

2008

- Jan 1 **Braes in Buckie** - Allan Fraser, secretary of the community council, has made a plea to Moray Council to have name plates erected on the braes throughout Buckie which although known to most people have never had signs put up. Some, like the first brae coming from the west, now used by the service buses, although made in the first place as a link to Buckpool railway station is known by a number of names though Station Brae has been found in a number of cases where things about the brae has been in the news, such when they re-routed the service buses through the town. The other braes he would like to see properly named are Gibb's Brae, St Helena Brae, Dougal's Brae, Cuthbert's Brae, Jock Grant's Brae, the Hangman's Brae, the Stroup Brae, McLaren's Brae, Archibald's Brae, and Misten Brae and Station Brae (Portessie). Mr James Smith, chairman, proposed that the brae leading up from Peterhythe to Craigbo should be called Peterhythe Brae.
- Harbour news** - Last week three fishing boats called into Buckie harbour to land their catches. They were - Aspire, Reward and Eschol. Between them they put ashore 27 boxes of white fish.
- Jan 8 **Dougal's Brae** - Allan Fraser who admitted not knowing why this brae in Buckie leading up from Bridge Place to New Street should have been called Dougal's Brae received two phone calls by different people giving the reason. One of the phone calls was from John Cowie, who lives in Portknockie but whose own father and kin before him had lived on a house on the brae. Their 'Tee' name was Dougal, hence the reason for the brae to be so called.
- Probus Club** - A party of over 30 members added to by wives and friends were welcomed to their annual Christmas dinner held in the Marine Hotel on Thursday 13 December by president John Legge. The Grace, a change from the normal, was given by Hugh Patience. Entertainment was in the capable hands of Donald Barr, former music teacher, who gallantly stepped in to the breach at short notice after previous plans had unfortunately come unstuck. He presented all present with a quiz based on a series of slides taken of views and scenes taken over a wide part of Moray. The vote of thanks were given by vice president Bill Smith who thanked Donald Barr for providing a most entertaining interlude and also the staff of the hotel for providing a meal that could only be described as excellent. He thanked the ladies too for their presence, which, he said, added certain glamour to the occasion not present at normal meetings of the club.
- The Rotary Club presents** - Recently the Rotary Club of Buckie presented Alistair Campbell, Moray Council's Libraries and Museum manager with a number of copies of the club's Six Harbour Walk double DVD which will be available for viewing through the region's library network
- Jan 15 **Fochabers Abbeyfield to close** - Sadness has been expressed that Abbeyfield Fochabers, a charity which provides sheltered accommodation for the elderly is set to close early this year. The charity which operates a house consisting of six residents and house-keepers accommodation in Spey Road, in the village, was set up by George and Mabel Christie in 1969, and for the last 38 years has provided a caring and secure home for many elderly people. The reasons for the closure are two fold and were related to changes in the government's policies for providing care, which focussed on keeping people in their own homes for as long as possible, and the tendency for the elderly to need more intensive care than Abbeyfield can provide when they do leave their own homes. It was the same reasons that led to the closure of Abbeyfield, Buckie, which occupied 'Struan' on Cluny Square two years ago.
- Midweek Reflections - Rev Graham Austin, minister of Findochty I/w Portknockie I/wwRathven Church of Scotland took a unique way of expressing the Christian message he wished to impart, he wrote it in Morse.** I was able to decipher the message with something of a chauve, mainly because the symbols hadn't been correctly written down. The message read - For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son that whosoever believes in him shall not perish but have everlasting life. John 3:16 I have to admit I couldn't get the last part and had to look it up.
- Former Rovers' player graduates** - Robbie Cruickshank, a former pupil of Buckie Community High School recently graduated as a Bachelor of Health in Physiotherapy from the European School of Physiotherapy in Amsterdam. He is now working in Madrid. Robbie was a keen local footballer some years ago before he immigrated to the continent, playing first with the Buckie Boys Club, Deveronside Youths and latterly with Buckie Rovers.

Jan 22 **Reinstatement of Coat of Arms** - Buckie Community Council have pencilled in the date of Saturday June 14 as the day when the town will officially unveil its Coat of Arms to the public following its reversion to the Crown in the wake of local government reorganisation in 1975. **The correct term should be the presentation of the Letters Patent.**

Fishing news - the previous week twelve fishing boats called in to Buckie harbour to land their catches. In total this comprised 294 boxes of white fish, prawns and squid combined together with 293 bags of scallops.

