

## 2006

- Jan 3 **Was you idle then?** – Unemployment in Moray in November 2005 had risen from 979 to 1051. The figures for Buckie west were up by one to 61; Buckie central showed a higher rise from 55 to 65 with Buckie east and Findochty up from 47 to 52. The numbers out of work in Rathford remained the same at 47 while there had been a rise of one in Lennox to 31.
- The Pakistan Earthquake** - Different organisations were collecting money for the Pakistan Earthquake Appeal. A major earthquake which occurred in the mountainous region of Pakistan some time before had left thousands homeless and with wintry conditions the people were existing in shocking conditions. Moray Trade Union Council gave £200 to add to £150 given previously. A Race Night at Cullen Golf Club raised £575.
- Buckie Thistle beat neighbours Keith** by two goals to one in the first game of 2007. The Thistle team was – Main, Shewan, Lamberton, Souter, R. Davidson, Small, R. Smith, Munro, Scott (McGuigan), Low, McDonald. Subs – Grant, Hamilton, Pirie and Angus.
- Jan 10 **Babs-Dial – a-Bus** based at the Stagecoach depot on March Road Industrial Estate are to receive £240,260 over three years from the Scottish Executive which will allow them to replace ageing equipment and expand the vital service they offer. As part of the deal the charity also have to raise the sum in excess of £100,000 over the same period. Margaret Fryer, operations manager of Babs-Dial – Bus was naturally most delighted to receive the news.
- Housebreaking in Buckie** - Thieves were on the go last week in Buckie with a house on Douglas Crescent and another on Reidhaven Street, Ianstown, being broken into. The house in Douglas Crescent is occupied by an elderly woman who was out at the time and returned to find that her house had been ransacked with a three figure sum stolen leaving her most distressed. In Ianstown a camera and video tapes kept in a bag were stolen between 3am and 9am when the young couple were asleep. They are appealing to the thieves to return the tapes as they contain material of great sentimental value which are irreplaceable.
- The Fishing Scene** - last week five fishing boats landed 453 boxes of white fish, prawns and squid at Buckie harbour. The boats were – Osprey, Carisma, Carona, Pegasus and Copious.
- Buckie Rovers had a bad start to the New Year** going down by five goals to one to visitors Forres Thistle. ‘Nae a wye at a tae treat yer hosts.’  
The team was – Knight, Philip (Campbell), Brockie, Fraser, Robertson, Mair (Grant), Wood, McPherson, Smith, Green, Simpson (Bell), Subs – Stewart, Ingram.
- Jan 17 **Parking at Forresterhill Hospital a disgrace** - This is how Buckie man Dennis Scott described it after his wheelchair-bound wife was refused access to the hospital’s disabled car-park because they didn’t have the relevant disabled badge. He left his wife sitting at the main entrance and went to find a parking space without success. Given no other option he left his vehicle on a grassy area only to return 90 minutes later to find a £20 parking ticket on the wind screen.
- What next for Spey Bay hotel?** Ambitious plans to develop Spey Bay golf course look to have been scuppered by the news that the company behind the project has slid into administration. Spey Bay Golf Link who have owned the hotel and adjoining 18 hole golf course for almost two years called in the administrators some days before Christmas as losses mounted.

**A place in the Scottish Orchestra** - Emma Alexander, Hillhead Farm, Drybridge, a second year pupil at Buckie Community High School, gained a place with the National Children's Orchestra of Scotland along with her 12 year old sister Kerry. The viola player is looking forward to what promises to be a demanding experience.

**Portknockie and the Coat of Arms** - Portknockie Community Council's bid to have the village's coat of arms restored took another step forward last week when they were told how they could proceed with the project by Charles Burnett, the Ross Herald at Arms, one of 3 deputies to the Lord Lyon who is in charge of all heraldry matters in Scotland. Mr Burnett attended the January meeting of the community council and explained how best to proceed with the reinstatement of the coat of arms and suggested also how the dedicated ceremony itself may be conducted to maximum effect.

**The New Year Run** - This year 30 runners took part in what has now become an annual event - a Five K run to brush away the cobwebs on New Year's morning. Runners came from Buckie, Elgin, Banff, Burghead and Aberdeen.

Donations amounting to £65 were collected for Cancer Research. Though no times were taken the first male to cross the line was John Goodall and the first female - Marlene Wilson. John had now come first for the past three or four years.

Jan 24

**Kevin continues with criticism of NHS 24** - Kevin Herd, whose father was denied immediate medical attention, and who subsequently died, after an appeal for a doctor had been made by a person who was not a relative, travelled to Edinburgh and the Scottish Parliament to hand in a 3500 signature petition drawing attention to the state of the NHS 23 service. He unfortunately was given scant attention with regard to the petition and was left with no respect for the politicians.

**Citizen of the Year** - All this month readers of the '*Banffshire Advertiser*' have been given the opportunity to vote for the person(s) or organisations who they believe should be chosen as Citizens of the Year for 2006.

**The passing of George Gordon** - The death took place at his home 37 Crown Terrace, Portgordon on January 18 of George Gordon. He was 86. George served his time as a plasterer with the Buckie firm of George Packman in the years before World War II and returned to the trade with the same firm after the war. As a Territorial he was called up with the Gordon Highlanders and served through the war in places such as France, North Africa and Italy. It was during his war service that he met his wife Marjory a native of Lincolnshire who died a short time before. Their only son Barry died a number of years ago in Aberdeen in tragic circumstances.

George was a Past Master of Lodge Richmond, Portgordon.

Jan 31

**Rev Alex Barr late minister of Buckie Baptist Church died at the age of 89.** An obituary to Rev Barr is found on **page 5**.

**They opened in Buckie** - 'MJD Systems Ltd'. which has been delivering IT and computer services to commercial and private clients for over five years from their Spey Bay base have expanded into Buckie where they have taken over premises above the Bank of Scotland on East Church Street. The managing director is Mark Dunscombe. Another firm which has opened in the same premises is Colin Sanders Associates, a consultancy and training firm which has been trading since 2000

**Buckie is the Moray Centre** - Buckie has recently become the Moray Centre of the National Counselling Service (NCS) the charity's only office north of Aberdeen.

The service is run by Sandra Innes who has an Advanced Diploma in counselling gained at Moray College in Elgin and backed by administrator Linda Allan. Their premises are at 22 East Church Street.

**The Spey Bay Hotel and golf course have gone on the market -**

**Safe in our hands** - A photograph on page 12 of the 'Advertiser' shows three men who all played in goal for Buckie Thistle – Johnny Low- 1956-1965; Brian 'Joe' Wood – 1973-1981 and Kevin Main who joined the Thistle in 2002

Feb 7

**Vandalism at BCHS** – Nineteen windows were smashed at Buckie Community High School last Thursday at a cost of over £2000. The Rector in an assembly, when he spoke to all the pupils in the school, described it as 'mindless vandalism.'

**Your time is up** - Boy racers in Buckie whose antics have been making life a misery for residents have had time called in their behaviour by Grampian Police.

**Former Thistle manager dies** - Danny Fitzsimons, a former player and manager with Buckie Thistle died recently aged 58. He was born in Berwickshire. He served with the RNAS at HMS Fulmar, Lossiemouth in 1970 and played football with Rothes, Inverness Thistle and Buckie Thistle in the Highland League. In addition to managing Buckie he also managed Lossiemouth and Rothes and in between times managed Lossiemouth United the junior team.

He moved to Perth around 15 years ago to take over as manager of a Sports Centre there and it is believed he died on an exercise bicycle.

