

## 2007

Jan 2 **Honour for local Scout** - A local Scout has been selected as one of only three from Moray to attend next summer's World Jamboree to celebrate the centenary of the movement.

Buckie Community High School student Craig Simpson, 15, of Cullen received the good news after a recent selection event held in Keith.

The World Jamboree, which will run for 18 days from July 27, will be held in Highlands Park, Essex. There will be 40,000 Scouts there from all over the world.

**Boxing Day dip at Burghead** - Six members of the crew of the Buckie lifeboat 'William Blannin', including Alan Robertson, coxswain, were joined by Lifeboat Medical Advisor Dr Angus Gallagher, his deputy Dr Alison Douglas and fellow Ardach Health Centre GP Dr Bernie Welsh took a dip in Burghead harbour on Boxing Day morning to raise funds for the lifeboat, which is set to be the main beneficiary of this year's charity event. This was the 21<sup>st</sup> year that the event at Burghead has been held and the number of participants continues to grow yearly.

Jan 9 **Generous donations** - Seafield Medical Centre have benefited recently from two generous donations of equipment which are set to make life easier for a large number of patients.

Three nebulisers were handed to the surgery by local man Ian Smith in memory of his late wife Roberta who passed away last June. She had been a patient of Dr Jim Tuckerman.

They were joined by a diagnostic set given to the surgery by Ms Eunice Boylin who has, over the years, donated several pieces of equipment, including a portable ECG machine, nebulisers and oximeter.

Mr Smith explained that the money for the nebulisers had been raised from a collection taken at Roberta's funeral being directly intended for this.

A photograph on page 7 shows Mr Smith handing over the three nebulisers to Dr Kirsty Shaw and Dr Jim Tuckerman.

**Probus Club** - Buckie and District Probus Club enjoyed a Christmas buffet and lunch in the Marine Hotel in the week before Christmas. A total company of 51, members, wives and guests were present. The grace before the meal was said by Jim Findlay.

Entertainment was provided by three pupils from Buckie Community High School, Ronald Jappy, Jack Smedley and Amy Johnston who were introduced by George Clark PT Music at the school.

Amy sang two carols and two arias while Jack on the Scottish fiddle played a selection of reels, marches and jigs accompanied by Ronald on the organ. John Fowlie gave the vote of thanks.

Jan 16 **Santa pays a visit to Seafield** - As has been the practice ever since its inception the Friends of Seafield Hospital and Community Patients accompanied Santa Claus as he made his way around the wards distributing presents of toiletries to every patient in Seafield and the nearby Muirton Wing. A photograph on page 5 shows the man of the moment as he was about to set off on his rounds with members of the friends – Chairman Alistair Robson, Betty Gauld, Nan Clark, Gladys Smith and Suzanne O'Connor.

**Financial boost for local group** - The Teddy Bear Development Group in Buckie received a major boost recently thanks to the staff of the town's branch of the Royal Bank of Scotland.

**A photograph on page 8** shows branch manager Joan Reynolds handing over a cheque for £2000 to Teddy Bear Group Secretary, Heather Pirie while staff members Linda Spooner, Aileen Dick, Margaret Hall and Rhoma Pirie look on.

The group which meets in the Lady Cathcart School caters for youngsters who have special needs.

**First of its kind** - Seafield Medical Centre recently welcomed an extension to the range of services that they already provide with the opening of a new Breast Feeding Café, which is the first of its kind in Scotland.

The Buckie Breast Feeding Café has been set up at the medical centre to encourage and increase the uptake of breast feeding in the local area.

All pregnant women and breast feeding mothers are welcome to attend.

The café is held every Friday afternoon at the Seafield Medical Centre from 2.00pm -3.00pm and it aims to offer support to new mums and give advice on breast feeding and the choice of feeding methods

**Guilty people watch out** - Persistent problems of dog fouling in Cullen have seen special patrols initiated in order to combat the menace.

Buckie Community Warden Dave Crawford was joined by Moray Council Dog Warden Maurice Raffan on the first such patrol last Monday, which aimed to dissuade those who do not clean up after their pets from continuing their anti-social behaviour.

**Maynes Coaches in miniature form** - Mayne's Coaches have revealed that the latest acquisition to their fleet, the Van Hool T9 luxury coach, has been chosen by toy giants Corgi to be immortalised as a limited edition model set that will soon be available for sale locally. The coach, of which Mayne's have 12, has been depicted right down to the last detail by Corgi's craftsmen and comes with its very own snow scene, with the vehicle crossing a bridge over a mountain river, and is packaged in a collector's box.

The firm, which has been in business for 60 years, hit on the model as a way of celebrating this milestone.

The coaching firm was set up in 1947 by Mr Jim Mayne, (today his great grandchildren are directors of the firm) who started first with taxis from his home on West Cathcart Street, the first bus he bought being a second hand Bedford OB coach.

**Cairnfield House** - A photograph on the 'Look Back to the Past' page shows Cairnfield House in the Enzie. The house shown was built in 1802 to replace one burned down during the Civil Wars and was the home of a Gordon family.

The name means the *cairn by the bog* a large cairn known to have existed close by in days gone by while the land between the house and the A98 before being drained was a bog giving rise to the names of two former farms Easter and Wester Bogs, neither of which exist as such today. Cairnfield House was sold by the laird a number of years ago and has changed hands a number of times since then. During WW2 German POW's were housed there. The underlined phrase should perhaps be clarified. Neither of the steadings on the farms is used for the purpose for which they were intended though the land on Wester Bogs still grows crops of grass and barley but that on Easter Bogs is used as a nursery for young trees by Christies of Fochabers.

Jan 22

**Given the thumbs up** - Proposals by Cluny Fish proprietor Lewis Paterson to turn a building at his fish processing premises on Low Street into a tourist facility (restaurant and visitor centre) were given the go-ahead by the Environmental Services Committee of Moray Council last week. Permission was granted following a 17-5 vote after concerns had been raised over the safety of the proposed vehicle access to the centre.

He aims to utilise the old fish smoking kilns, which are the only ones left in Buckie and are over 100 years old, and in the visitor centre he hopes to include information on the herring industry and also on the firm of Cluny Fish itself.

**An Award from the RNLI** - Cluny Primary School have been notified that they are to receive a prestigious award from the Royal National Lifeboat Institute for the outstanding support given to the organisation by the school over a number of years.

Over the past four years P7 youngsters have raised the sum of £4000 through a variety of events including sponsored walks.

Representatives from Cluny School will be invited to the RNLI's Annual Presentation Awards at the Barbican in London on May 17 to accept the award. They will also have the option of collecting their trophy closer to home if they so wish at the RNLI's Scottish Annual Meeting in Perth on Tuesday June 5.

**The Fishing Scene** - Six boats landed at Buckie harbour last week, taking in 312 boxes of white fish, prawns and squid. The boats were- Carisma, Adele, Copious, Osprey, Nordic Venture and Clarness.

**Buckie Community Council** - Members decided to co-opt a new member on to the council at the January meeting. He is Alistair Bruce Guy, known as Bruce of Titness Street. The other members of the community council are – Chairman James Smith, vice chairman Ian Moir, secretary/treasurer, Allan Fraser, also Zafar Ali, Edward James Campbell, James Newlands and James Grieve. Mr Guy takes the number again up to eight as it was before the sudden death of Mr Alistair Boyd who died in December. There are still four seats vacant that members would like to see filled.

**Death of ship-builder** – Mr John Mackenzie who ran the Buckie boat-building firm of Herd and Mackenzie from the 1950's, when he took over from his father, up until 1979 when the yard was sold, died at the age of 97. **An obituary to Mr Mackenzie is found on page 5.**

Jan 30

**Tesco to build in Buckie** - After more than a year and a half since plans were first lodged, approval has been given for a Tesco supermarket to be built in Buckie. The plans were passed by Moray Councillors supported by the three from Buckie. This despite a number of objections, including one from Jake Robertson who owns a garage, petrol station and convenience store almost opposite to where the superstore will be built in one of the fields of Mains of Buckie to the west of 'Toll Bar Road' leading into Buckie from the A98.

In addition to the store itself room will be taken up by a car park with spaces for 241 cars. Many people outwith those who lodged objections question how 140 jobs can be created since as it would seem Somerfield and the Co-op will inevitably lose trade and hence need fewer assistants. People too feel that with Tesco selling electrical goods this could have a detrimental effect on the profitability of the only electrical shop now in the town centre who might find it difficult to compete in terms of price. Both Jake Robertson of the Moravian Garage and R. S Cruickshank, TV and Electrical have supported the town well over the years in a great many ways including sponsoring different organisations.

