golf club committee.

**Peter Fair** - As usual the time-honoured fair was given coverage in the local paper on page 9, including pictures. There is very little to be said that has not been said time and again. The weather always a prime factor and worthy of mention more or less behaved itself over the three days in which the amusements were open. How one hankers back to the days when it **was** an event with its beer tents, marquee dance or dancing board, other features too come to mind, and a variety of stalls selling fruit etc. etc and not as now where the whole report hinges around how big and costly the equipment is.

**Portknockie wifies on the war path-** In this edition and the one before the 'Advertiser' had published letters written by Portknockie wifies who had got up on their hind legs to castigate the convener of Moray Council Eddie Coutts for the comments he had made towards some people of the village in connection with the possible closure of the local school.

**New head at the hairdressers** - The new boss of 'Kut 'n Kurl', hairdressers, Portknockie is Kerry Reid who took over from here predecessor Susan Thain on July 11.

**Friendly football match** - Montrose 1 Buckie Thistle 2

**Buckie Thistle 3 Islavale 0** Friendly match - Jamie Shewan scored the three goals.

Aug 2 **TV star supports the retention of Portgordon School** - A photograph shows actor Richard Greenwood with his family wife Pauline, Josie and Laurie who have lent their backing to the closure-threatened Portgordon School. He played the part of Eric Ross Gifford in the Scottish soap opera 'High Road'. Richard is a retiring kind of person who normally shuns publicity but on this occasion feels very strongly about the retention of the school which was attended by his two step-daughters Kerri and Laurie and will also hopefully be attended by Josie in the years ahead.

**Cullen House** - A new celestial ceiling was unveiled in the south tower of Cullen House on Tuesday 26 July. The original painted ceiling, dating from the 16th century was destroyed by fire in 1987 during restoration work being carried out by the owners Peter and Elaine Scheiffer of Zurich. It was unusually classical in subject matter with a central panel depicting planetary and earthly deities and the sloping sides portraying the siege of Troy and the Caledonian Boar Hunt.

The new ceiling painting deals with the theme of space and the heavens but in a more modern form, featuring a yellow background covered with red-rimmed bubbles of varying sizes topped off with images of astronauts and satellites including Sputnik.

The work was done by 'On the Edge' Research team at Gray's School of Art and Robert Gordon University in Aberdeen with the artist being Richard Orchardson. The work had to be done in stages and was technically awkward, especially the bubbles, all in all the ceiling took a year to complete.

**More letters fae the Portknockie wifies** - More letters written by Pearl Murray and Catherine Murray of the Portknockie Action Group appear in this edition still castigating Councillor Coutts.

**He pit it back the gither** - A photograph shows William Skene, Drybridge, with the butcher's barrow which he restored. A retired fisherman in April 12 the 'Advertiser' asked if anyone had any information to restore the barrow which he had been given by a friend in a very poor state. It is now fully restored and painted green and white exactly as it would have been used for the purpose of delivering butcher meat many years ago.

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**Buckie man's new invention** - A new device invented by a former Buckie man Jim Murray (late of Elora, East Church Street ) of Dufftown came into its own last weekend when it resolved one of the Highland Games oldest dilemmas – judging the caber.

Mr Murray, a retired teacher of Technical Subjects on Speyside has called this new feature a caberometer and has been designed to take the guesswork out of awarding points for the caber event which are determined not on distance but on the angle the caber is thrown and lands at. A bit like a sextant the caberometer allows accurate measurements to be made and checked. **On page 4 is a photograph of Jim with his caberometer.**

**Steve now a partner** - The advert for Spencer Lyon, Plumber and Heating Engineer has now been altered to include 'and Son'. The firm were responsible for the plumbing work at the recently extended Emma restaurant on East Church Street.

**Emmas's Restaurant** - The restaurant at 31 East Church Street has been extended with a large conservatory eating place at the rear with superb views over the Moray Firth. The premises were for many years occupied by Hunter and Pirie who in addition to the shop selling all kinds of electrical goods also carried out electrical contracting. Before that it was known as Barclay's who were initially Cycle Agents later moving into gramophones and radios.

**They were voted best** – The winners of the best decorated raft at Portgordon harbour gala went to 'Flicks Chicks' Rachel, Carol and Nicola Scott and Sarah Ewen who all work at Flicks Hairdressers in Portgordon. Their raft had a South Sea island theme with, of course, grass skirts.