He leaves his wife Sue and two sons, one of whom is a football coach in the States

**Former Buckie chemist dies** - An obituary for **former chemist Willie Taylor** who died on 21<sup>st</sup> January in Glasgow aged 94 is to be found on **page 5**.

**Cullen centenarian dies** - Mrs Elizabeth Stuart died at Weston House, Keith a few months after celebrating her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. She was a native of Drummuir and spent her younger years in Glenlivet. **See obituary on page 5.**

**The 'Buckie Drifter'** - It seems likely that the building on Freuchny Road will be put up for sale. If a use for the building cannot be found it is likely that it will go to the highest bidder. (In 2007 the word was that it could not be sold until soil sampling of the whole site was taken and that Moray Council did not have the funds to have this done. This may or not be correct.)

**Art display** - Gordon Mackie, Head of Art and Design at BCHS is one of three local art teachers who will display a selection of their works in the Long Gallery at Duff House in February and March this year. Gordon will have ten paintings on display showing scenes from either the Moray coastline or the Charente area in France.

**Buckie Travel Club** - At the first meeting of the club in 2006 the guest speaker was Anne Bruce who took members on a Baltic cruise visiting five great European cities, Copenhagen, Stockholm, Helsinki, Tallinn and St Petersburg. The vote of thanks was given by Mrs Eileen Smith.

**Masonic installation** – The new master of Lodge Bowfiddle number 1349 is RWM William Wilson.

14 Feb

**Council Tax new charges** - Dismay has been shown by all has greeted the new that Council Tax Bills in Moray are to go up by an inflation busting 4.9%

Property in Band A- the lowest will rise from £730.67 by £125.40 to £967.07 while band H – the highest will rise from £2192 by £333 to a new figure of £2901.20 per annum.

**Kerbside recycles** - Buckie and surrounding area are set to benefit from new kerbside recycling facilities next month in a new scheme being rolled out by Moray Council. Blue boxes will be provided for paper and cardboard with orange-coloured boxes for tins and glass. A brown wheelie bin is to be provided for garden waste while the green bin will still be used for domestic waste. While paper and tins etc will be collected weekly the wheelie bins will only be collected on alternate weeks.

**High School teacher dies** - Stuart Scott a teacher of Technical Education at BCHS and a native of Hawick died on Monday February 6 aged 48 after a two year fight against a brain tumour. **An obituary is found on page 5.**

**Danny Fitzimmons** - An obituary for the former Thistle manager, written by Easton Thain, is **found on page 5.** His death was announced in the B. A. The previous week.

**Masonic installation** - The newly installed RWM of Lodge Gordons 589 is Derek Marnoch. The installing master was Malcolm Reid assisted by PM Bill Murray.

**Turning Works and Sawmill** - Allan Fraser had a letter in the 'Advertiser' on page 6 giving information on the former turning works and sawmill that was sited on the banks of the Buckie Burn and powered by its water via a lade from a dam upstream. For many years up until 1940 the works were owned by the Duncan family the first of whom came to Buckie from Clatt in 1888. This was written after a photograph of the sawmill etc., had appeared in the 'Advertiser' the week before.

**Buckie Flower Show AGM** - The office bearers appointed were – President – Allan Fraser, secretary – Robert Johnston, treasurer – Margaret Geddes, Committee members – Alison Johnston, Sheila Milne, Sandy Mustard, James Slater, Teresa Innes, Barbara Davidson and Lynn Sutherland.

**Rathven SWRI** - The members of Rathven Rural have been celebrating the large scale upgrading of their hall recently which has seen the old wooden structure originally built in the 1920's transformed into a facility fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The extensive work was carried out by John Duncan Construction at a cost of £47,000. £35,000 of this sum was collected by members, the rest from grants and donations. **A report is given on page 11.**

Feb 21

**Firefighters collect £3500** - Buckie firefighters collected a total of £3500 during the past year through a variety of activities including car-washing. A number of local groups benefited from the generosity of local folk when it came time to disburse the money including the Teddy Bear Group, Friends of Seafield Hospital and the Cancer Support Group all of whom received sums of £200.

**New priest at St Peter's** - A new assistant priest has been appointed to assist Monsignor Edie Traynor at St Peter's. He is Father Gerry Livingstone, a native of Glasgow. St Peter's is a big parish today covering an area from Cullen to Tynet. In years gone by there was a priest at Tynet and also at Preshome.

**Now open** - After major refurbishment the Inferno Café Bar at 6-8 East Church Street has opened.

**In the passing** - The following quotes are to be found in the stadium at East Road, Edinburgh, home of the Hibeas and should be taken to heart by all football players.

'If you are in the penalty area and don't know what to do with the ball put it in the net and we'll discuss the options later' – Bob Paisley former Liverpool F. C. manager.

**The above was specially designed for the Rovers in 2007 who were finding it most difficult to find the net.**

'Ability and talent gets you to the top, character keep you there.' John Wooden, basketball coach.

'Mistakes are the portals of discovery' - James Joyce, writer.

Feb 28

**Citizen of the Year** - Mrs Margaret Bruce, Roselea West Cathcart Street, was voted Buckie's Citizen of the Year. She came top of a list of people who people had voted for. She had been a long standing stalwart of the local Guides and Brownies, serving for 47 years. **A report is given on page 1**

**The Fishing scene** – Last week five boats came in to land their catches at Buckie. They were Wavecrest, Georgia Dawn, Carona, Genesis and Majestic III. Between them they sent ashore 365 boxes of white fish prawns and squid also 195 bags of clams.

**Emma celebrates** – Buckie High School pupil Emma Alexander of Hillhead, Drybridge, was celebrating recently after hearing that she had been accepted on to the National Youth Orchestra of Scotland String Ensemble.

Before being accepted, however, she had to go through a gruelling selection process before being handed the opportunity to perform in a number of concerts later this year.

**More on the former turning Works and Sawmill** - **On page 10** is to be found a letter from Bill Hillocks, a native of Buckie now domiciled in the States, in which he tells us more about the Duncans who owned the mill that was owned by the Duncan family one of whom was his grandfather.

Mar 7

**The War Memorial** - Work began last week on a major refurbishment of Buckie War Memorial. Around £10,000 is to be spent by Moray Council to repair damage done by the elements to the memorial itself and also to improve the surrounding area.

**Buckie District Fishing Heritage Centre** (note that the name was changed from museum) – Moray Council have agreed to contribute £14,000 towards the cost of expanding and modernising the facility known as the Cottage to the rear of Buckie Library the total cost of which it has been estimated will be in the region of £161,367.

The Heritage recently secured a 30 year lease for the building from Moray Council.

The alterations within the cottage will see all the existing partitions being removed to form an open plan exhibition area complete with new display cabinets and state of art lighting. A forty-five metre square extension is to be built to the rear and a complete new front entrance.

**Former 'Advertiser' journalist dies** - Alan Wiseman, a native of Glenrines and graduate in English of Aberdeen University, who worked with the '*Banffshire Advertiser*' for some years from 1980 before moving first to the Aberdeen Evening Express and later to Glasgow where he remained for the next 16 years has died. He was aged 49. **His obituary is given on page 5.**

Mar 14

**Coxswain retires** - Jake Murray who spent 25 years with the RNLI, 18½ as coxswain retired recently and at a ceremony in the Old Coach House Hotel was presented with a retiral gift. The new coxswain is Alan Robertson who has been second coxswain for the past four years.

**Champs again** – The Dancing Feet team of dancers from Buckie retained their title of European Junior Line Dance team champions at the recent European Championships. The team are taught by Jean Forbes and her daughter Leyonee.

**The Fishing scene** – Last week four boats landed 300 boxes of white fish, prawns and squid also 559 bags of scallops at Buckie harbour. The boats were – Genesis, Kestrel, Georgia Dawn and Majestic III.