The boats were - Gracious, Aspire, Reward, Blue Sky, Calisha, Eschol, Carisma, Artemas, Kelly, Osprey, Kestrel and Valkyrie.

Jan 29 **High School goes Solar** - Buckie Community High School are once more showing others how it is done as they get set to become one of the greenest schools in the country.

Plans to install solar panels at the school were unveiled last week that will not only reduce BCHS's reliance on fossil fuels but also drive home the issue of climatic change and carbon emissions.

The rooftop panels will carry a price tag of £20,000, with half of the sum coming from the Co-operative Group's £1 million national Green Energy for Schools scheme that will see free solar panels handed to a total of 100 schools, Match funding from the government is to provide the remaining cash, with the money being sourced through the Low Carbon Building Programme.

Feb 5 **Toilets to be re-opened** - The toilets to the rear of the local library on Cluny Lane which had been closed for some time were to be re-opened. This was agreed at a full meeting of Moray Council last week. The reason for closing them was as a cost cutting exercise but a change of heart, not least the adverse effect closure could have on tourism and the general public was enough to change opinion. The community council had been pushing for the re-opening of the toilets ever since they had been closed.

Houses for the Jones Shipyard Site? - Property developers Dawkins (Buckie) Ltd have announced that they intend to fight Moray Council's decision to reject plans for a large housing development on the site of the former Jones Shipyard in Ianstown. Though not entirely unexpected the news came as a great disappointment to the residents of Ianstown who were jubilant on December 5th last year when the Council's Environmental Services voted 7-6 to bin the controversial plans to build 122 houses and apartments on the site.

Nurse Manager retires - Margaret Roe, Hospital Nurse Manager at Seafield Hospital, Buckie, recently retired after serving for five years there. She plans to return to the Peak District, Derbyshire, to be nearer her family. She was presented with a number of gifts which included flowers etc from the Friends of Seafield and Ardach Health Centre.

Probus Club - Burns Lunch - A party of 53, which included members, wives and friends were welcomed by President John Legge as they sat down to the traditional meal of haggis, neeps and tatties, served in the Marine Hotel last Thursday. The Selkirk Grace was given by Hugh Patience. The haggis was carried in by hotel chef Darren Spence preceded by piper George Grant before being addressed by Jim Findlay.

Following the meal the Immortal Memory was given by Ayrshire-born and Burns enthusiast, Jim Pirrie. The piper then played a number of tunes associated with Burns while Allan Fraser went over the answers to a Burns' quiz which he had previously given to members some time before. Members had been asked to name words taken from Burns poems starting with the letters of the alphabet from a-z. Mrs Edna Legge received congratulations for getting them all correct. To end the entertainment John Legge recited a humorous poem based on a shopping trip made to Aberdeen in which he was accompanied by three women.

The votes of thanks were given by Secretary Bob Jamieson.

Feb 12 **Vandals attack local businesses** - A Buckie business could be forced to close its doors and make staff redundancies if repeated attacks by vandals do not cease. This was the stark warning issued by Dawn Hay and Sally Walker who own and run the Tanning Studio on East Church Street.

The last year has seen the salon, which provides a number of hair and beauty services, become the target of thugs who have smashed windows to the tune of thousands of pounds.

The other week another businessman with a shop at 27 West Church Street had his car and shop windows vandalised while the Chinese Restaurant at 52 West Church Street had to have two large windows replaced this week after they had been badly broken by stones. It is known that the police have charged a number of youths with the offences.

Feb 19 **all weather pitch** - Plans to bring an all-weather sports pitch to Buckie received a huge boost last week when a cash award of over £200,000 was confirmed for the project.

With the injection of £214.151 from Sportscotland's Building for Sport programme, a major hurdle has been cleared in bringing the long-awaited facility to Buckie, which will be the first of its kind in Moray. The facility is to be sited on the Buckie Community High School playing fields next to Buckie Thistle's Victoria Park.