**Cullen Centenarian dies** - Grace Welsh a resident in the Lythe Nursing Home, near Cullen died on Tuesday 16 January only two months after celebrating her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. An obituary is **found on page 5.**

**Keswick in Buckie** - The speaker at the Keswick in Buckie weekend was Rev Douglas Hutcheon who grew up locally and attended Enzie Public School at Clochan and later Buckie High. He was a member of the local Baptist Church before he entered the ministry. His wife is a native of Buckie.

**Probus Club** - A large crowd of members, wives and guests were present at a traditional Burns lunch of haggis neeps and tatties held on the poet's birthday 25<sup>th</sup> January in the Marine Hotel. The Selkirk Grace was said by Hugh Patience before the haggis was piped

in by Stuart McMillan and carried aloft by the hotel chef who was both provided with the customary dram.

Jim Findlay addressed the haggis in his own inimitable style so enthusiastic was he that on giving the vote of thanks at the end President John Legge remarked that many people might have been glad that Jim had been a headteacher and not a surgeon.

Jim Pirrie an Ayrshire man and a Burn's devotee chose on this occasion to tell the story of the Burns family from the point where the poet's father leaves the Mearns for Ayrshire; his time there as a market gardener; when he married and raised a family before moving from Alloway to the farm of Mount Oliphant then Lochlee before his death, which roughly marked the time when Robert Burns began to become noticeable as a poet.

**Crew safe as boat sinks in the North Sea** - Only a few minutes following the crew abandoning ship the Buckie-registered fishing boat 'Evening Star' sank below the waves. The drama began 40 miles east of Peterhead when the 'Evening Star' sprang a leak in an aft compartment. Attempts to save the boat foundered when first the main pump and then the emergency back up failed leaving Skipper Jim Thomson with little alternative but to alert the Coastguard and request that a pump be flown out to the trawler. An hour later before this arrived with the boat low in the water it was decided for safety sake to abandon ship. The crew were aboard a liferaft for 15 minutes before an RAF search and rescue helicopter from RAF Lossiemouth arrived on the scene and winched them to safety.

Apart from Skipper Jim Thomson, Park Grove, Buckie and his son Andrew the other members of the crew were Eric Hughes and Neil Chalmers both of Aberdeen.

Feb 6

**Parklands Celebrate** – The staff at a group of Buckie-based care homes for the elderly were celebrating recently after capturing two prestigious awards. Parklands Ltd. which has care homes in Buckie, Keith, Aberlour and Grantown scooped the National Training Awards 2006 for both Scotland and the UK recently for establishing its own training division in the absence of suitable training providers. They have been supported in the venture by Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

**He was a 'Lamsdorf Loon'** - Willie Logan who died in Parklands Nursing Home in Buckie on Friday 26 January spent some time as POW of the Germans at a camp known as Lamsdorf where a group of men, from the Navy Army and Air Force formed a group called 'The Lamsdorf Loons' all of whom came from the north east. They used to hold annual re-unions which at one time took place in the Strathlene Hotel where the manager had been himself a 'Loon'. Willie was a former businessman in Keith owning two shops on Mid Street and when he retired he came to Buckie where he had relations. **An obituary is found on page 5.**

**More Flower Power** - A new flower shop has moved into 5 High Street, formerly occupied by an Optician. The new shop owned by Kim Hutcheson and known as 'Oops a Daisy' was formerly in Keith. There are already two flower shops in Buckie in addition to what are on offer in the supermarkets so the competition could be quite fierce.

**It wisna there** - Allan Fraser took exception to a wording on an old photograph that was shown in the 'Advertiser' the previous week, which showed the Victoria Park somewhere in the front of St Peter's. He said the original Victoria Park ran at right angles to West Church Street and parallel to South West Street with the present Victoria Park being laid out on what were the lotted lands in 1919.

Feb 13

**The Enzie: The Landscape and Its People** - This was the title of a talk that was to be given in the local library the following week by local author Allan Fraser. A large crowd turned out to listen to him talk and show slides of the area.

He had already this year given the talk to the Probus Club in Keith and to the members of Fochabers WRI.

**A means of slowing them down** - The local police stepped up their action against boy and girl car drivers who have been racing their cars back and forwards along the streets of the town and as often with loud noises from the exhausts and from music systems inside. A warning had already been given to one driver who decided to ignore this and ended up with having his car seized – a costly business for him. Residents in the town had long complained about the antics of some of the young drivers and also the noise created, with the community council raising the issue on their behalf time and again...

Feb. 20 **Playgroups under threat** - A public meeting was held in Buckie Community High School last Thursday evening following the announcement that Moray Council were considering the closure of playgroups which are held in community centres. If this should happen they reckon that it would save the Council £70,000 but it could mean problems for mothers and children. The meeting was called by Buckie Playgroup one of those that could be affected.

**Primary Schools** - At a meeting in Elgin last Wednesday Moray Council's Educational Services Committee brought to a close the stage 1 review of eight primary schools that had fallen below 60% of functional capacity.

Locally Portknockie School survived but Stage 2 Review awaits St Peter's. The same applies to Cabrach School.

Feb 27 **Citizen(s) of the Year** - This year the Citizen(s) of the Year were the pupils of Primary 7 at Cluny Primary School. They came first with the largest number of votes cast which gets larger with every year that passes. This time round the children were up against a strong and worthy field of candidates. They won the award because of their sterling work they have done on behalf of the RNLI, raising the sum of £4,500 over the past few years, and also the part they played in the town's Christmas lights display.

The competition is run by the Community Council in conjunction with the local paper. Community Council member Zafar Ali has taken a leading part in the competition over the years.

The school will be receiving a special trophy from the community council to mark the event.

**World Day of Prayer** - To mark the event a special service led by Captain Elizabeth Pritchard, local Salvation Army officer, was to be held on Friday March 2 in the Methodist Church, Buckie.

**The fishing scene** – Last week fifteen boats, a larger number than for some time, came in to Buckie harbour to land their catches. Between them they put ashore 882 boxes of white fish and 230 bags of clams. The boats were – Kestrel, Carisma, Blue Sky, Jenna Maree, Vigilant, Oceana, Carona, Calisha, Osprey, Clarness, Rival, Voyager, Ocean Reward IV, Pisces and Suilven.

**Buckie Rovers beat New Elgin** by four goals to 1 in a league game.

The team was – Flynn, Thomson (Innes), Bell, Leslie, Stewart, Philip, S. Mair (Wood), Wilson, N. Smith, M. Smith, R. Mair (Ingram), Subs- Duguid (G.K), M. 'Scammers' Smith (49 years young)

**Buckie Thistle drew 1-1 with Inverurie Locos** in a crunch game in the race for the Highland League title, Buckie being only one of several teams that could go on and win, the others being the Locos, Keith Deveronvale and Huntly.

The Thistle team – Main, Shewan, Lamberton, Small, R. Davidson (Low), Grant, Matheson, Munro, Bruce (Stewart), Coutts, McKinnon (Hamilton). Subs – Fraser and Strong (G.K)

**Shop closed** - The shop at 61 West Church Street once known as Smith's Sports Shop but which in recent times was called the Linen Basket and Ladies Fashions closed with no warning this week.

Mar. 6

**Big donation for Buckie RNLI** - A photograph on page one shows Alan Robertson, coxswain of the Buckie lifeboat as he receives a cheque for £11,000 from Burghead Boxing Day Swim committee member Russell Main. **A report** on how Buckie lifeboat was chosen to be the largest benefactor from the proceeds of the day this year is **told on page one.**

**Peter Anson's paintings** - Buckie Library was the scene last week for the official unveiling of a digital illustrated catalogue of the works of maritime artist Peter Anson, which number some 750 varied pieces. Included in the collection are water colours, pen and ink and pencil works, sketches and washes. Digitisation of the images has provided the opportunity to scan not only the familiar paintings and people associated with the artist who died in 1975, but also a range of sketches and drawings as well as some sketch books containing some traditional landscapes painted when Mr Anson was a young man. Printed copies of the catalogue are available for viewing in Buckie Library and in Buckie District Fishing Heritage Centre.

**Lunar Eclipse** - Saturday night saw the most spectacular eclipse of the moon for a decade, with the clear skies making the event easily visible to the naked eye. The *'Banffshire Advertiser'* had a good picture showing the eclipse about half stage.

**The last** – An end of an era will come to pass on Friday March 9 when Buckie Romania Appeal Group (BRAG) hold their 12th and final Quiz Night. The group have been fundraising for an orphanage in Siret near the Russian border for the last 15 years, collecting well in excess of £30,000 during that time. The orphanage, however, is now closed, making the upcoming event the last to be held by BRAG.