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**Popular local priest dies** - The parish priest of St Peter's Church, Buckie, Monsignor Eddie Traynor died last Wednesday March 8 aged 54 after a long fight against cancer. **See the obituary on page 5.**

**Duck race** - The 1<sup>st</sup> Buckie Boys Brigade recently held a successful Duck Race on the Buckie Burn to boost Company funds. A photograph shows folk at Bridgend watching the ducks as they approach the finishing line.

Mar 21

**Up in court** – Buckie woman Beverley West, 21, of 5 Rathburn Street was in Edinburgh High Court last Wednesday when she confessed to killing her new born child at the above address in April 2005. She is to be sentenced later.

**The Round Table** - The new president of Buckie and District Round Table is Alex Bain who is seen in a photograph on **page 13** being congratulated by past president Stephen Grant.

**The Thistle /Rovers link up** – Weeks of speculation regarding Buckie Thistle and Buckie Rovers was ended last Thursday when the Jags confirmed that the much publicised link up between the two clubs had now come to an end.

‘We were made aware that the Rovers had been offering several of our best youth players to Elgin City F.C. behind our backs’, said Thistle president, Mark Duncan - see **full report on page 15**.

Mar 28

**Death of Moray MSP** - The death took place at her home in Lossiemouth on Tuesday March 21 of Margaret Ewing after a battle against a long-standing illness. She was diagnosed with breast cancer four years ago. She was 60 a native of Lanarkshire and former primary school teacher. . She had represented Moray since 1987 first as MP and latterly as MSP. The full report is given on the front page.

**Grant awarded to Portknockie Community Council** - P.C.C. have revealed that they have received a grant of £5000 towards the reinstatement of the village’s coat of arms. This was given through the ‘Awards for All’ funded by the National Lottery.

**Neighbourhood Forum** - A public meeting took place in the Town House, hall last Wednesday regarding the Buckie Area Neighbourhood Forum.

**Bob is now 101 young** - Bob Rennie passed another milestone last week when he celebrated the first year of his second century. He lives at Burnside Court.

**A reply from Rovers committee man** - Gary Innes , long associated with Buckie Rovers both as a player and member of the committee had a letter printed in the ‘Advertiser’ in answer to that written by Mark Duncan. (This was not written on behalf of Rovers F.C. But was a personal viewpoint.) **See page 10**.

**A public meeting** - Buckie Community Council are to call a meeting in the Town House hall on Friday April 7, open to all, at which the economic situation in Buckie will be addressed.

This will be a follow up to a meeting held in 2005 which revolved around the pending closure of the Grampian Country Pork factory in the town.

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**Vandals strike at Merson Park** - The ground, pavilion and surroundings at Merson Park leased by Buckie Rovers off Moray Council have once again suffered at the hands of the vandals. On this occasion a door was badly damaged, while bottles of whisky given by sponsors, crisps and sweets were stolen as were the keys for all the doors which have meant the fitting of all new locks.

**Rover’s manager strikes back** – Keith Ingram, manager of Buckie Rovers, had a letter printed in this week’s edition of the ‘Advertiser’ in which he attempted to set the matter straight on a number of issues that had been first raised by Mark Duncan. ( Without showing any deliberate bias it was my impression that it was a well-written letter giving a fair assessment of what had transpired and had hoped that it clarified matters between

the two sides. This wasn't to be the case. Mark Duncan came back first of all to criticise what had been said by Gary Innes and then the following week to shoot down Keith Ingram. From a distance it would seem that there were faults on both sides.) A question one has to ask who were the 'good' youth players Mark was speaking about and as such gave rise to the furore in the first instance?) (Looking back from July 2008 it has to be said that none of the so called 'good' players have been able to progress above Junior level and would tend to emphasise the fact that Mark would have been better had he never put pen to paper. )

Apr 11

**The 'Buckie Drifter'** - A ray of light for the future of the Buckie Drifter appeared last Wednesday evening at a public meeting held in Buckie Town House with the setting up of a steering group aiming to make the former tourist centre into a community facility. The meeting was called by Peter MacDonald co-ordinator of the Friends of the Moray Firth Dolphins. (This was as far as it got.)

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**Science Campus for Buckie** - Buckie is to be the site of a brand new purpose-built Science Campus it was revealed last week. The announcement was made on Friday April 7 at the meeting in the Town House called by B.C.C. To assess the progress made on the economic regeneration of the Buckie area. It was a follow on from a similar event held last summer in the wake of the announcement that 330 jobs were to go at the Grampian Country Pork factory in the town. (As in the item above this was as far as it got.)

**Vandals set fire to Buckie shop** - On Monday April 10 the shop on High Street, Buckie - 'Between Friends' - was set on fire. The police received a call at 3.00am by which time the shop was well ablaze. They are treating the event as a case of malicious fire-raising.

**Harbour has tourist potential** - The tourist potential of Buckie in particular the harbour area came to European attention last week when a group from the European Commission came to see for themselves what has been done, and what could be done. Members of the Fishing Heritage together with interested members of the public joined the group in their tour of the harbour area and helped by answering a number of questions asked. (Progress has to be counted as nil - July 2008)

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**New minister for Cullen Auld Kirk** - The new minister of Cullen Church of Scotland is to be Rev Wilma Johnston who presently lives in Glenfarg, Perthshire. She is married to a farmer. She takes over from the last incumbent Rev Melvyn Wood, who is now in Lausanne, Switzerland.

**The Thistle v Rovers saga** - Mark Duncan had yet another letter published in the local paper on the aforementioned squabble that was taking place between officials of the two clubs. It was obvious that there were faults on both sides which were not helped by the letters.

Apr 18

**She got three years probation** - Beverley West who in March admitted to the culpable homicide of her new born baby son was sentenced to three years probation last week at Edinburgh High Court.

Grampian Police described the killing of Ms West's baby as a 'tragedy for everyone involved' but a crime had been committed and the law had to take its course.

**Rathven Rural celebrates** - Rathven SWRI held a special party to commemorate the opening of their revamped hall. A picture on page three shows Mrs Ray Stewart cutting a specially baked cake to celebrate the occasion as other members gather round.

**Certificates for long serving members** - A photograph on the same page shows three ladies, members of Rathven SWRI as they receive certificates and badges as honorary members – Cis McKay, Elsie Milne and Anne Reid. Also in the photograph are Lorna Milne, Secretary of Banffshire WRI Federation and Isobel Eckersley, Chairperson of Banffshire WRI Federation

**Stations of the Cross march** - A photograph shows around 30 people as they cross the Victoria Bridge on their Easter Stations of the Cross, March from St Peter's to other churches.

**Opening soon - Jags Pet Store** - This will be located at 33 High Street, directly opposite 'The Com' and in what was formerly a baby and young children outfitter. Not long after the war George Clark had the premises converted from two cottages to form a shop when he vacated the premises the next owner Sandy Milne, a former policeman, opened the front of the shop to form a garage.

**And so it goes on** - Keith Ingram, manager of the Rovers, had a letter published this week. He said this would be his last on the subject.

**The Thistle players who took the awards** - Kevin Main, goalkeeper, was presented with three trophies - Buckie Thistle Player of the Year, Function Hall Player of the Year and Supporters and Tenerife Loyal Player of the Year. Jamie Shewan was judged to be the '*Banffshire Advertiser*' Player of the Year.

Apr 25 **Probus Club** - This was the last meeting of John Fowlie's reign as president and to mark the occasion took the form of a Matter of Opinion. Those on the panel were – Jim Pirrie, Bill Smith, George Smith and John Legge. John Watt was General Evaluator.