**Youth football** - The football team Buckie Youths, sponsored by Buckie Thistle, who play in the Planwell Premier League - Elgin and District Welfare League - beat Moray Social by three goals to nil to take the Nick Simpson Memorial Trophy at Boroughbriggs on Sunday. The Youths are meantime topping the League.

The team was – Redford, Clark (M. Leslie), Brockie, Mair, (D. Leslie), Fraser, Burnett, M. Smith (Lake), Evans, N. Smith (McGregor), Bell. Subs – Christie, Barclay.

**Buckie Thistle won their first game of season 2005/06** when they beat Lossiemouth at Lossie by four goals to nil. The Thistle team was – Main, Murray, Pirie, Angus, Small, Souter (R. Smith), Munro, Scott (Hamilton), McGuigan (Shewan), McDonald. Subs – Grant, McGregor.

Aug 9 **Jobs boost – aye maybe** - Buckie could be in line for a major jobs boost with the announcement that a major supermarket chain - TESCO has plans to build a store in Buckie. The proposed site is on the outskirts of Buckie to the west of High Street or the Toll Bar Road. (The plans were due to be discussed on Wednesday 25 January 2007 with a number of objections already being tendered, including those from Jake Robertson of the Moravian

Motors who had been in Buckie for 30 years and whose garage, filling station and wash up places lies almost opposite to where TESCO wish to locate. The belief that 260 jobs would be created should the superstore be opened cannot be sustained since inevitably jobs would be lost elsewhere as Mr Robertson has said plus the fact that it could also have a detrimental effect on shops in the centre of town. – A.F.)

**Damage did at the New Cemetery** - Last Tuesday night a number of gravestones were toppled with one known to have been broken after a car had collided with them.

**Keswick in Buckie** - The 20<sup>th</sup> Keswick in Buckie held in the North Church was again a success with Christians from the local area and well beyond and of all denominations or none joining together to hear the speaker.

**Leaving presentation** - A photograph shows the departing Baptist Church minister, Rev Mark Bentham his wife and family as they were presented with gifts prior to their leaving from Buckie. The gift from the congregation took the form of a large wall clock.

**They dinna give up easily** - The convener of Moray Council was once again being castigated in yet another letter from a Portknockie resident found published in this edition of the 'Advertiser'.

**The Rovers are back wi a whack** - The first report of a match in which the Rovers took place for more than a year is to be found in this edition of the 'Advertiser' written by A. L. Nath. The Rovers beat Kinloss by five goals to two.

The team was Collie, Ingram, Philip, G. Innes, Robertson, Grant, Burr, McMullan, Stewart, Bremner, and McPherson. Sub B. Innes

The only ones who had previously played for the Rovers were Gary Innes, Paul Robertson and Duncan Philip the rest apart from the sub B. Innes all formerly played in the Moray and District Welfare League and were from west of the Spey.

**Buckie Rovers** - Rovers 1 Longside 2 (Grill League Cup) This was a good result for the Rovers with a few changes in personnel from the game above.

Knight, Ingram (K. Grant), Philip (Nicol), Innes, D. Stewart, McMullan, C. Grant, Munro, Hayter, McPherson, Stewart. Subs Robertson, Mitchell

Knight was signed on loan from Elgin City.

Aug 16 **Sweet taste of victory was being savoured last week** by campaigners battling to save closure-threatened schools in Moray when councillors dramatically binned the controversial proposals.

**Demolition halted** - Demolition work on the former St Andrews Hotel in Buckpool was halted last week when asbestos was found in the building. A photograph shows the building partly demolished.

**School staff members retire** - The end of the term saw two long serving members of staff at Buckie Community High School bid a fond farewell.

Assistant Rector Willie Cowie has been at the school for 33 years and Mrs Ella McDonald who served as PT Biology for 15 years.

**The victors crow** - The redoubtable pair, Pearl Murray and Catherine Ritchie whose letters have taken up considerable space in the pages of the 'Advertiser' over recent weeks have a final dig at Convener Eddie Coutts on the school closures that didn't happen .