In the summer of 1992 Anna Flett, Fiona Mclean, Frieda Murray, Moira Smith, Moira Thain and Betty Veitch first went to Romania to help care for the children in Romania's largest orphanage, Spital Coppi, later to be joined by Claire Thain and Heather McLaren.

**League Champions** - **A photograph on page 13** shows Fochabers FC captain Duncan Lamont (a Buckie loon) as he received the League Trophy from John Kelly of sponsors Scotscoup as Derek Thomson, President of the North Junior Association and Fochabers players and officials look on. Fochabers actually won the league title when they beat RAF Lossiemouth the week before.

Following the presentation they were clapped on to the field by visitors Buckie Rovers who they then, rather unkindly, went on to beat by five goals to three.

Mar 13

**We are back** - McLachlan Opticians have returned to 18 West Church Street. The shop which was at one time occupied by Tommy Lang, Optician and long before that F.F. Angler, Jeweller underwent a complete refurbishment. The walls were cleaned back to the stone and then reframed and covered with plasterboard. The floor was renewed while a false ceiling was installed.

This is the second shop on West Church Street to undergo such treatment within the past two years, the other one being number 17, which is now a café and one arm bandit place for those over 18.

**The fishing scene** - Only **the one fishing boat, the Osprey**. Called into Buckie harbour to land its catch. This amounted to 28 boxes of white fish, prawns and squid mixed.

**They won their last game** - Buckie Rovers ended their league programme at an early date on Saturday with a win by three goals to one over Lossiemouth United.

The Rovers' team was – Flynn, Leslie, Bell, Low, Stewart, Philip, S. Mair, Munro, N. Smith, Wilson, Mike Smith. Subs – R. Mair, M. Smith (Zu-Zu), Thomson (all used), Wood and Duguid (G.K)

**Buckie could only draw** - Buckie Thistle did their chances of winning the Highland League no favours when they could only draw 1-1 with Nairn County in Nairn. The Thistle team was – Main, Shewan, Lamberton (N. Davidson), Small, R. Davidson, MacKinnon, Matheson, Munro, Bruce, Coutts (Low), Stewart. Subs – Grant and Strong (G. K.)

Mar 20 **Plans require more examination** - Ambitious plans to build 122 houses on the former Jones' Shipyard site are to be furthered examined. Included in their plans is the proposal to construct a new entrance road from Reidhaven Street along the shore behind Ianstown Terrace.

**Flooding at Portgordon** - The twin elements of a high tide and strong onshore winds caused Stewart Street and Lennox Place, Portgordon to be badly swamped during Saturday night and into Sunday morning when massive waves crashed over the sea wall. The water was three feet deep at one point with all the doors protected to a degree by sand bags.

**Big housing area planned for Buckpool** - Springfield, housing developers, Elgin have put forward plans to build 117 houses and 32 flats in the field lying between the most recently built houses south of Netherha Road and the road leading to Mill of Buckie farm. This would have been on land surrounding what was once known as the Old Ha', the manor house of the estate of Nether Buckie and later was divided up into lotted lands utilised by people living in Buckpool who grew crops for themselves or kept their animals on it. For many years past, however, it formed part of the land of Mill of Buckie farm.

Mar 27 **No through way here** - The residents living on Ianstown Terrace were up in arms at the proposal to construct a road between the back of their houses and the sea as access to the proposed housing development on the site of the former Jones Shipyard.

**Need for a crossing** - Cullen residents were calling for a pedestrian crossing to be installed across the busy Seafield Street, part of the A98 that runs through the village

**The end of the line** - A large crowd attended the 12<sup>th</sup> and final Quiz Night held recently by the Buckie Romania Appeal Group. There were a total of twenty five tables with the sum of £1405 being raised. The Appeal Group will continue to collect funds for Romania, however they will be ceasing their Quiz Nights which were their major fund raiser.

**One Hundred and Two Years not out** – Last Friday saw Mr Rennie who has lived in Burnside Court for two years after moving from his previous home in Wallace Avenue celebrated his 102<sup>nd</sup> birthday and despite his venerable age he remains as sharp and witty a commentator on life as before.

Apr 3 **Citizens of the Year** - The Community Council inspired award as Buckie's Citizens of the Year for 2007 were handed over to representatives of Class 7 of Cluny Primary School by the chairman James Smith at their Easter Service held in the North Church on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> March. In addition to receiving the annual shield given to an individual or group as Citizen(s) of the Year, the school were also awarded a special plaque to be erected in the school as a permanent reminder of their achievement and a further shield called the Buckie Citizen Award which will be used by the school to recognise those pupils who have shown greatest commitment to the community over the previous year.

**100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the opening of the Methodist Church** . - Last Tuesday saw Methodism in the local area mark a major milestone when Buckie Methodist Church celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. **A report on the proceedings is given on page 5.**

Apr 10 **Fochabers By-Pass** – Confirmation of a hearing date at the Court of Session in Edinburgh which will consider objections to the proposed route of the Fochabers by-pass has been unveiled, with May 8 scheduled to see proceedings commence.

Apr 17 **Fishing Heritage Museum-** Work on turning the Buckie District Fishing Heritage Centre into an expanded display and educational facility is progressing ahead of schedule, it has been revealed.

Contractors, Walker's of Banff have been hard at work for a number of weeks now on the former custodian's cottage which has, since opening in 1986, served as a museum preserving photographs and artefacts detailing the history of the area's fishing heritage and culture. The deadline for opening is the middle of May and it is hoped that it will be ready for the Highland 2007 Flotilla when they visit Buckie at the end of June. A photograph in this edition of the 'Advertiser' shows work in progress at the Cottage.

**Never on a Friday** It had it never been a regular practice for boats to be launched on a Friday as the most superstitious felt that no good could come of being launched on this day. Allan Fraser in a letter to the current edition of the 'Advertiser' told of the mishaps that took place when a launch was scheduled to take place on Friday from the shipyard of George Smith junior, Buckpool on a Friday back in April 1907. The boat in question was the drifter 'Fleetwing' built for a Banff owner. Despite many attempts on the Friday, during Saturday it was not until after noon on Sunday that a successful launch was accomplished.

Apr 24 **Harbour Log** - Five boats landed their catches at the Buckie harbour last week. The total catch comprised - 132 boxes of white fish, fish and prawns together with 460 bags of scallops.

A cargo boat arrived with soya from Amsterdam while a cargo of pulpwood logs was exported to Rauma in Sweden.

May 1 **Music in the bars and clubs** - In the Harbour Bar- live music with Nikki on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> May. On Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> May a Karaoke/Disco will take place in the Thistle Bar. Ceilidh Thyme will be appearing in the Buckie British Legion on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> May. Admission £4 members and visitors welcome. Music in the Star Bar on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> May will be by Waves Disco. , while Ziggy and Toni will be in the Buckie Thistle Social Club on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> May.

**Opening announcement** - A shop titled 'Kids Shoes' opened today (Tuesday) at 61 West Church Street. This was formerly occupied by Smiths Sports though the owners went out of sports equipment to sell ladies fashions and bedding . The new shop will stock shoes of all kinds from pre-walkers to 12 years of age. Makes - Hush Puppies, Lellie Kelly, Shoo Shoo and Wester Chief.

**Jail sentence** - A 29 year old Buckie man received a sentence of six years for the killing of another local man during a drinking spree in October 2006. He admitted the reduced plea of culpable homicide. He had originally been accused of murder.

May 8 **More of the same** - Richard Lochhead SNP was returned as MSP for Moray at the recent election, with the Conservative candidate Mary Scanlon coming second, Lee Butcher third and Dominique Rommel fourth.

**Harbour Log** - Four fishing boats landed their catches at Buckie harbour last week, taking in 468 boxes of white fish, prawns and squid combined and 48 bags of scallops. The boats were Blue Sky, Discovery, Lynn Marie and Aztec.

On the cargo front the Norwegian-registered MV Elektron came in light from Drammen on May 3 and exported one steel reel (total tonnage, 28.000tonnes) to Newcastle the same day.

May 15 **Its just not cricket** - Buckie Cricket Club whose first XI and the second XI did extremely well to win both championships last season have not had the best of starts this season, the first XI being beaten for the second week running. . The second XI, a very young side, that had been hammered the week before, however, had a good win against RAF Kinloss.

Eadie Walls gave an explanation for losing so many games in that they had lost a lot of players over the past three years and it was really re-build time.