**The last** - Mark Duncan has the last word on the Thistle versus Rovers ongoing.

May 2 **Nae change apart from name** - The SNP retained Moray at the bi-election following on the death of sitting member Mrs Margaret Ewing MSP. The new MSP is Richard Lockhead. The other candidates who stood were Mary Scanlon (Con.), Linda Gorn (Lib. Democrat), Sandy Keith (Lab.) and Melville Brown (NHS Trust)

**A band of brothers** - Ardach Health Centre doctors have banded together to form a charity – Friends of Ardach in a bid to raise £25,000 a year to fund a special exercise referral scheme.

**Fa started it?** - A fire which destroyed a car in a garage belonging to a Buckpool man is being treated as suspicious by Grampian Police in the light of other outbreaks of fire recently.

**Neighbouring shop suffers too** - Up to £150,000 of stock was damaged in a recent malicious fire-raising attack on the shop on the High Street – 'Between Friends' The 'Toy Box' next door became a collateral casualty as smoke percolated its way through between the two shops damaging a lot of goods. The shop has been closed to the public for two weeks and it is likely that it will be a further three to four weeks before it opens again.

**Anzac Day** - A memorial service took place at the Dallachy Strike Memorial, Bogmoor to commemorate Anzac Day.

The service was led by Rev Duncan Shaw, Kinloss, while piper Ann Nicholson, Tugnet, played a lament, 'The Floo'ers o' the Forest. Wreaths were laid by Depute Lord Lieutenant of Moray Duncan Dunbar-Naismith, Irene Young, Spey Bay Village Hall and Amenities Association, John Stewart, President, Buckie

Branch, Royal British Legion, George Cruickshank, Aberdeen, Banff and Kincardine Royal British Legions, Mike Read, Lennox Community council and Derek Smith representing Gallipoli and the Western Front Association. The memorial service at Dallachy is the furthest north to take place in the British Isles.

**New web-site** - Last Wednesday saw the Buckie Library launch a new web-site dedicated to the youngsters. Aimed at those aged between the years of 10 and 16 the new site is called [www.4UReaders.net](http://www.4UReaders.net).

**Portgordon Victoria** - The football team who play in the Planwell Welfare League received new strips from Alfie Morrison and John McVean of Moneywise Mortgagers. Alfie helps to coach this new team whose members are mainly in the 15, 16 and 17 age group.

**A pint fae the last game** - Buckie Rovers drew one goal apiece with Forres Thistle in the last game of the season. The team was Mike Munro, Campbell (Grant), Bryan Bell, Darren Stewart, Paul Robertson, McMullan, Lorne McPherson, Mike Green, Nicky Smith, Dale Munro, Duncan Philip, Subs – Ingram, C. Smith and Keith Clark.

Goalkeeper Stuart Knight had played his last game for the Rovers the week before while Campbell, Robertson, McMullan and McPherson were all to play elsewhere when the season opened again.

May 9

**Portgordon village hall** - The future of Portgordon Village Hall looked to be safe once more after a last minute appeal for volunteers to run it was heeded by the community and a new committee set up. Chairman – Liz Knight, vice chairman – Bill Cormack, secretary, Jackie Milton, treasurer, Christine Fairbairn. The hall is used by the OAP's, the Theatre Group, Methodist Church and the Masons.

**Honour for founder member** - A founder member of Buckie and District Round Table, Merson Grant, has become the first person to be created a Life Honorary member. He was already a member of the Round Table before the Buckie branch was formed and became involved with Ian Johnston of the Banffshire Advertiser on the project to get a charter.

**Sudden death sees police called** - The sudden death of Mosstodloch man Neil Allan in a house at Woodside Close was investigated by the police after they had been informed. Mr Allan, 51, was a son of the late George 'Doddie' Allan who I knew well when he worked at Chapelford Farm as dairyman in the 1940's and into the 50's .

**The fishing scene** - Last week seven boats called in to Buckie harbour to land their catches. They were Amazon, Son Y Mor, Apollo, Georgia Dawn, Kestrel, Christy M and Atlantis Belle. Between them they put ashore 205 boxes of white fish, prawns and squid also 532 bags of clams.

**Buckie Baptist Church** - The new minister of Buckie Baptist Church is Rev Vincent MacDougal who took up his post on Saturday April 22. The vacancy occurred with the departure of Rev Mark Bentham in June 2005 for Ayr. Rev MacDougal came to Buckie from Shetland.

May 16

**Ballindalloch Garden Party** - Local people were among the 300 strong crowd to attend a special garden party at Ballindalloch Castle last week, hosted by the Lord Lieutenant of Banffshire, Clare Russell to celebrate the 80<sup>th</sup> birthday of her Majesty the Queen.

**'Mogog' a book by Buckie author** - Buckie born author Brenda Lyon who lives in Los Angeles with her film actor husband Nameer El Kadi has produced 'Mogog' a fictional story set in the north east of Scotland. The story follows the life of a fishing boat skipper and his struggles working in the industry. She has been writing children's stories for 25 years but following on these book for adult readers she is currently involved in a second novel which will be based in the Black Isle.

**School football again** - After a long absence organised football has made a come back at Buckie Community High School thanks to the efforts of senior student Malcolm Ross and Assistant Rector Nigel Engstrand. Some of the strips that were previously used were found with some new ones being provided by 'Slater's Sports'.

May 23 **Copy missing**

May 30 **Road improvements** - Last week saw the finishing touches put to the major improvements on the Drybridge-Deskford road between Hilton Cottages and Puttingbrae Farm. What was a badly twisting part of the road between steep banks is now wide open with but a gentle curve. The road was closed for 10 weeks to allow the work done by Billy Miller and the Council's own Roads Maintenance Department cost £240,000.

**Probus Club AGM** - President – John Smith, a retired Income Tax Inspector, vice president – John Legge, secretary Bob Jamieson, treasurer- Hugh Patience. The last two agreed to continue in office. Ian Stephen who had acted as auditor for a long time intimated that he was to step down with Bill Smith, retired bank manager, taking on the task.

Committee - Jim Pirrie, Bill Smith, David Wood and retiring president, John Fowlie.

June 6 **Plea turned down** - A plea by a bereaved Buckie man, Kevin Herd, for a debate in the Scottish Parliament on an independent review of the out-of-hours medical advice service NHS 24 was rejected by Health Minister, Andy Kerr MSP. Kevin's father died after the initial failure of an ambulance to come to his assistance because the call for help to NHS 24 had been made by someone who was not a direct relative. An ambulance did eventually after 999 had been dialled but by this time it was too late and Mr Herd died shortly after.

**Road cleared at last** - The end of an ongoing saga was marked recently when the boulders bisecting Archibald Grove in Buckie were finally removed.

**Why don't they get their information correct?** - Allan Fraser had a letter printed in the 'Advertiser' on page 8 in which he voiced his annoyance at information boards and sign posts which give both the wrong names of features and information. He mentioned an information board at Tugnet and also one on East Church, Buckie as well as signposts within Buckie which gave the wrong spelling of the Fishermen's Hall and the wrong title of the Seamen's Memorial on New Street. The Town House, too, he said was invariably spelt wrongly, given as the Townshouse. He said that when the Masonic Institute was bought by the Town Council in 1922 the members took a vote on what the building should be known as and the vote went in favour of the Towns House.

**We're retiring – volunteers wanted** - Sandra and Ian Leslie have run the Millbank Youth Club for ten years and are now resigning. The club has proved very successful and popular with youngsters and they would like to see it continue and as such have put out a plea for some new people to carry it on. To date it has been open on Tuesday evenings from 6 till 8.45pm for pupils from P1 through to P7 with different times for different age groups.