**Pen portraits** - A photograph shows two players from west of the Spey who are presently appearing in the Rovers' colours are Lorne McPherson and Stuart Knight appears in this edition of the 'Advertiser'. They were interviewed by the reporter. Stuart who was on Elgin City's books and has considerable ability as a keeper welcomes the chance to keep his hand in while Lorne has a lot of football experience while studying in the States. **The report may be read on page 14.**

Aug 23 **Oh me fit'll I dee?** - Buckie Library is to close from 29<sup>th</sup> August until 3 October for a complete refurbishment. (Looking back from January 2007 I don't know how I put in my time – A.F.)

**The late Mrs Caterina Wojcik - An obituary for Mrs Wojcik** nee Iannetta is found on **page 5**. She was born in Buckie in 1922. Her parents originated from Italy and were the first of the family of Iannetta to settle in Buckie.

**Buckie Choral Union** - The new conductor of Buckie Choral Union is music teacher Anne Corbet from Mosstodloch who has taken up the post following the departure of Donald Barr.

**The fishing scene** – Last week fourteen fishing boats called in to Buckie harbour to discharge their catches. In total this comprised – 377 boxes of white fish. Prawns and squid together with 191 bags of scallops.

The boats were – Discovery, Just Reward, Primrose, Lynn Marie, Wave Crest, Moray Endeavour, Arnbog, Majestic III, Carona, Kelly, True Vine, Phoenix, Prosperity, and Vigilant.

**New man at BCHS** - The new Assistant Rector to replace Willie Cowie is Welshman Nigel Engstrand. He was previously PT English at Lochgelly High School in Fife.

Aug 30 **Moray Development Plan** - Moray Council have published the Draft Moray Development Plan which includes various proposals for Buckie and the surrounding area and local people are encouraged to have their say during the consultation period. **See front page.** (To date January 2007 we have seen nothing concrete take place – A.F.)

**Green fingers** - The winner of the competition for the Best Council house garden in Buckie this year was Mrs Barbara Davidson of 48 Milton Drive second were Mr and Mrs G. Grant, 24 Harbour Street and third David Harrison, 1 McIntosh Avenue Craigbo.

The prize-winners in the Cullen and Portknockie area were – 1<sup>st</sup> Mr G. Stephen, 2 Stuart Place, Portknockie, 2<sup>nd</sup> J. Runcie, 26 Admiralty Street, Portknockie and 3<sup>rd</sup> J. Addison, 14 Queen's Drive Cullen.

Sept 6

**The Navy was in port** - The Royal Navy mine countermeasures vessel HMS 'Walney' arrived in Buckie harbour last Friday for a weekend visit to the town and local area as part of the UK-wide events to **commemorate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar in which a considerable number of men from the north east took part including the purser on Nelson's ship, the Victory, ? Scott who was born near Spey Bay.** The only monument in the local area to the battle is found in Forres.

**Car crash kills local woman** - Lorraine Smith, Seafield Court, Portessie was killed in a collision that took place on the A96 at the Tideland near Loch Ore to the east of Lhanbryde. Three other vehicles were involved in the crash. She was an advertising executive.

**Charity shop opens** - A Blythswood shop was opened at 51 West Church Street on Saturday 26 August. The charity, manned by volunteers, works to offer support mainly in East Europe through money through the sale of bric-a-brac, second hand books and other items donated to them.

**New members of staff at BCHS** - Elaine Brown, Business Education (NQT); Stephanie Waterbaer PE (German); Kevin Pirie, PE (NQT); Jacqueline Thomson, Art and Design (NQT); Patrick McCaughan, Biology (N.Z.)

**Death of former councillor - An obituary** for former Portknockie councillor **Joe Wilson** is to be found on **page 5**. He was a former trawl skipper working out of Aberdeen. He was 84.

**Advert** – The Ragamuffin Bistro on Low Street, which has been run by Jackie and Darren since January 2005. The property was at one time the Crown Bar but has been a restaurant/bar for some years past.

**Advert** – Denturamics – proprietor Colin Shepherd, 28 Land Street- Denture repairs while you wait.

Sept 20

**A new Bobbie** - PC Kevin McPherson has taken over from PC Jim Thomson as Community Beat Officer for Buckie and area.

**The Fishing scene** - Last week saw 30 boats come in to Buckie harbour to land their catches – this comprised 1690 boxes of white fish, prawns and squid also 763 bags of clams. The boats were - Wave Crest, Deeside, Moray Endeavour, harvest Moon, Just Reward, Ocean Starlight, Charlotte Nancy, Carolyn, Kestrel, Clarness, Golden West, osprey, Silver Fern, Silver cloud II, Prospect, Carona, Lynn Marie, Tjeerd Jacoba, Cameo, Q-Varl, Valkyrie, Atlantis Belle, Rois Mhiari, Sardonyx, Carisma, Nordic Venture, Challenge, Discovery, Vigilant and True Vine.