**A real downer for Thistle fans** - Over a thousand Buckie football fans travelled through to Banff to see their favourites play Keith in the final of the Highland League Cup, hoping that they would see them annex this trophy for the first time in 21 years. Sadly it wasn't to be, Keith, who had just become Highland League champions the week before were the winners beating the Thistle, decisively, by five clear goals. Claiming to be a Keith cyard, I have to say that I was quietly, fairly pleased.

May 22 **The Yanks want our 'throw-aways'** - The Green Home charity, based in Buckie on the March Road Industrial Estate is spearheading an International recycling scheme for the north east of Scotland which will see tonnes of second hand goods being shipped to America for a new lease of life. On Wednesday May 16, a strong team of Green Home staff, volunteers and trainees loaded five tonnes of furniture, books and crockery into a lorry container to prepare the first consignment

The goods are now safely on their way via Liverpool and Oregon USA to Vincent DE Paul in Oregon where a social housing charity has requested second hand furniture to sell in their shop. The shop has a turnover of around 15 million dollars a year. The project pays for the goods to be shipped to the USA and the profits from the sales are then shared equally between Green Home and themselves after costs.

**Information board** - Lennox Community Council have secured grants from three separate funding providers, to introduce a new wildlife information board which is to be set up near the old ice house between Portgordon and Buckie. It will look on to an area of rocks which is frequented almost daily by a colony of seals. One of the men behind the project is Stuart Morrison a member of Lennox Community Council.

May 29 **St Ninian's Cemetery** - The run-down appearance of St Ninian's Cemetery in the Enzie was giving great concern to many, especially to those who have relatives buried there who found that they had to wade through knee-high grass to reach the graves.

The cemetery belongs to the Roman Catholic Church but under an agreement with Moray Council and previously Moray District Council the place had been kept tidy, with the grass cut, for many years. This year, however, the grass has not been cut after the Council had received no guarantee from the Catholic Church that they would see to having those stones seen to be unstable made safe for men working round them. The new rules pertaining to Health and Safety having stressed this necessity.

The Church, with pressure being put upon it to rectify matters have agreed to spend a considerable amount of money to do the work necessary and once this is done the Council have agreed to cut the grass once again as a favour as they had done before.

**Fochabers by -Pass** - There was joy aplenty, at least among some people, in Fochabers that at long last the by-pass of the village had been given the green light. The project which has been estimated to cost £18 to £20 million was originally given the go-ahead after a public inquiry in September and October 2003 but objectors led by Gordon

Lennox Estate Company pursued their opposition to the proposed northern route through a legal challenge. **See full report on the latest developments on the front page.**

June 5

**Baxter's come to the aid of Ardach life-savers** - A unique Buckie-based exercise referral scheme aimed at saving lives and increasing health levels received a massive boost last week to the tune of £10,000. Presenting the cheque last Wednesday at Ardach Health Centre, Highfield Road was Gordon Baxter who praised the efforts of the charity set up to fund the specialised gym at Ardach, Friends of Ardach, chaired by Dr Lewis Walker. He also stressed that schemes such as these were a chance to put something back into the community.

"The Baxter's Foundation aims to spread donations around to try and help those helping others." Mr Baxter told the 'Advertiser'. "A lot of this money stays in Moray, the Highlands and the north east."

**Big changes planned for Hilton** - Planning application have been made to demolish the existing agricultural buildings at Hilton Farm, Drybridge, Buckie and erect replacement dwelling houses in their place.

**Changes planned for Rathven Station site** - Planning application has been made to erect four houses and garages on a site at the former Rathven Station.

**Both the applications above depart from the provisions of the Moray Structure Plan and the Moray Local Plan.**

June 12

**Closing down** - The shop at 41 West Church Street called 'Visions' which sold or hired out DVD's and Videos and also ink cartridges for printers is to close down. At one time there were as much as three shops in Buckie hiring out Videos etc but when this one closes there will be none left. It would seem that their day has passed.

**A first for Buckie** - Buckie played host to yet another first last week when the town hosted an innovative Tent Mission. The five day event saw a huge 250 seater marquee erected in Victoria Park as the focal point of the event run by PWAMM (People with A Mission Ministry), although Ian Johnston Park, Cluny Square and Buckie Church of Christ played their parts, providing venues for the Fun Day, challenger 3 outreach bus and Heroes Kids' Club respectively.

**RNLI Award** - Four pupils from P7 Cluny Primary travelled to London recently to receive a trophy from the RNLI given in recognition of their fund-raising efforts on the behalf of the organisation. The four were Jack Fowler, Kimberley Studd, Jordan Duncan and Jodi Thomson.

June 19

**Rotary Club gift** - Buckie Rotary Club presented a cheque for £1200 to 'The Mercy Ships' that have been heavily engaged in projects in Sierra Leone.

**To remain open** - St Peter's Primary School was snatched from the jaws of closure last Wednesday afternoon when councillors dramatically overturned recommendations to close the school - **See front page** -

June 26

**Fishing Focus** - Five boats landed their catches at Buckie harbour last week. This comprised in total 500 boxes of white fish, prawns and squid together with 27 bags of scallops.

The Gibraltar registered cargo boat MV Ankeangela came in light from New Holland on June 21 and left the following day with 1600.000 tonnes of pulpwood logs destined for the paper mills in Finland.

**Fish and Ships Fiesta** – is to take place at Buckie harbour on Friday June 29 from 5pm till 8pm. Live music and street entertainment. The event is one of the local events sponsored by Highland 2007; NHS Grampian; HIE Moray and Moray Council to celebrate Highland 2007- the Year of Highland Culture.

**Moray Firth Flotilla** - A convoy of craft of different kinds, including former fishing boats, left Wick on June 23 calling into a number of harbours enroute including Buckie, reached on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> before their final location at Portsoy where the annual Scottish Traditional Boat Festival on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> June.

**St Peter's Church** - In celebration of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St Peter's Church in Buckie, a successful flower festival was held recently.

Creating floral displays depicting scenes from the Bible were the Ladies Guild, the pupils of St Peter's Primary School, Children's Liturgy Group and the Youth Club. The exhibition was open to all and refreshments were served. Entertainment was provided by the Moray String Quartet on the Sunday and organ recital was held throughout the weekend.

The pupils received assistance from Mrs Mary Kemp, a school helper, and advice from 'Cottage Flowers', Cathcart Street, who also supplied the flowers.

July 3

**Visit to Buckie by Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex.** - Years of hard work and commitment were given the Royal seal of approval last Friday when the newly renovated and expanded Buckie and District Fishing Heritage Centre played host to the Prince.

The Prince was the first outsider to look round the recently completed project which has seen the former caretakers cottage and the original museum to the rear of the Library on Cluny Place completely revamped inside to make room for the new display space and other features, as well as the building itself being extended by 50%.

Prince Edward unveiled a plaque and signed the visitor's book. He was introduced to the Board members and the local Moray Councillors while long-serving Heritage member Mrs Elsie Murray presented him with a bottle of malt whisky.

He was in the area to visit the Boat Show at Portsoy on Saturday. **-See report on the front page.**

\*\*\*\* **Buckie Festival 2007** - Despite efforts by the weather man on Thursday of last week to 'wash out' the Buckie Festival promenade with torrential rain it was undoubtedly the most thrilling spectacle seen in Buckie for many a long year. **To describe it briefly here would do it an injustice and one is advised to read of it both on the front page of the 'Advertiser' and also on page 8.**

**Organ recitals** - As part of the celebrations to mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of St Peter's Church a series of organ recitals are to take place through out July and into August with organists drawn from Banff, Inverness, and as far afield as Edinburgh.

**Visit by senior churchmen** - Friday June 29<sup>th</sup> was definitely a red letter day for everyone connected with St Peter's R.C. Church in Buckie as another auspicious occasion took place to mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the church in 1857.

A special service was held to honour the occasion and among the honoured guests at this very special occasion were the Bishop of Aberdeen, the Right Rev. Peter Moran, and the

Archbishop of Glasgow, Mario Conti. They were welcomed by the current priest at St Peter's, Father Gerry Livingstone.

July 10

**The Heritage Centre** - Gratitude to the efforts of all those who have helped to make Buckie and District Fishing Heritage Centre the first -rate attraction it is today was top of the schedule last Friday when the museum hosted a special celebratory event.

Sandwiched in between a royal visit from HRH Prince Edward, the Earl of Wessex on Friday June 29 and the centre's official opening to the public on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> July the event saw the Lord Lieutenant of Banffshire, Clare Russell, making her second visit within seven days to the newly-refurbished and much expanded facility. She was presented with a bouquet by Jeannie B. Cowie.