**'On the fiddle!!'** - The coffee morning held in the Episcopal Church Hall recently to raise funds for the Strathspey Fiddlers took in the sum of £832. The money will go towards the trip by the group to Texas with 28 musicians and 6 helpers making the trip.

June 13 **Former Rovers player dies** - James 'Jim' Newlands died last Wednesday in Aberdeen Royal Infirmary. He was 72. An obituary, written by Allan Fraser, **is found on page 5.**

June 20 **A smart lad** - A Buckie student, James Reid, who was brought up by his grandparent, Arthur and Lesley Reid at 25 Merson Street, Buckpool won one of only two prestigious

Physics bursaries at Aberdeen University. He attended Milne's High School in Fochabers where he was Head Boy in his last year. The award is worth £3000.

June 27 **Coat of Arms** – Buckie Community Council have issued a call to the people of the town to rally behind their bid to have the local coat of arms reinstated. **See report on the front page.**

**Soldiers on parade** - Last Wednesday the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Royal Regiment of Scotland paraded through the streets of Buckie. Taking the salute on Cluny Square was the Lord Lieutenant of Banffshire Clare Russell joined by Lieutenant James Hopkinson, Brigadier Hughie Munro, The Highlanders Regimental Colonel and Moray Council convener Eddie Coutts.

**Neighbourhood Forum** - The first meeting of the Buckie area Neighbourhood Forum took place last week in the 'Lampie Hoose' the Square, Portgordon. Ian Moir of B.C.C. was present

**Portgordon WRI celebrated its 70<sup>th</sup> birthday** with a party held in the village hall recently.

Mrs Annie Gunn was made an Honorary President and received a certificate and badge to mark the occasion from the new president Elyse Minshull. She held the post of President for 18 years.

Portgordon WRI at present has 24 members and looks forward to welcoming more in the new session starting in September.

**Guide stalwart retires** - A photograph shows Mrs Margaret Bruce, of Roselea, West Cathcart Street, receiving gifts from County President Linda Duncan, Divisional Commissioner Janet McDonald and Past County Commissioner Margo Howe as Guides, former Guides and Brownies gather round. Mrs Bruce had been with the Guides for 46 years.

**The cleverest o them a'** – There were joint duxes at Buckie Community High School this year and Miller Medal winners - Emma Gardiner, Mark Greig and Pamela Thomson.

At the prize-giving ceremony Mr Sugden, Rector, mentioned and paid tribute to two teachers who were leaving at the end of the term – **Larry Easton, PT of Modern Studies who had been at Buckie for 23 years and Ian Cole PT Guidance who had taught English for 34 years.**

July 4 **She scored 6 'A' grades in he 'Highers'** Catriona Gray beat off stiff competition to land the Prestigious Purdie Bursary in Chemistry at St Andrews University. This is worth £1000. **The story is given on the front page.**

**Clyde Ville Centre is to close** - Clyde Ville Centre on Queen Street is to close its doors for adults with learning disabilities when the 24 clients and 14 staff move to the new purpose-built centre on Highfield Road, which has been named 'Burnie, after the summer holidays.

Last Friday the occasion was marked when together with friends a cream tea was held in Clydeville to mark the end of an era.

**Dance group launch CD** - The Banffshire branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society launched their own CD last Friday at a dance held in the Fishermen's Hall. The 15 track CD is entitled 'A the Best Fae Banffshire'.

**Canada Day** - A service took place at the Dallachy Strike Wing Memorial at Bogmoor on Saturday to commemorate Canada Day. Wreaths were laid by a number of organisations including Buckie Branch of the Royal British Legion, Lennox Community Council, Moray Council and the Spey Bay Hall Association and Amenities.

**Death of former slater** - Patty 'Pat' Drummond, 16 Blairdaff Street, Buckie passed away in Seafield Hospital on Saturday June 24. He was 79. **An obituary** written by a former workmate, Allan Fraser, is to be found on **page 5**.

**Thistle player must retire** - Buckie Thistle player Greig Pirie (27) a building surveyor who spent last season beset by back troubles has had to retire from Highland League football. He has been diagnosed as having degenerative disc disease with two discs already collapsed leading to disc bulge.

July 11 **The Fishing Scene** – Last week 6 boats came in to Buckie harbour to land their catches. This comprised 584 boxes of white fish, prawns and squid together with 100 bags of scallops. The boats were – Oceana, Harvest Moon, Deeside, Nordic Venture, Lynn Marie and Majestic III.

**Holiday Bible Club** - Buckie's Church of Christ (West Church Street) Holiday Bible Club was once again a resounding success last week when a record number of youngsters came along to the Fishermen's Hall to take part.

July 18 **New feature on Cluny Square** - A tiled plaque commissioned by Mark Cross, chairman of the Community Economic Development Group (CED) and produced by artist Fiona Jappy was unveiled on Cluny Square last Wednesday morning by John Fowlie, Depute Lord Lieutenant of Banffshire. Present were members of the Fishing Heritage Centre, local councillors and members of the public. Fiona is from Elgin but her father Alexander Jappy is a native of Buckie. The plaque shows, among other features of the fishing industry, a picture of the drifter Handsome, BCK 1 which was built for the Murray family at the mouth of the Spey.

**Buckie Rotary Club** - The new president of Buckie Rotary Club is David Paterson, A photograph shows the chain of office being handed over by Immediate Past President, Malcolm Watt. The new vice president is Tom Peat.

**Buckie Thistle** - The Thistle played their first friendly of the season when they travelled to north Ayrshire to play Beith Juniors. This was their first ever trip to play a south junior club. The match ended in a victory to Buckie by 2 goals to one.

July 25 **A new entry in the dictionary** - The term 'Cullen Skink' is now part of the English language. It made its first appearance in the prestigious Oxford English Dictionary (OED) and joins hundred of other new words.

**Findochty student made history** - Raemond Jappy made history by becoming the first student ever at Aberdeen University to graduate with a First Class Honours degree in Accountancy with Music.

**The Fishing Scene** - Last week a larger number of boats than normal came in to Buckie harbour to land their catches – 18 all together. Six hundred four boxes of white fish, prawns and squid were put ashore and also 473 bags of clams.

The boats were – Nordic Venture, Tjeerd Jacoba, Christy M, Osprey, Ocean, Harvest Moon, Peter M, Aztec, Atlantis Belle, Ocean Starlight, Solan, Primrose, Kelly, Stroma Isle, Star of Annan, Unity and Clarness.

**Café open again** - The Solid Rock Café on East Church Street, which caters for youngsters, has once again been able to open its doors thanks to the presence of Moray Council Youth Workers. It is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1.30 till 4.30pm and between 7pm and 10pm on Wednesdays during the summer months.

**Buckie Thistle** - The Thistle were beaten by three goals to one by Junior football club Shotts Bon Accord in a friendly match last week. The heading in the ‘Advertiser’ read – ‘Shotts Gun Down Shell-Shocked Jags’

**Buckie Thistle** - The Jags got back on winning ways when they beat Formartine United by four goals to two in a friendly at Victoria Park.

Aug 1 **More facilities asked for at Strathlene** - As the mercury continued to soar in the first half of last week and folk from both the local area and further afield flocked to the sun-kissed coast a Buckie businessman, John Duncan, has issued a call for more facilities to be provided in the Strathlene area. Councillor Longmore, whose ward Strathlene lies, says he would like to see the same but as long as vandalism is as bad a problem that it is it is unlikely that Moray Council would agree to this. He mentioned how equipment at Portessie playpark and even at the school had suffered badly and had to be repaired time and again and it was unlikely that any play equipment would remain safe from their hands at Strathlene.