**Buckie 10K** - the winners of this year's event were – Men 1st - Jeremy Whittet in 34.37; 2<sup>nd</sup> – Steve Reeve – 34.55; Male vet. John Goodall – 36.06; Super Vet male – Euan Paterson – 35.22. Women – 1<sup>st</sup> – Jane Barker – 38.24; 2<sup>nd</sup> Donna Gray – 42.11. Women Vet – Maureen Mackie – 43.27; Super Vet. – Carolyn Milne – 43.08.

There was also a good turn for the 2k Fun Run where all the contestants who finished were given goody bags.

**The town needs you!** - Allan Fraser who has been a member of Buckie Community Council for nigh on twenty two years and has carried on the twin duties of secretary and treasurer for much of this time had a letter published in the 'Advertiser' on page 10 appealing for more people to join the community council. He disagrees with those people who would say that the community council has no clout and gives a broad outline what they have achieved over the years.

**Steep learning curve for 'new' Rovers** - They were beaten by four clear goals by last year's champs of the north section New Elgin. The majority of the team were playing in the Welfare League earlier this year. The team was Knight, Stephen, McIntosh, Robertson, Stewart, Philip (Stuart), C. Grant (Bremner), Burr, Munro, McPherson, K. Grant. Subs- Mitchell, Ingram, Innes.

**Arradoul F.C** (originally called Arradoul Youth Club) A photograph taken early in the 1950's when they were playing and being very successful in the local Welfare League appears in this edition of the 'Advertiser' with everyone named . George Kay, manager, Charlie Milne 'Chow' committee, Ian Robertson, Donald Murray, \*Jim Thomson, Sandy Milne, Jim Paterson, Ronnie Taylor, Jim Campbell (committee), James Bruce, Karl Sutherland, George 'Doddie' Robertson, Eric Cormack, Raymie Reid and Bill Murray. Note this was not \*Jimmy Thomson from Tynet.

**Note** – The doors of Grampian Country Pork factory in Buckpool will close for the last time on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October.

**More medals for Norman** - Norman Anderson , Merson Street, Buckpool claimed first place in the 400m wheelchair race at the recent Transplant Games held in Loughborough . He had collected the silver medal in the same race the past two years.

**More boats than ever** - Last week **forty five boats** landed at Buckie last week 3740 boxes of white fish. Prawns and squid also 644 bags of scallops.

\*\*\*\* **New Orleans under water** - The city of New Orleans in the United States recently suffered extensive damage due to flooding with a large number of people losing their homes and belongings. A number of events have been taking place in the town and local area to raise money to help the victims. (In January 2007 although the waters had long past receded a large part of the city still lay in ruin as could be seen from recent pictures taken –A.F.)

Oct 4 **Legionnaires Disease** - Production at the world-famous Baxter's of Speyside near Fochabers ground to a halt last Wednesday when two employees were found to have Legionnaires Disease, All personnel were sent home as a precaution when first of all one staff member followed later by another were confirmed s having the potentially fatal disease.

**New facility opened** – A new respite care opened in Buckie last week and has thrown a lifeline to local adults who have learning disabilities and their carers.

'Doocot View' a converted house on Doocot Way opened last Thursday after the previous facility 'Cullen Respite' was closed down by the Fire Brigade who declared it to be unsafe for which it was being used.

**The Fishing scene** – The number of boats calling in to Buckie harbour last week to land their catches remained high at 43, two down from the previous week. The total landings were also down at 2059 boxes of white fish, prawns and squid plus 314 bags of clams.

**A Welcome Pack for immigrants** - A new welcome pack has been launched in Moray to give information and advice to the many Polish people who have come to the area seeking employment.

**Donation from the Baxter Foundation** - Buckie North Church recently received a donation of £5000 from the Baxter Foundation to aid in the completion of a £120,000 refurbishment project. Bill McGoldrick, fabric convener, on behalf of the church, wrote to Baxter's where he is employed to appeal for a donation.