Centre chairman Hugh Patience was keen to hail the efforts, many unsung, which have seen the museum, situated off Cluny Place and adjacent to the car park, go from strength to strength, culminating in the recently completed £173,000 refit project. "Today is a chance to say thank you to as many people as possible that has helped with the Fishing Heritage Centre, both in the past and with the renovation and extension project." **See page 7 of the 'Advertiser' for a fuller report.**

**Passing of former hairdresser** - The death took place on Monday July 9 at her home at 9 Pringle Street of Mrs Isabella Forbes (Tibbie) Beattie. She was 84. She will be remembered by many as for many years as Tibbie had a small hairdressing salon in a small out-building to the rear of her home.

**Drumhead Service** - In atrocious weather conditions the Royal British Legion branches in the Banffshire Zone held a Drumhead Service in the Victoria Park. The parade commander was former regular soldier and NCO John Reid of Buckie.

**Dux of Buckie Community High School** - Holly Sutherland is seen in a photograph in this edition of the 'Advertiser' as she receives the Miller Medal awarded to the Dux of the school from Otto Thorensen, guest speaker at the annual prize-giving ceremony and himself a past Dux of the school. Holly is the daughter of Mr and Mrs Birnie Sutherland. Shona Sutherland is a teacher at the school as was her husband but who had to retire prematurely on account of ill health.

July 17

**Victoria Park** - A new sponsor's lounge was opened at Victoria Park by Jimmy Calderwood, manager of Aberdeen F.C. on Sunday afternoon. Aberdeen F.C. was playing Buckie Thistle in a friendly testimonial game for long serving player and team captain, Paul Lamberton. The new lounge has been created in what was formerly the old board room.

**Move for Salvation Army officer** - Captain Ian Emery who has spent just over four years at Findochty Salvation Army is to move to Easterhouse, Glasgow on July 18 to take up a new post which will involve working with the youth of the area. Replacing Ian Emery in Findochty will be Ann Caurdelle who like Ian before her, will be coming straight from training in London to her first post.

**Methodist ministers on the move** - Two farewell services are due to be held to say goodbye to two local church ministers.

Methodist minister, Rev Geoff Shutt, who for the past five years has served Buckie and Portgordon and Rev Sheila MacInally, who has done likewise for Cullen and Portessie over the previous four years, are due to head for pastures new shortly, and the services will be an excellent chance for local folk to say adieu and wish them well.

The service for Rev Shutt will take place in Buckie Methodist Church at 6.00pm on Sunday July 29 with Rev MacInally's taking place on the same date and time in Portessie Methodist Church.

**Long serving nurse retires** - Staff Nurse Mary Boyd retired recently from her post at Seafeld Hospital where she has spent the last 32 years. At a celebration lunch held at the hospital she was presented with an array of gifts and many colourful floral bouquets. She received vouchers from NHS Grampian and gifts from her fellow colleagues and also the domestic kitchen staff.

A poem written in the Doric by Mary's colleague Helen West and former colleague Margaret Tanner was read out at the gathering.

July 24 **First journey in years** - A boat that has become something of a permanent feature in the Buckie harbour made its first trip in years. The three masted schooners, 'Regina Caelis' had been leaking and was taken to a dry dock at Fraserburgh for some repair work. It was away from Buckie for three weeks and it was a rare opportunity for local people to catch a glimpse of the vessel sailing.

The vessel, which has been permanently berthed in the third basin of the harbour for many years, belongs to Austrian owners who pay a visit to Buckie around four times a year.

**On the move** - The two Methodist ministers who between them have looked after the members of the Methodist flock from Portgordon to Cullen are to leave at the end of the month for pastures new. Rev Geoff Shutt, minister of Buckie and Portgordon churches for the past five years is to Yorkshire where though stationed at Selby will also be responsible for eight other churches in villages round about.

Rev Sheila MacInally who has served Cullen and Portessie for four years is bound for even further afield, his new post being Newmarket in Suffolk.

**Rotary Club of Buckie** - The new president of Buckie Rotary Club is Tom Peat, Garmouth, a photograph shows him being congratulated by outgoing president David Paterson as he hands over the chain of office.

July 31 **Change of use** - Clydeville the large dwelling house at the south end of Queen Street which was in earlier times the home of the Smith family of whom Dr Faber Smith (a former football player with Buckie this in the immediate post World War II years) was opened last week as a health and social care resource centre for people in the Buckie-Cullen area who are either suffering or recovering from mental health problems. Towards the end of the 1940's it was opened as a Children's Home and continued as such for a good many years until in the 1970's it became a day care centre for adults with learning disabilities. Last year, however, the house again became vacant with the construction of the purpose built centre the Burnie, off Highfield Road and now it is to have another new use.

**Peter Fair** - The fair took place once again this year despite the rain which has been a prominent feature of this 'summer'. The field was sodden but this did not deter a sizeable crowd attending as usual.

**Fishing news** - Last week twelve fishing boats, a larger number than for some time, called in to Buckie harbour to send ashore their catches. In total this comprised - 463 boxes of white fish, prawns and squid combined together with 493 bags of scallops. The boats were - Southards, Valkyrie, Georgia Dawn, Shekinah, Sharona, Quantas, Osprey, Majestic III, Blue Sky, Vigilant, Kestrel and Calisha.

**Cargo trade** - Two cargo ships paid a call... The German-registered MV Eric Hammann came in light to take on board 1218.640 tonnes of animal feeding pellets (a by-product of the whisky distilling industry). This was destined for Dundalk in Ireland.  
The MV Fehn Coral, registered in Antigua also left Buckie for Dundalk with 1596.400 tonnes of the same product.

Aug 7 **A book is launched** - Four members of Buckie and District Fishing Heritage Centre, Jim Farquhar, Ron Stewart, John Crawford and John Addison produced a book entitled 'Herd and MacKenzie - The Story of a Shipyard' which does as it says traces the history of a shipyard from its beginning in Findochty. The book contains 200 photographs of boats and people connected with the yard. It is on sale at £15. **A fuller report is to be found on the front page and page 4 of this edition of the 'Advertiser'**

**Fishing Focus** - Twelve boats called in to Buckie harbour last week to land their catches which in total comprised - 374 boxes of white fish, prawns and squid combined and 415 bags of clams.  
The boats were Calisha, Pegasus, Atlantis Belle, Tjeerd Jacoba, Georgia Dawn, Arcana, Osprey, Ocean Starlight, Loyal Friend, Jenna Maree, Southards, Sharona and Vigilant. **Note-** This was a larger number of boats than average for the time with six and seven being more common.

**Cargo Call** - One cargo boat paid a call last week. This was the Cyprus-registered MV IDA that arrived light from Newport on July 31<sup>st</sup>, leaving the next day bound for Rauma in Finland with 1735.690 tonnes of pulpwood logs on board.

**Rotary Club DVD-** The Rotary Club of Buckie has produced a DVD to highlight its annual Six Harbour Walk fundraiser. It is set to be sold in Tourist Centres in the north east. The double DVD pack features two films one of the walk itself and one with detailed aerial footage. The walk DVD includes a commentary on the area's history and culture, as well as stunning photography of the Moray coast comprising beaches, wildlife, coastal towns and sea views, and is set against a sound track of traditional Scottish music. The DVD's are priced at £12.50. And are available Banff, Fraserburgh and Elgin Tourist Information Centres.

Aug 14 **Cullen - a rebirth of the community council?** Interest has been shown in the rebirth of the Cullen and Deskford Community Council that went into abeyance around ten years before.

**Death of two former Thistle stars** - A minute silence was observed prior to the Buckie versus Deveronvale match at Victoria Park on Saturday in memory of David 'Davie' Wood and Alexander 'Shon' Reid. Davie played first for the Thistle in March 1947 continuing to play through until April 1953. He would play most often at full back but he was not out of place at centre forward. He was 82.  
Shon made his debut for Buckie Thistle in August 1955 with his last appearance being on April 7 1962 against Lossiemouth for whom he had begun his Highland career. He was 78.  
Both were Buckie men, Shon being from Anton Street, Buckpool and Davie from Blantyre Terrace, Iainstown.

Aug 21 **Shop closed** - A shop that opened earlier in the year at 61 West Church Street under the title of 'Kids Shoes' closed down on 18<sup>th</sup> August. It would seem that today's kids do not in general wear the type of shoes that were on offer, good, sturdy leather shoes, with almost everyone wearing 'trainers'.