**Peter Fair got front page billing** - It was a little later than normal this year but yet did not escape the rain which made for many an unwelcome return after a prolonged period of first class sunny weather.

**RNLI Open Day** - Buckie RNLI opened its doors to the public on Saturday July 22 and were blessed with gorgeous weather and a good crowd so that the Open Day was very successful.

**Football more friendly games** - Buckie drew nil-nil with Elgin City and beat a youthful Ross County team by two goals to nil. Both games were played at Victoria Park.

Aug 8 **A first for Buckie** - Last Friday saw first for Buckie as locals and visitors alike were invited to take part in a production based on the town. Held as part of the Buckie Festival ‘Ghost Echoes a Life’ offered a unique experience. People were issued with ear phones and given a guided walk around the town as the story unfolds. **A report is given on the front page.**

**Buckie Rotary Club** plans to produce a DVD featuring scenes from their fund-raising Six Harbour Walk and Cycle as well as various snippets have received a £3.300 fillip from the Heritage Lottery Fund and together with the grant of £2000 from the Highlands and Enterprise (HIE) Moray should see the DVD become a reality in the late autumn.

**Buckie Thistle won their first ‘real’ game of the new season** when they beat Lossiemouth F.C. at Grant Park by one goal to nil to collect their first points. The team was Main, Murray, Lamberton, Shewan, R. Davidson, McKinnon, Matheson, (Smith), Munro, Bruce, Low (Hamilton) and MacDonald. Subs – Angus, Grant, Taylor (G. K)

**Buckie Rovers didn't fare so well.** They went down by eight clear goals to Premier League team Formartine in a cup game. Scribe A. L. Nath described it as 'Boys against Men.'

The Rovers fielded a much changed team from the previous season with a number having moved elsewhere. The team was – Fox, Bell, Sievwright (Thain), Low (Leslie), Stewart, Philip, Fraser, Stephen, Soper, Green, Fielding (Ingram), and Thomson.

A minutes silence was observed prior to the game in memory of Jimmy Newlands a former Rovers' player of the Sixties and early Seventies who died during the close season.

**Buckie Rovers** - They drew their next game one goal all with Bishopmill. A minute's silence was observed in memory of Jimmy Grant, President of Burghead Thistle and former President of Scottish Junior Football Association.

Aug 15 **Buckie District Fishing Heritage Centre was awarded a £25,000 grant** last week from the Highland 2007 Moray Community Programme. The money will go towards the planned expansion and modernisation of the Centre which will see its size increase by 50% and see far more facilities on offer. A 45 metre square extension is to be erected to the rear.

**Keswick in Buckie marks up 21 Years** - The 21<sup>st</sup> Keswick in Buckie Convention took place during the week of 5 to 12 August with all services taking place in the North Church. As has been long the practice three guest speakers spoke during the week.

Aug 22 **Proposed development of the harbour area** - Plans to regenerate the harbour area of Buckie have placed the creation of a marina as central to the success of the project. **The report is given on the front page.**

**The Fishing Scene** - Last week nineteen boats came in to Buckie harbour to land their catches which comprised – 390 boxes of white fish, prawns and squid together with 429 bags of clams.

The boats were – Atlantis Belle, Unity, Challenge, Moray Endeavour, Quantas, Osprey, Calisha, Vigilant, Lynn Marie, St Keverne, Just Reward, Nordic Venture, Golden West, Staronia, Ocean Starlight, Charisma, Harvest Moon, Majestic III and Kelly.

**Those with 'Green Fingers'**- This year winners of the Best Kept Council Gardens in the Inchgower Distillery sponsored competition ran by Moray Council were first George and Margaret Stephen, Portknockie and Barbara Davidson, Buckie. They each receive a cheque for £25 and will keep the Inchgower quaich for six months. Third were Gilbert and Angela Grant who received a cheque for £10. In addition each of the prizewinners received a bottle of Inchgower whisky.

The format was changed this year from that of previous years and encompassed Fochabers to Cullen because of the lack of applicants this year.

Aug 29 **To run for Scotland** - Kyle Cowie (18) of Portessie has just received confirmation that he is in the Scotland squad for the World Mountain Running Trophy in Bursa, Turkey, in September.

**Very well done** - Buckie Cricket Club regained the Macallan Championship with a 100% league record. The first club to do so since Nairn County in 1939

Sept 5

**The Burnie centre** - A new day centre for adults with learning disabilities was officially opened in Buckie last Friday to replace the old Clydeville facility on Queen Street. The new purpose-built and designed facility which cost Moray Council just over £1 million to build is situated on Highfield Road in an area of land between Ardach Health Centre and Buckie Community High School playing fields.

**Induction services for new priest** - Two special services were held last week for the formal induction of Father Gerry Livingstone to the parishes of St Peter's, Buckie and St Mary's, Fochabers. A service was held on the evening of Saturday 26 August at St Peter's and the following morning a service was held in St Mary's Fochabers. Both services were led by Bishop Peter Moran, the Bishop of Aberdeen.

**Improved technology** - Readers of the B.A. Can now look at the news electronically at Buckie Library. The 'Advertiser' is now supplying the library with CD Roms which hold copies of the newspaper in PDF format. The pages can now be viewed on screen in full colour and copies can be printed there and then.

**Buckie Flower Show** – There were just over 500 entries for this year's show. Yours truly won two trophies, one for roses and one for vegetables. The exhibitor gaining most points overall to take the Taylor Trophy was Mrs Gladys Smith of the Hunters Drybridge. She won trophies for jams and jellies, fruit and foliage plants.

**Buckie Thistle** recently signed goalkeeper Darren Strong, formerly with Rothes and last week signed defender Lewis Duguid and midfield player Scott Robinson, both 17 years old, from Dyce Boys' Club. They also signed Dale Fraser (19) on a two year contract. Dale had been turning out for the Rovers during recent weeks. Matthew Edmund, a winger has been signed from Hermes, the Aberdeenshire junior club while Shane Clark has been loaned to Islavale.

Sept 12

**Portknockie - Coat of Arms** - The re-investiture of the Portknockie coat of arms took place on Saturday. A large crowd turned up to watch as the Ross Herald Charles Burnett handed over the framed vellum parchment to Portknockie Community Council chairman Alan Berisford to mark the return of the coat of arms. **See report on the front page**

**The late Dr Mary Martin** - An obituary is found on page 5 for Buckie-born lady Dr Mary Martin who died in Dr Gray's Hospital, Elgin aged 86. Her parents were John Park Buchan and Mary Buchan. She grew up in Buckie where she attended Buckie High School. She graduated MB ChB from Aberdeen University in 1942. She served in India with the Royal Army Medical Corps from 1943 to 1945. She was renowned for her humour.

**New faces at B. C. H. S.** - Debbie Ligertwood- Business Education who will be working temporarily between Milne's High School in Fochabers and at Buckie. Dr Stephen Wilkinson who previously taught at Buckie for 11 years before moving to Elgin Academy has moved back as PT of Biology. Two probationer teachers have also joined the staff - Marie Burness in Business Management and Marie Kimmins in the English Department. David MacCallum has taken up a post as Skill Force Instructor while Kevin Collins has been appointed Active Schools Co-ordinator.

**A poem is found on page 11 and columns 1 and 2** - This was written by Peter Reid and entitled 'Buckie'

**New 'Head' at Portgordon** - Mrs E. Pirie, moved from New Elgin Primary School where she was Depute Head to be headteacher at Portgordon Primary School.

Sept 19 **Buckie 10K** - A good number of people took part in this years 10K race which has become an established feature on the calendar of the year. There were participants from as far afield as Cardiff and the Orkney Islands.