Oct 11 **Are you looking for both Health and Beauty?** A new shop has opened at 20 West Church Street formerly operating as May's Flowers and remembered too as Walker and Smith Electricians and James Mair, Butchers. The proprietor is Kirsty McDonald a graduate of Esk Valley College in Edinburgh where she took an HNC diploma in Health and Beauty. She worked some time in Edinburgh before returning to Buckie in 2002 when she took the lease of the beauty room at the Carlton Hairdressers on East Carlton Terrace and where she had customers coming from as far afield as Grantown. She is joined in her new enterprise by Ruth Ewen who is a graduate in Complementary Therapies.

**Community Councils** - - With the four years tenure up for all Moray Community Councils, the last meetings being held in September, people were invited to put forward their names for a new Buckie Community Council with a number doing just that. They are Edward Campbell, Ian Moir, Allan Fraser, Derek Horrobin, Alistair Boyd, James Smith, Zafar Ali, David J. Grieve and James Newlands.

Members of Arradoul and Rathven – Howard Samuel, Morag Stewart, John Weir, Patricia Greenwood, Allan Cowie, Michael Northover, Frederick Rumbles and Thomas MacPherson  
Findochty – Christine Campbell, Mabel Sutherland, Leslie Loades, David Campbell, June Greig, Elizabeth Campbell and Alistair Kynoch.

Portknockie – Alan Berisford, Pearl Murray, Lil Urquhart, Helen Sammon, Janice Smith, Sarah Walker and Gladys McKenzie.

Lennox – David Cruickshank, Alex Clark, James Inglis Michael Seton, Donald Cameron, Michael Reid, Richard Milne, Stewart Morrison, Fiona Mclean, Colin Murray, James Burnett and Margo Howe.

**The Fishing Scene** - Last week 40 boats landed their catches at Buckie harbour. In total the catch comprised 2445 boxes of white fish, prawns and squid together with 732 bags of scallops.

The boats were – Carolyn, Osprey, Carona, Wavecrest, Jenna Maree, Tjeerd Jacoba, Aquarius, Silver cloud II, Lynn Marie, Shekinah, Contest, Pathfinder, Challenge, Gleaner, Radiance,

Valkyre, Sardonyx, Deeside, Franchise, Georgia Dawn, Roes Mhiari, True Vine, Carisma, Vigilant, Loyal Friend, Clarness, Unity, Brothers, Enterprise, Ocean Starlight, Just Reward, Harvest Moon, Kestrel, Apollo, Genesis, Regent Bird III, Majestic II, Nordic Venture, Natalie B and Stella Maris III.

Oct 18 \*\*\***Youths to go Junior** - Buckie Youths football team have capped an outstanding season by revealing that they plan to step up from Welfare football to the Junior League. The announcement came hot on the heels of the Club capturing the Planwell Premier Division (Welfare League) Championship at Rothes on Saturday October 9<sup>th</sup>. **An account of the game is given on page 13. The score was Rothes 1 Youths 3 In addition to winning the league the team had also collected 4 trophies.**

The team was Redford, Bell, Brockie, D. Leslie, R. Mair, D. Fraser, Christie, M. Smith, M. Leslie (A. Lake.) N. Mair, Evans (N. Smith), Subs Clark and Barclay (G.K)

A photograph shows the coaches - Astie Grant, Graeme Roy and David Findlay. Buckie Thistle management have said that they will not be entering a team in the Welfare League this coming season. \*\*\*\*\*

Oct 25 **First meeting of new BCC** - It was a case of 'as you were' with the officials being returned en bloc – Chair –Derek Horrobin, vice chair – James Smith, secretary/treasurer-Allan Fraser, minute secretary Ian Moir.

**Buckie Rovers** had some members of the successful Buckie Youths team in their line up against Kinloss at Kinloss where the score was 2-2 They were Brockie, Fraser, Michael and Nicky Smith. The team was Knight, Stephen, Brockie, Fraser, Stewart (C. Grant), Leslie, M. Smith (N. Smith), Green, Wood, McPherson, McIntosh, Subs – Simpson, Philip and K. Grant.

Mark Wood made his return to the Rovers the previous week.

Nov 1 **Thistle and Rovers join forces** – front page news – football in the Buckie area received a major boost this week with the news that the towns two main clubs Buckie Thistle and Buckie Rovers have reached an agreement to work closely together as well as unveiling plans to further develop football for Buckie and the surrounding area for years to come.