Aug 28 **Fishing News** - Last week ten boats landed 106 boxes of white fish, squid and prawns combined together with 370 bags of scallops at Buckie harbour.

**Questions answered** - The previous week a reader of the local paper had a letter published in which he took Moray Councillors and member of Buckie Community Council

to task for things he saw as wrong and which he felt neither of the councils were doing very little about. In these editions Allan Fraser, secretary of Buckie Community Council for over 20 years set the record straight on a number of the issues that had been raised.

**Shop opens** - A shop called 'Jag's' opened this week at West Church Street selling all kinds of things for pets, rabbits, fish etc., etc.

Sept. 4 **Parent Council** - Last week saw the dawn of a new era in parent- school relations at Buckie Community High School when the brand new Parent Council was unveiled. In a move mirrored up and down the country, new legislation has seen the old School Boards swept away and replaced by Parent Councils, which it is hoped will help encourage greater parental participation in the life of their children's school and education.

**Young Buckie driver killed** - Ryan McKay 22 year old son of Robert and Mandy McKay died as a result of an accident on the Keith road north of the Craiglug Bridge near Brae of Enzie cottages. A roof tiler he was alone in the van at the time.

**Buckie Flower Show** - Yours truly won the cup again for the heaviest vegetables and was beaten on 'goal average' by an exhibitor from Nairn for most points over all in the vegetables section. We both had the same number of points but he had two more firsts.

Sept 11 **Seafield Hospital hit by bug** - Admissions to the general ward in Seafield Hospital were halted last week after an outbreak of sickness and diarrhoea hit patients and staff. Dr Gray's Hospital in Elgin was also hit.

**New Methodist Church preachers** - The Methodist Churches in Buckie, Portgordon, Portessie, Findochty, Cullen and Banff, welcomed their new minister and lay preacher at a special ceremony at Buckie Methodist Church last Sunday, The Rev Sean Turner and Willie Aitken were formally welcomed into their post and were able to meet with members of the congregation during the service.

**Reunion** - Twenty one classmates from the first year class of 1952 at Portessie Junior Secondary School met for a reception at the Old Coach House (Commercial Hotel).

Organiser of the event, Rosemary Jones, who now lives in Swindon said: "I think I can speak for us all in saying that it was a great evening and we all enjoyed a very happy reunion.

Sandy Morrison made a very generous donation to the bar, enabling all his old classmates to be supplied with drinks for the evening.

The former pupils all signed a card and presented it with a beautiful necklace to Rosemary Jones for organising the reunion.

A collection was also taken with £151 being raised and presented to Portessie Primary School Principle Teacher Jo Jones.

**Fifty Years Wed** - A brief note in this edition by Isobel and Allan Fraser thanked all neighbours, friends and relatives for floral bouquets, gifts and congratulations on the occasion of their Golden Wedding, also their three boys, Keith, Kevin and Karl and wives for the surprise meal, cake and party in the Seafield Hotel, Cullen which was much enjoyed and appreciated.

**Myths and Superstitions** - On Wednesday evening in the local library Allan Fraser local author and historian will be discussing myths and superstitions associated with the area. This follows on from the highly popular talk that he gave on the 'Enzie' earlier in the year.

Sept 18 **Buckie 10k** - The annual Buckie 10K was popular as ever this year with a high number of runners and spectators turning out for the event despite the rain making an appearance in the afternoon. Attending the event on Sunday September 16 were runners from as far afield as Glasgow, Canada and the United States. First though the tape for the men was Simon Pride, a member of the Forres Harriers with a time of 31.52 minutes. Close behind him with a time of 32.21 minutes was Glasgow runner Robert Gilroy. Local High School P. E. Teacher Ross Arbuckle was third with a time of 33.48 while John Goodall, from Buckie clocked in fourth place with a time of 33.57 minutes. He and Arbuckle were classed as veterans. First over the line for the ladies was Elaine Whyte of Fraserburgh with a time of 38.37 minutes. She was also first last year. Second lady was also from Fraserburgh, Gillian Cardno Strachan  
A field of 165 runners set off on the 10k race from the starting place at Louis Chip Shop on West Church Street, sponsors of the event.

**Seafield Farm is no more** - The building known in recent times as the Turner Pavilion on the edge of Buckpool Golf Course and prior to the laying out of the golf course in 1932/33 the farm house of Seafield farm disappeared last week after being demolished to make way for the erection of two houses in its place.

The lands covered by the golf course and Merson or the Provost Park was in earlier times worked by the farms of Easter Gollachy, Badrockcleys and Seafield. The last tenants of each in turn were Charles Stewart who later had a butcher's shop on High Street, Charlie Smith and Alex Maver.

During WWII Charlie Smith looked after a piggery that was formed out of the steading of Easter Gollachy on the extreme south west corner of the course.

**New Salvation Officer** - The new Salvation Officer in Findochty is Captain Ann Courdelle. She came to the village from the Training College in London and this is her first posting.

Sept 25 **Visit of Cardinal** - The Catholic parishes of Buckie Fochabers and Tynet welcomed a very special guest last weekend in the form of His Eminence, Cardinal Keith Patrick O'Brien.

The visit was part of the St Peter's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations and the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of St Ninians Church at the Newlands, Tynet. After the Cardinal celebrated the Saturday Vigil Mass at St Peter's Church he joined parishioners for a dinner and dance in the Tynet Hotel. On Sunday morning he again celebrated Mass in Buckie when he was joined by the Diocesan Choir. He also celebrated Mass in St Mary's in Fochabers before a special Mass at St Ninian's.

**Citizen of the Year** - A lady who was voted Buckie's 'Citizen of the Year' in 2006, Mrs Margaret Bruce of West Cathcart Street, Buckie died in Dr Gray's Hospital, Elgin on Monday September 17, aged 66.

Margaret was involved with the local Girl Guides and Brownies for 46 years and it was largely on account of her long and devoted service to the organisation that she was so honoured.

She was well known in the community a fact that was borne out by the large congregation that met in the Methodist Church, where she was a regular attendee, on Monday 24th September for her funeral service.

Oct 2 **Charities receive big cheques** - Buckie Rotary Club handed over thousands of pounds to good causes recently as a result of their highly successful 'Six Harbour Walk' This year's event, which was held on Sunday May 6, continued the upward trend in participation and amount raised. The sum raised in total being £22,340.

Buckie Rotary Past President, David Paterson presented cheques to the representatives from each of the five groups nominated as the event's charities this year. Each worthy cause received a £3000 boost to their coffers.

Those receiving cheques were - Barnardo's Scotland; Alzheimer Scotland; Riding for the Disabled in Moray; Diabetes UK, local branch; Friends of Ardach.

Oct 9 **High School Rector retires** - Buckie Community High School marked the end of an era last Friday when staff and pupils said their farewells to Rector Chris Sugden.

Mr Sugden is due to retire at the end of the Autumn term after giving 20 year's service to the school. In an age when changes of job, if not career, are commonplace, Mr Sugden's tenure at BCHS represented his sole post as Rector. Starting his teaching career in 1968 at Gordonstoun, he came to Buckie in October 1987 from his previous post as Depute Rector at Harlaw Academy in Aberdeen. An emotional ceremony saw the retiring Rector presented with an aerial photograph of the entire roll of BCHS by the youngest and oldest pupil in the school, Jacob Hetherington and Agnieszka Markuszewska respectively.

The new Rector, David Barnett, a native of Huntly, will take up his post after the holiday.

**Rotary Youth Leadership Award** - Buckie and District Rotary Club have for many years sponsored pupils from Buckie Community High School to attend the RYLA outdoor centre at Nethybridge. This year the three senior pupils were - Euan Watt, Andrew Bruce and Asia Hutchison. Euan and Andrew attended a meeting of the Rotary Club where they gave a very upbeat presentation of their time spent at Nethybridge and the various activities in which they were involved. This was set to music.

The RYLA certificates from the Rotary Club were handed over by the president Tom Peat.

Oct 16 **Bound for Rwanda, Africa** - Rev Graham Austin, parish minister of Rathven, Findochty and Portknockie is to head out to Kinungu a large town in Rwanda some 60 miles east of the country's capital city Kigali, on November 18<sup>th</sup>. He is going there on a three week work and study visit and has hailed the fundraising operation that swung into operation to increase the amount of aid he can take to the people there. At the moment the Rwanda fund stands at £4.500 with still more to come in. Mr Austin has said that every penny donated will go to help the various projects he will be working on as he is paying his own travel costs and expenses.

He will be accompanied on the trip by friend and colleague Rev Eric Foggitt, well known locally as the former minister of the South and West Church linked with Portgordon, who is now based in Dunbar.