The first male person home was Mike Stewart with a time of 33.17; second was Ross Arbuckle whose time was 33.27. He was also the first male veteran to cross the line. The first super vet was Charles Noble with a time of 37.43. The first woman home was Elaine Whyte in 38.32. She was also the first female veteran. Second woman to cross the line was Jane Barker in 38.42. Ladies super vet –Phyllis Lemoncello came home in a time of 45.07.

A good number took part in the 2K Fun run which saw the participants run as far as Rathven Cemetery from where they were bussed back to the High School.

**A poem is found on page 8 and columns 6 and 7.** This is entitled ‘The Pilgrim’s Progress’ written by Peter Reid.

**Nautical Studies at BCHS** - Buckie Community High School are offering a new Nautical Studies course to pupils and any adults in the community who may be interested. The course ran by Banff and Buchan College will be held twice a week in the South Hut at Buckie Community High School.

Sept 26 **Congratulations** - Buckie Cricket Club went through the season undefeated as well as winning the Macallan Championship a feat that was recognised by the community council who sent their congratulations. The cricket club reserve side also won their league which in itself is seen as a feat worthy of acclaim.

Oct 3 \*\*\*\* **Buckie District Heritage Centre** received a massive funding boost towards their plans to extend and modernise the Centre with a **grant of £50,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund.**

**Grant for Buckie Festival** – Those involved with the staging of Buckie Festival were delighted to learn that they had been given a grant of £37,008 from the Scottish Arts Council.

**The Fishing Scene** - Last weel eleven boats came in to Buckie harbour to land their catches. In total this comprised 564 boxes of whitefish, prawns and squid also 788 bags of clams. The boats were – Carisma, Silver Rock, Osprey, Atlantis Belle, Calisha, Nordic Venture, Tjeerd Jacoba, Vertrouwen, Scotia, Fresian and Discovery.

**New minister for the North Church** - A photograph shows Rev Gordon Mathew as he is welcomed to his new charge of Buckie North Church at his induction last week by Rev Ronald Gauld, St Rufus Church, and Keith.

**Down memory lane** - Two old buses were seen passing through Buckie last week on a trip from Inverness to Macduff as they followed the course of a journey they would have done often in days gone by. One was a blue coloured half-cab, 1950 Leyland Tiger registration number CWG283 owned by Bob Leys of Glasgow. The other in its original two tones yellow a 1980 Leyland Leopard owned by Buckie-born man Peter Findlay. **A photograph and report is found on page 8.** It shows Peter with his father, both former bus drivers, with the two buses.

Oct 10 **A poem is found on page 2 and columns 1 and 2** - This is entitled ‘Whisky Galore’ written by Peter Reid.

**Babs- Dial- a Bus** - A Buckie charity that helps elderly and infirm people get around was celebrating their addition of a new vehicle to its fleet last week. Babs-dial-a bus took delivery of a new Optare mini-bus which will replace the H-registered vehicle that has been used since they began operations six years ago.

'Babs' has gone from strength to strength and now has 492 members, 2 mini-buses and a car. There are six part-time staff and 20 volunteers who do a variety of necessary jobs.

Oct 17 **Labour Party MSP pays a visit** - Buckie was the scene of another first last Wednesday when Highland Labour MSP Maureen Macmillan came to town to conduct a roving surgery. She was welcomed by Councillor John Leslie.

**The Fishing Scene** - Last week 19 boats landed 796 boxes of white fish, prawns and squid together with 343 bags of scallops. The boats were – Christy M, Carisma, Christine, Jemma Marie, Atlantis Belle, Osprey, Deeside, Georgia Dawn, Challenge, Discovery, Silver Rock, Nordic Venture, Kestrel, Vigilant, Clarness, Shekinah, Loyal Friend, Copious and Harvest Reaper II.

**Time to stop says Bill** - Bill Flett who has called it a day from playing cricket for Buckie Cricket Club after 50 years received a special award when the medals and awards were being given out last week in the pavilion. Edie Corsie, Birnie Sutherland, Bill Jaffrey and Bill Hope all paid tribute to Bill and highlighted his contribution to Buckie Cricket Club in particular and North of Scotland Cricket Association in general.

The home changing room at Linzee Gordon Park will be named after him.

Bill was presented with a framed certificate of his statistics and achievements along with a crystal rose bowl. At the conclusion of the presentation a clearly emotional Bill received a standing ovation. **A report is given on page 17**

Oct 24 **Buckie man found dead – foul play suspected** - A Buckie man Mr Kenneth Devlin, known as KK was found dead in the house 7 East Carlton Terrace on Saturday morning October 21. A 29 year old man has appeared in Elgin Sheriff Court in connection with the death. Kenneth Devlin was 42.

**Welfare Football** - Portgordon Victoria has just completed its first season in the first division of Moray Welfare League finishing in a creditable fifth place. The team was formed to provide opportunities for youngsters aged 15 and over to further their football education and hopefully progress to higher levels. The success of this has been born out already with three players likely to sign for a Highland League team, three already playing junior football and six playing for Deveronvale at less than 17 levels.

Oct 31 **A change on the business scene** - The business scene in Buckie witnessed the end of an era and the beginning of a new one when it was announced last week that the structural steel fabrication division of John Duncan Construction had been sold. Ran by Mr Duncan for 34 years it has been taken over by another local firm W. M. Structural Services, the owner being Bill Mowat.

**Now open** - A new card shop known as 'Moments' has opened at 38 East Church Street selling a high range of cards, paper and stationery.

**Community Council Chairman resigns** - Buckie Community Council bid farewell to their long serving Chairman Derek Horrobin last week.

Mr Horrobin who had been associated with the community council for over twenty years tendered his resignation both as Chairman and as a community councillor via letter read by the secretary Allan Fraser.

The letter said his reasons for resigning were personal and were not in any way related to the community council. He asked to convey his sadness at having to make this decision but also his satisfaction of being part of the work done by the community council.

Mr Fraser spoke on behalf of all when he said how disappointed he was that their Chairman had felt that he had to take this step and said that his leadership would be sorely missed. A letter of thanks would be sent.

Mr Horrobin's place as Chairman was taken by vice Chairman James Smith with Ian Moir stepping up to vice Chair.

A full report of Mr Horrobin's views with respect to the community council and how it was important that they should continue to operate, which were given to the 'Advertiser' at the beginning of this session of the present council were re-printed in this edition and make good reading.

**Buckie man's death** - The man arrested in connection with the death of Kenneth Devlin has been named by the police as Niall Cormack.

**Buckie Skateboarders** - The group of youngsters who had been given permission to go ahead with plans for converting a part of the Linzee Gordon Park into a Skating Arena have now decided that a better site would be one of the tennis courts located on South Pringle Street near to Victoria Park. A member of the group together with an official of Moray Council planning department brought plans for this site to the October meeting of Buckie Community Council

Nov 7 **Burnside Court 20th birthday** - - The sheltered housing complex off Netherha Road in Buckpool celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> birthday on Monday October 30 when staff and residents enjoyed a buffet lunch and some entertainment.

**Bound for Iraq** - Sergeant Peter McPhee, a Buckie man and member of the local Territorial Army part of the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland is one of seven men from the branch who will be involved in a 6 month tour of duty in Iraq. Each of the men have completed three months of intensive training. Sgt McPhee who spent some time in the regular Army and is employed in the Ambulance Service in the Buckie area will be going out to Iraq and Basra in the British sector, as platoon commander.

**Polish priest** - Father Aleksander Herba, 35 year old Polish priest has been domiciled in Buckie for the past month or so. In response to the influx of Polish workers who have come to this area to work after their nation joined the EU. His 'parish' covers a large area from Forres to Banff.