**Advert** – East Cost Plumbing and Heating Services Ltd, Corgi Gas Installer. Chris and Julie Duncan.

**Photograph of Findochty J. S. School of 1948** appears on page 15

**Buckie Library re-opens officially** - Last Tuesday saw a double celebration for Buckie Library when it became the country's newest Learn Direct Scotland Centre as well as officially re-opening after a months long refurbishment programme.

**A poem is found on page 5** and columns 1 and 2 - Written by Sandy Smith who served in the forces for 12 years it is entitled 'Remembrance'.

**Now open** - A new souvenir shop was officially declared open at the Lifeboat Station on Thursday November 3

**Twenty Years on** - Buckie Travel Club celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary when founder members Eileen Smith and Doreen Watt cut a celebratory cake to mark the occasion. A photograph was taken to record the event.

**Probus Club** - The members of Buckie and District Probus Club who attended the lunch time meeting in the Cluny Hotel enjoyed a drink of their choice bought for them by treasurer Hugh Patience who was celebrating his golden wedding anniversary.

The speaker was fellow member Bill Cecil who gave a talk entitled 'Wireless for The Warrior' in which he traced the development of radio equipment used by the army. Bill himself, served with the Royal Corps of Signals as a wireless mechanic in Korea during the war there.

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**A stramash at Victoria Park** - The football match between Buckie Rovers and Craigpark Burtonians (an Ayrshire team) played at Victoria Park in the 1<sup>st</sup> round of the OVD Scottish Junior Cup was marred by an ugly brawl that developed between officials and players of both sides.

**'Tappies' football team** - A photograph on page 14 shows a football team drawn from the work force of George Thomson and Son Shipbuilders in 1964. All are named – Alex Thomson, Sandy Cowie, Doddie Robertson, J. Humphries, Geddes Wood, Hughie McKay, Jimmy Runcie, Davie Wood, D. Turner, G. Reid and J. Addison.

Nov 15 **The door wis banged shut** – The Grampian Country Pork factory closed for the last time last Friday when the very last workers there clocked out.

**Remembrance Day** - The salute at the march past of ex-servicemen and others at Buckie on Sunday was taken by former Gordon Highlanders Ronald Shand who served throughout World War II and saw service in France, North Africa and Italy. He is one of the oldest British Legion members in Buckie.

Nov 22 **Special Christmas Light** - A photograph shows a special Christmas Light bought for the Christmas Lights Committee by Buckie Community Council to mark the occasion of them being chosen Citizens of the year in 2005.

**Missing Buckie woman** - A third year has gone past without any sign of missing Buckie woman Mrs Patricia Duncan who lived at 81 Main Street, Buckpool.

**Remembrance Day organisation comes in for criticism** - In a letter to the 'Advertiser' Bill Lobban of Stripeside, Buckie points the finger at the poor organisation of the annual Remembrance Day service. Top of his complaints was the poor P.A. system and the absence of anything to mark the start and end of the two minutes silence. A second letter on the same theme was written by Lynn Laurston of Portessie

These follow on a letter in a similar vein written by Allan Fraser the previous year and for which he received pelters from one quarter, a church minister, for its contents.

**Buckie Branch** – A branch of ‘Aglow International Ministry’ has been set up in Buckie opening here six months before. The board members are Heather Simpson, Angela More and Pat Christofferson. ‘Aglo International’ is a body that spans the globe and was begun in Seattle in 1967. It works in parallel with local churches and encourages women to recognise their role and relationships according to the Bible and to participate in their local churches.

**Buckie Lyric Theatre Group** is to present their annual pantomime in the Fishermen’s Hall in December. This year they have chosen Cinderella which has been specially written for the group by Liz Imlach.

Nov 29 **Switch on - The** Buckie Christmas Lights were switched on November 26 by Councillor Joe McKay with the help of a number of local children.

**Fund-raising Social Evening** - Buckie North Church are to hold a Social event in the hall on Saturday December 5 from 7 to 10.30pm. Dancing to music by Hebbie Gray Tickets costing £5 can be had from Cottage Flowers. Cathcart Street.