**Fishing Focus** - Thirty boats landed their catches at Buckie harbour last week, the largest number to do so for a long time. Together they put ashore 885 boxes of white fish, prawns and squid combined together with 363 bags of clams.

The boats were - Vigilant, Aztec, Clarness, Atlantis Belle, Kiloran, Invader, Star of Annan, Copious, Spes Nova, Zephyr, Illustrious, Achieve, Kelly, Sonas, Lynn Marie, Aspire, Jenna Marie, Silver Rock, Rebecca, Carisma, Christine, Loyal Friend, Vigilant, Carona, Osprey, Pegasus, Majestic III, Just Reward, Westerly Warrior and Southards.

**Cargo traffic** - One cargo boat paid a call. This was the Russian-registered vessel, MV Ladoga 106 that came in from Kings Lynn, Norfolk carrying 1622.520 tonnes of malt. She sailed the following day when empty bound for Montrose.

Oct 23 **'The Gordon Castle'** This week the 'Advertiser' carries a photograph of the steam engine which was given the name 'Gordon Castle.' The photograph was taken around 1906 and shows the owner George McKay, farmer at Mains of Tannachy, Portgordon at the wheel. The engine was used to pull and drive a threshing mill and travelled round all the farms in the district.

Shown beside the photograph of the engine proper is a scale model of the 'Gordon Castle', every piece which was made by George McKay of St Vigeans, Arbroath, and a labour of love that took him 23 years. The model, of substantial size, has had its boiler passed by the inspectors and is now road worthy. Just prior to World War II the 'Gordon Castle' was owned by Alex Shand, farmer of Chapelford farm, Clochan, with the two mill men being Peter Gordon and Bob Tough.

**Aultmore Wind farm** - There would seem to be growing doubts that the wind farm which had been proposed for the summit of the Aultmore will ever become a reality. The number of turbines had already been scaled down from 31 turbines to 13 each one 110metres in height. Those householders in the area nearest to the site have been left unimpressed by the new proposals. Top of the objectors worries over the impact, both visual and cumulative, of the wind farm, as well as the possible detrimental effect the project would have on the local landscape and environment.

**Fochabers stalwart dies** - A prominent Fochabers businessman and community activist, George Christie MBE, died last week at the age of 81.

Mr Christie was best known as the owner of Christie's Garden Centre in the village, but he was also served on the now defunct Grampian Regional Council and Moray County Council. **See report on page 5.**

Oct 30

**Buckie Boys Brigade** - The 1<sup>st</sup> Company Boys' Brigade grew from a tentative meeting held in October 1947 when 24 boys accepted an invitation to attend a meeting in the South Church Hall extended by Captain James R. Duncan, a former Army officer, South Church elder and Principal Teacher of Science at Buckie High School. To him it was a satisfying and encouraging response, which based firmly on the principles of religion and discipline the Company under his leadership was quickly to flourish and become one of the most successful Companies in the north east of Scotland.

This weekend the 1<sup>st</sup> Buckie Boy's Brigade are to celebrate their 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a display of memorabilia drawn from the six decades since the inception of the organisation.

The total number of boys who were present at the first parade numbered 24 at the time of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary the Company totalled 180 and since that time it has continued to grow. The present Captain is Alan McIntosh who took over in 1980. **A fuller report on the history of the Company is given on page 3.**

**Teacher retires** - Mrs Moira Thain, nee Penwright, retired recently from the teaching profession after spending the last 26 years giving youngsters their best start to their educational careers as nursery teacher at St Peter's School.

After graduating in Primary Education in 1968 she taught first at Portessie Primary School before leaving to have her family. She returned to teaching later first as a supply teacher and headteacher relief before taking up the post from which she has now retired.

The retiral ceremony was an emotional event attended by all the children of the Nursery and Primary Departments, fellow staff members, and parents when she was presented with an array of lovely gifts. The children sang songs including an innovative one to the tune of 'Scotland the Brave'

Nov 6.

**Death of prominent local businessman-** Cameron Hendry, Brankumleys Farm, Rathven, was found lying dead on the track, formerly part of the coast railway between North High Street and the former railway station. He was 67.

Cammie, as he was commonly known, came from the Strathdon area around forty years before and bought his first property in the town, the grocer shop at Bridge Place. He would later own, a supermarket on Milton

Drive, on East Church Street and at 52 West Church also a butcher's shops on St Peter's Road. At one time he also owned the Rathburn Hotel. He owned a great many flats and houses throughout Buckie and Portgordon. Other businesses in which he was involved was Prestige Wedding Car Hire. Limos and other vehicles from the firm were a constant sight at weddings and other events and are believed to have been the largest selection of select wedding cars in Scotland.

He was also a well-known face on the equestrian scene in the north east and also much further afield and along with his stallion Sunbeam Something Special had scooped hackney prizes throughout Britain.

He was very well known in the area and seen to be a character with many stories being told of him.

He was married twice with two children and had four grandchildren.

**One Hundred Years Young** - Mrs Joan Cranna, a resident in Parklands Nursing Home, celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday last Friday with a party in her honour.

A native of Fyvie she was married to Willie Cranna who originally came from Macduff. As a couple they moved around the north east with Willie working as a blacksmith, before arriving in the Buckie area where they took up a permanent abode. Willie died ten years ago.

The couple had one of a family, a son, Norman, an engineer, who lives in Buckie.

**Boys' Brigade** - The end of last week was one of celebration for the 1<sup>st</sup> Buckie Company Boys' Brigade when they marked their 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary in no little style.

Six decades' worth of achievement and service were laid out for all to see at a special exhibition in Buckie South and West Church Hall where memorabilia from different periods in local BB history were on display. Amongst the large number of items on show were photographs, badges, and memorabilia charting the progress of what is now one of the premier Boys' Brigade Companies in the whole of the UK?

**'PORTKNOCKIE MEMORIES'** - The name of a book written by the late Willie Slater, Portknockie, was officially unveiled at a book launch in Cullen last Saturday when the first copies were unveiled. Willie spent all of his life in the village apart from his spell in the RAF and worked initially as a joiner before setting up in business as a carpet and furniture retailer.

The book contains a number of stories in which Willie describes what life was like in Portknockie 60 to 70 years ago when he was growing up.

The book which was launched by John Fowlie, Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Banffshire was produced by Cullen, Deskford and Portknockie Heritage Group. The book which contains a number of photographs of Portknockie and the immediate area costs £5.

Nov 13

**Remembrance Sunday** - Despite the cold and the odd heavy shower a goodly number of onlookers watched the annual Remembrance Sunday parade and service take place at the war memorial at Buckie and other places in the immediate area - Cullen, Portknockie, Findochty, Portgordon, Fochabers and Dallachy.

As the parade of ex servicemen and others marched down the High Street under the command of Peter Reid, the salute was taken by Vice Lord Lieutenant of Banffshire, John Fowlie. A former National Serviceman John did his two years with the Paratroop Regiment. He later laid a wreath on behalf of the Lord Lieutenant Mrs Russell, at Buckie and Cullen. Wreaths at Deskford and Portknockie were laid by Deputy Lord Lieutenant Patricia Seligman.

At Buckie other wreaths were laid by the Royal British Legion by President, John Stewart, and Councillor Joe Mackay, for Moray Council, Allan Fraser on behalf of Buckie Community Council, the Red Cross, the Territorial Army and the ACF.

The Last Post and Reveille were sounded on the bugle by Mrs??? while Piper Ian Flaws played the tune the 'Flowers of the Forest' The bugle calls were sounded again at the end of the church service in the Salvation Army Hall as were tunes on the bagpipes, Ian marching the colour party off with 'Cock of the North'.

Nov 20 **Information panel unveiled** - Lennox Community Council were delighted to officially unveil a beautiful information panel on the beach some three hundred yards east of the village and near the former ice house. From the information provided visitors and locals alike are given a better insight to the seals which frequent the rocks nearby. The new feature is sited at a point where walkers, cyclists and even motorists already have access.

**Jags Glory** - A photograph on the front page shows the players of Buckie Thistle as they celebrate the winning of their second piece of silverware of the season, the Aberdeenshire Shield, after beating Inverurie Locos by three goals to nil in the final at Huntly on Wednesday evening. Their other success was the Aberdeenshire Cup which was won in September with a victory by one goal to nil over Keith at the same venue. I honestly missed that bit.