A special service takes place in Buckie every two weeks to a month conducted in Polish explained Father Livingstone, parish priest of St Peter's, Buckie and St Mary's in Fochabers.

For his part Father Herba described a difference he had found in this area as compared to Poland. The size of the congregations he had been accustomed was of the order of 2000 whereas in this area it was very small explained by the fact that 90% of all Poles are Catholic whereas here it is about 3%.

Nov 14 **Remembrance Sunday** - Local folk joined with others up and down the country to pay homage to the memory of the members of the British Armed Forces who gave their lives in the cause of freedom during World War 1 and World War 2 and all conflicts since that time.

The salute at the march past of ex servicemen, Legionnaires and others was taken by Norman Niven flanked by Moray Councillors John Leslie and Joe McKay, John Stewart Cathie Calder and Kathleen Campbell of the Royal British Legion and Allan Fraser, Buckie Community Council.

The Last Post and Reveille were sounded on the bugle by Michael Widdrington, a Buckie lad now serving with the Royal Logistics Corps. Laments were played by Piper Robbie Innes.

**Car accident claims the life of Buckie man** - Jody Longmore died at the scene of an accident on the A98 near Connage Farm at the weekend. He was a single man aged 25.

Nov 21 **A new use for 'Sandisons'** - September 15 heralded the start of a new era in the town for those who like the idea of a café-bar being one and the same when 'Sandisons' at 22 East Church opened its doors. The property was recently used as video shop but people with longer memories will remember it more as being occupied John Sandison and Son,

Draper and Hosier hence the name given to the new establishment. The proprietor is Ms Sharon Crane.

**Well done** – Local man , John Fowlie, Depute Lord Lieutenant of Banffshire, had a letter in the ‘Advertiser’ in which he congratulated the management committee of the Buckie Royal British Legion and others involved on their excellent Armistice Sunday Parade and Service at Cluny Square on November 12.

To hear this after two consecutive years when the local paper received letters of condemnation for the conduct of the event was most gratifying for all who had played a part.

**Unveiling ceremony** - A photograph appeared in the ‘Look Back to the Past’ page of the ‘Advertiser’ showing an unveiling ceremony taking place at Buckie War Memorial. The question was asked what was happening then and what the occasion was. I was able to provide the information which was - The date was 8<sup>th</sup> November 1953, Armistice or Remembrance Sunday when the new panels bearing the names of all who had given of their lives in the two World Wars. The unveiling was performed by Provost Dr Peter Reid who himself lost two sons during WW2. The Last Post was sounded by David Grant who had also sounded Reveille and The Last Post when the war memorial was first unveiled in April 1925. Charles Glennie, piper, played a lament ‘The Flooers O the Forest’.

Nov 28 **Buckie Common Good Fund.** Following the question being put to Moray Council by Buckie Community Council as to how much money was in the kitty known as the Buckie Common Good Fund and also what if anything belonged to the fund. In this context it was learned that the area of land known as the ‘Highland Yard’ belonged to the people of Buckie through the Common Good Fund and should it be sold to Lidl the supermarket giants, as was on the cards, for a figure of £1.2 million as asked this would provide a massive boost to the funds.

Further the current balance in the Fund was £170,980 with £8,435, one third of the interest, available per year for good causes.

In a long list of things owned by the Common Good Fund apart from the Highland Yard, in earlier times the environs of the Buckie railway station on the Keith to Portessie line, was the Linzee Gordon Park.

Should it come to pass that the Highland Yard is sold the amount of money available each year would rise considerably from around £8,000 to £40,000.

**Well known Buckie businessman man dies** - Robert Sutherland Cruickshank, known to many as Bob one of Buckie’s best known businessmen died last week in Seaford Hospital. He was 78. **An obituary is found on page 5.**

Dec 5 **Buckie’s Christmas Lights** - The Christmas Lights were switched on last Friday afternoon moving from its traditional Saturday. The ceremony was performed by Flt. Lt. Mark Still a navigator on the Tornado plane GR4 based at RAF Lossiemouth with the Dambuster Squadron. He was one of the airmen who took part in the recent STV programme ‘Jet Set’ which followed the fortunes of Tornado crews training at the Moray base.

The pupils of Cluny Primary School had written a letter to RAF Lossiemouth with an invitation extended to someone who had played a part in the programme to come and switch on the light.

Flt Lt Still was helped to switch on the lights by Stuart Fowler and Chloey Slater. A competition was held in the school to design a new light display, this being won by Stuart with Chloey coming second.

Dec 12

**The Scottish Cup** - Buckie Thistle was beaten by one goal to nil by Elgin City in the Scottish Cup, the game was played at Boroughbriggs, Elgin. The scribe, 'Jagsman' (Easton Thain) said how the Jags had gone down to a bad goal but also they hadn't played as well as they might have done. Many thought that the Thistle had a good opportunity to go through to the next round as they had been doing well in the Highland League while Elgin had been struggling badly but it was not to be.

The Thistle team was – Main, Shewan, Lamberton, Small, R. Davidson (McDonald), Grant, Matheson, Munro, Bruce, Coutts (MacKinnon), N. Davidson (Hamilton), Subs- Angus and Strong (G.K).

**End to winning streak** - Buckie Rovers could only draw with New Elgin to bring an end to a good winning run.

**Tories name their man** - Ian Moir, retired P.T. of Maths at Keith Grammar School is to fight the East Buckie/Findochty ward for the Conservatives at the local authority elections next May. The seat will fall vacant then with the retirement of Sinclair Longmore who has held it for a long time. Mr Moir is presently vice chairman of Buckie Community Council

**A partner for Jim-** Seafeld Medical Centre welcomed a new face into the fold recently when GP Kirsty Shaw became a partner in the surgery where she joins Dr Jim Tuckerman.

Dec 19

**Advertisers pen their Christmas message** – Cutting Corner, Hair Salon, 46 West Church Street; Keystore, Supermarket, 6 Station Road, Portgordon; Rendezvous, Beauty for You, 36 James Street; Brian Duncan, Car Valet, Unit 3 36 Marine Place; S. Lyon and Son, Plumbers and Heating Engineers, West Cathcart Street, Buckie; Tred Rite, Tyre Ltd., McLaren's Brae; Andrew Murray Ltd., Electricians, Portessie; Kutz, Haircare, 21 High Street; Sandy's Carpets, 13 High Street; Buckie Furniture and Carpet Centre, 45-49 West Church Street; Kevin Murray, Painters and Decorators; R. S. Cruickshank, T.V. Radios, etc, and Electricians, 30-32 West Church Street-Myra, Robert, Alan and Staff; Kirsty and Ruth, Health and Beauty, 20 West Church Street; Flicks, Hairdressers, High Street, West, Portgordon; Brian Reid, Joiner, Stewart Street, Portgordon; Millbank Garage, High Street, Highland Garage, Freuchny Lane

Dec 26

**Use a scoop to lift the poop** - The menace of dog fouling in Buckie has once more been brought to the fore following on similar complaints from residents in Cullen. Buckie man Kenny Nicol, a former Citizen of the Year, described the mess on streets and elsewhere as being the worst he had seen in the last ten to 15 years. He asked that people do the decent thing and scoop up their dog's poop as they were required to do by law.

**High School teacher dies** - The death took place on Sunday December 17 of Buckie Community High School teacher Kay Boyle who taught English at the school for 31 years. She died suddenly in Dr Gray's Hospital after being diagnosed with cancer only six weeks ago. She was 59. Though born in Canada she was brought up in Keith. **An obituary much of it written by her only son Kenny is found on page 5.**

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