**Pensioners Christmas Dinner** – A large crowd of pensioners gathered in the Fishermen’s Hall on November 15 for their Christmas Dinner and Social, Money to pay for the event was given from Buckie Common Good Fund and Moray Firth Radio Charity Trust Fund .

**Photograph will be returned** - Moray Council have confirmed that the photograph showing George Imlach McIntosh receiving the Victoria Cross from King George V at Ibrox Park, Glasgow in September 1917 will be returned to Buckie and hung again in the Buckie Library, as before, as requested by the community council.

**Portknockie Primary School class P2-** A photograph showing the pupils taken in 1957 can be found on page 18 of this edition of the B. A. All the pupils in the photograph are named.

Dec 6 **A first for Buckie** - Buckie Registrar’s Office was the scene of a first for the town last week when it hosted a citizenship ceremony. Elizabeth Douglas from Connecticut, USA, who now lives in Cullen, was officially made a UK citizen at a short ceremony conducted by Jill Addison on Tuesday 29 November. Her certificate of naturalisation was presented to her by Councillor Ron Shepherd.

**Explosion on Buckpool Golf Course** – A war-time land mine discovered by the green keepers whilst working on the course last week was later blown up by Army Disposal experts.

**An award for Norman** – Norman Anderson, Merson Street, and Buckpool was presented with the sport Moray Special Achievement Award for his ability to overcome disability and win sports medals.

**Coffee Shop opened** – A new coffee shop has opened at 17 West Church Street owned by John and Lorna Wielowski. The property formerly called the ‘Candy Box’ and owned by the Johnston family of the Banffshire Advertiser next door was completely gutted out before being completely rebuilt. It is called simply **Seventeen or 17** besides being a coffee shop

there are a number of gaming machines which are open to those over 18 with a jackpot of £500 paid out on the premises.

**The fishing scene** – Last week nine boats landed catches at Buckie harbour. The total catch comprised 347 boxes of white fish, prawns and squid.

Dec 13 **Scenic Walks around Cullen** - A Cullen man James Addison has produced an innovative audio CD Rom based on the local area to raise funds for a charity which has been very good to him. James who has been visually impaired for the past seven years has received a wide set of audio books from the charity.

**For affordable housing** - The site on which the St Andrews Hotel and hall stood is to be used for affordable housing.

**An old photograph** - Page 18 of this edition of the 'Advertiser' shows a photograph likely to have been taken just after the Victoria Bridge was opened in 1901. There is no Queen Street with the first house on the south side of West Church Street being at the junction with South West Street. Where the Victoria Bowling Green is looks like, as it was, a dump for road making materials. The path that led to the former wooden bridge over the burn can be seen. The photograph would have been taken from a vantage point on St Peter's Church.

Dec 20 **Coat of Arms** - Portknockie Community Council are to take the first steps of having the burgh coat of arms restored to the village. **A report on this is given on page 1.** The council see the coat of arms as being a vital part of the heritage of the village.

**An accident black spot** - Yet another accident took place at the junction of the Toll Bar road with the A98 with two cars being involved. Two people were taken to hospital. Buckie Community Council have tried hard to have the junction lit up during the hours of darkness but without success., the officials of Moray Council responsible for such things being of the opinion that all that is required has been done.

**Honoured by Buckpool Golf Club** - Peter Cowie, 7 Titness Street was presented with honorary membership of the club in recognition of his services to the club over a great many years.

Dec 27 **The Remembrance Day ceremony** - Following on two years when the ceremony at the War Memorial has come in for criticism from many people Buckie Community Council with local Moray Councillors have agreed to work along with the Royal British Legion Buckie branch in an effort to put on a show with all the dignity and reverence the event deserves. **See report on page 3**

**Advert** – Nickel 'n Dime 14 High Streets. A shop that sells all kinds of things largely of a cheaper and perhaps inferior standard to those bought elsewhere. The firm has a branch in Keith and elsewhere.

**Sudden death of Buckie woman - An obituary for Janice Lindsay nee Scorgie** written by Allan Fraser is to be found on **page 5.** Janice who was 70 was born in Buckie but spent all

her working life in London before returning north to Lhanbryde only a short time before her death. She died in a friend's house after returning with them from attending the Choral Union Christmas Concert.

**Debut for new conductor** - The Choral Union Christmas Concert on Sunday December 11 marked the debut for the group's new Musical Director Anne Corbet who took over from the long serving Donald Barr earlier this year.