**Cullen and Deskford Community Council** held their first full meeting last Thursday and look forward to assisting the local community with any issues that may arise in the future. The area did have a community council in the past but it fell into abeyance a number of years ago when insufficient people came forward to ensure its continuance. The Chairperson of the new council is Professor Ashley Mowat; Vice-Chair - Thomas Johnston; Treasurer - Joyce Henderson and Joint Secretaries - Zillian Jamieson and Monica Wells. Members are - William Maben, Malcolm Watt, Thomas McLennan and Alexander Christie.

Nov 27 **Jags Pet Store** - The new occupants of the building 41 West Church Street is a shop selling all kinds of things for pet lovers. A new sign went up above the door this week or last. The shop was previously located on the High Street across from the Old Coach House, Hotel (Commercial Hotel).

**Christmas Lights** - The festive season got under way last Friday when the town's Christmas Lights display was switched on. This year given the honour of pulling the switch were Matthew Austin Head Boy at Buckie Community High School and Head Girl Kerry Walker together with youngsters - Stephen Miller, Abbie Dunn and Clara Mowat.

**Wet and windy** - Local firefighters were singled out for praise as the Buckie area joined the rest of the north east of Scotland in being pounded by high winds and rain, often torrential, during last week November turned nasty as virtually non-stop rain assaulted the area on Wednesday night and through Thursday, bringing with it hazards and inconvenience for householders and motorists alike. Flooding took place in several parts of the burgh with Moray Court in Portessie suffering the brunt, here the problem was largely caused by a swollen burn backing up due to a blocked underground culvert.

**Pantomime Time** - Buckie Lyric Theatre Group are to present their latest pantomime production 'Babes in the Wood' written by Liz Imlach, in the Fishermen's Hall on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of 28<sup>th</sup> to 30 November.

**Scout Post** - Owing to circumstances beyond their control the 1<sup>st</sup> Buckie Scout Group had to announce that they would be unable to deliver the Scout Post this year. Many people found this a cheap and convenient way of sending their Christmas Cards to friends in the town while it was a very good way for the Scouts to raise much needed finance. They hope to be in a position to deliver the Scout Post for Christmas 2008.

**A Glut of Coffee Mornings** - With no less than five coffee mornings due to take place on Saturday 24 November Allan Fraser came up with a suggestion that might ensure that such a happening might not occur again. This is shown in a letter to the editor found in this edition of the 'Advertiser'.

Dec 4 **Closure of bakery** - The property known as the 'Pastry Shop' at 50 West Church Street, which had been a baker's business almost continuously for over a hundred years closed on November 30 with all the shop and bakehouse fittings being removed. For some years before the war and after the bakehouse was used as a garage by Eddie Hillocks. In the 1960's when the shop front was being used by Mrs Cowie to retail bread new laws of hygiene asked that the back shop, being used by her for storage, be tidied up and in 1965 I framed all the walls, put on plasterboard before skimming the whole.

The most recent owners, a young couple, who had carried on baking from the owners before them, intended to immigrate to Perth in Western Australia having sold the whole property including the house, shop and former stables etc.

**St Andrews Day** - A day which up to very recently had received little or no recognition, at least in Scotland, is more and more celebrated by some people, not least primary school children. This year the pupils of Portgordon, Cullen, St Peter's and Portessie got in the act with photographs of some of the pupils, involved in their various activities, being shown in the local paper.

**Second shop closes and property for sale** - The shop at 61 West Church Street which at one time in the recent past when owned by Mr and Mrs Kreesha Smith sold sports goods, then clothing and bedding finally 'Kids Shoes' closed a few weeks back with the property put up for sale this week.

Dec 11 **Plans thrown out** - The proposal to build a total of 122 houses in Ianstown on the former site of Jones Shipyard by Dawkins (Buckie) Ltd., were thrown out by Moray Council but only by the close margin of 7 votes to 6.

A total of 38 letters of objections were received including one from Buckie Community Council, as well as a petition bearing 46 names opposing the scheme.

The protests were built around the sheer number of houses, the proposal to build a new road behind Ianstown Terrace and above the beach known locally as 'The Roarings', presumably because of the way that the sea, in stormy times comes roaring in.

**No TESCO supermarket (at least at present)** - A planning application by the national supermarket chain, TESCO to build a supermarket on the outskirts of Buckie in what was a field belonging to the farm of Mains of Buckie has been withdrawn by the retail giant.

The Tesco application was lodged more than two years ago and has caused much discussion in the town, Tesco had planned to build a superstore that would measure 2168 square metres, including a petrol filling station and car park with parking for 241 cars of which 16 bays would be for the disabled.

According to a spokesperson for Tesco they have withdrawn their application to review the current options and wait to see the outcome of the Local Plan Inquiry before they make any decisions.

**"Scaffies"** - Joe Reid, who was born and brought up on Main Street, Buckpool but who now lives with his wife in Upper Dallachy, has just had new book published which he has given the title 'Scaffies'. An apt title since the book tells the history of this fishing

craft which was commonly used in the local area of the Moray Firth from Portgordon to Cullen for a large period of the 19<sup>th</sup> century . The book is for sale at £15 in both the 'Advertisers' and J. P. Pozzi.

**New Delicatessen and Coffee Shop** - A brand new eating place opened at 31 West Church Street on Saturday morning 8th December with the title 'Food for Thought'.

With its opening people have a greater choice than ever of a place to satisfy the pangs of hunger with there being no less than four? This is not to mention places like the Highlander, Old Coach House and the Marine Hotel who also serve food. In East Church Street there is 'Emma's' which occupies the premises that for a long time was occupied by Hunter and Pirie, Electrical Contractors , who also dealt in the sale of all kinds of electrical goods. Before this people may remember the owners being Barclays and before this McHardy 's, or vice versa , who dealt in bikes, then wirelasses and TV's Besides being a restaurant 'Emma's' also a retail baker's shop.

Sandison's Café Bar has their premises on the opposite side of the street at number 22 East Church Street. This was for a long time owned by Sandison's who were Drapers and in earlier times Hosiers. Before becoming a Café Bar it was at one time a place where Videos could be hired.

At number 11 West Church Street is to be found a cosy little café which has been so for at least the past ten years, although with different owners, after the whole premises from 5 to number 11 were extensively refurbished.

The last of the four is to be found at number 17 West Church Street and appropriately enough given the title Seventeen. This is a somewhat flashy place which incorporates a gaming room. The café Seventeen is owned by Jon Wileskwi

Dec 18 **New Supermarket opens** - Shoppers in the Buckie area received a massive boost last week when supermarket. Giant Lidl opened a brand new store in the town. Thursday at 8.00am saw the crowds gathering to take advantage of not only a huge selection of stock but also opening offers, and they were welcomed by local piper Robbie Innes , dressed in full regalia, who was on hand to play a variety of tunes.

Management at the store were keen to highlight that customers now had the opportunity to shop in a greatly improved environment and a much more spacious store (almost twice as big) than the previous one, sited less than a hundred yards away.

The new store has been constructed in what was previously the Burgh Yard on East Cathcart Street. Besides the store there is parking for a large number of vehicles.

Dec 25 **Prime Positions –both** - Christmas came early for two local men when they landed prestigious positions in their respective sports.

For Cullen men Willie Cook the Presidency of the Scottish Bowling Association for 2008 beckoned with former Portessie man Charles Huldall claiming one of golf's more prestigious posts, being elected as Captain of the New Gold Club in St Andrews, also for 2008.

**An earlier start** - Buckie Community Council changed the starting time of their meetings, held each month in the year apart from July, on the third Tuesday in the month, from 7.30 to 7.00pm.

A series of deputations from local people, individuals and groups, also the police, over the past months prompted the vice chairman Ian Moir to propose the switch as the council were finding they had insufficient time to deal with everyday business once the deputations had been heard and their points discussed before they had to vacate the premises at 9.30pm.

**Deserving of congratulations** - At the December meeting of the community council member James Newlands spoke of the Buckie Lyric Theatre Group who he said were deserving of congratulations for the work they do. They not only put on two professional shows per year whereby they provide a creative outlet for many youngsters in the area and altogether do a wonderful job.

**Keith Show** - A farmer's wife and mother, Alison Ironside, from Deskford was recently appointed secretary of Keith Country Show.

**Didn't they do well?** - Buckie Firefighters collected £1900 during their annual Christmas collection. They went round the streets and also visited the pubs where they received a great response. The money collected will be shared between the Fire Services Benevolent Fund and local charities.

**Kitted out** - Buckie Thistle Boys Club which also has girls in its ranks were recently presented with 140 jackets from Regency Car Sales, High Street, Buckie. They were handed over to Billie Cowie and Rebekah McKinlay by Bryan Slater Regency Car Sales Executive.

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