The pitch with its excellent durable surface will be available for not only five-a-side and 11-a-side football but also other sports such as hockey, rugby training and cricket.

The facility will be floodlit with up-to standard changing facilities.

Feb 26 **Citizen of the Year** - Buckie's latest Citizen of the Year was unveiled last week as long-serving Community Councillor, local activist and keen historian of the area Allan Fraser. Mr Fraser topped the Buckie-wide poll of residents held during January in the 'Banffshire Advertiser', with the results being announced by the Buckie Community Council last Tuesday.

A constant nominee in Citizen of the Year contests since they were first introduced as part of the millennium celebrations, Mr Fraser, who is currently BCC secretary and treasurer, was hailed by local folk for his consistent efforts for the community over the best part of thirty years.

Mar 4 **Citizen of the Year** - In this edition of the 'Advertiser' Allan Fraser is seen receiving a Long Service Certificate, for his years spent with the community council, from Councillor Anne McKay of Moray Council. In a second photograph he is seen handing over a gavel and plinth to the chairman, James Smith to mark his tenure as secretary and treasurer with the council. The two items made of exotic types of wood were kindly made for him by Ken Millar, Mussleburgh, husband of Christine Bauld, his niece.

Mar 11

Mar 18 **Opening announcement** - The Buckie Bike Shed opened at the rear of 48 High Street. Repairs and spares to bicycles, scooters and in line skates.

New Canon - The Rev Graham Taylor, son of Mr and Mrs Ronnie Taylor, Alnath Place, Buckpool, who for a number of years was the manager of the Mace Supermarket on St Andrews Square and is currently the Rector of St Mary's, Carden Place, Aberdeen, was elected by the clergy in Synod to the vacant canonry last held by Canon Alex McGillivray who recently retired.

Fish Landings - Only the one boat, the Kestrel, landed her catch at Buckie harbour last week, taking in 302 bags of scallops.

Cargo traffic - One cargo boat paid a call. This was the British-registered MV Scot Carrier that came in from Kilroot in Ireland carrying 2261.280 tonnes of rock salt. She sailed again the following day, light, for Wick.

Trefoil Guild - Guiding in the Buckie area received a huge boost recently when a local branch of the Trefoil Guild was formed. The office-bearers elected at the meeting were: - Chairperson - Margo Howe; Secretary- Barbara Zealand; Treasurer- Anna Parker.

Mar 25 **Citizen of the Year** - In this edition of the 'Advertiser' Allan Fraser, who was awarded this accolade for year 2008, is seen receiving the shield that goes with the honour, which is held for a year, a silver inscribed quaich and a 12 year bottle of Chivas Regal whisky. These were handed over by the chairman, James Smith and vice chairman Ian Moir respectively. The whisky was a present from his fellow members.

Apr 1 **From Shetland to Keith** - Proposals to bring an undersea electricity cable ashore via Portgordon were put in the spotlight last week at a public consultation. Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission Ltd, a subsidiary of Scottish and Southern Energy unveiled their ambitious plans to link renewable energy developments in Shetland with the mainland via Portgordon and a converter substation at Blackhillock, Keith at a roadshow - style consultation in Buckie community High School last Wednesday.

Unemployment in Moray - Over the last month unemployment in Moray has risen from 1082 to 1088, an increase of 0.6%. Buckie West remained the same at 38 while Buckie Central increased from 59 to 63. Buckie East and Findochty increased by one from 42 to 43, Lennox saw a decrease from 33 to 31 and Rathford also saw a decrease from 31 to 28.

Fish landings - Last week the fishing boat Kelly was the only vessel to land any fish at Buckie harbour. She put ashore 80 bags of scallops.

Cargo traffic - Two cargo boats paid a call to the port of Buckie last week, both coming in on the same day. The Russian-registered MV Ladoga 102 arrived from Kings Lynn with 1673.240 tonnes of malt on board. She sailed light for the River Thames. The MV Elektron, registered in Norway, arrived light from Invergordon to pick up five large steel reels weighing in total 225.000 tonnes, fabricated in Buckie by Forsyth's of Rothes. These were destined for Newcastle.

Apr 8 **Death of former local GP-** The death took place in the Lythe Nursing Home, Cullen on Dr Alexander 'Sandy' E. Silberg MBE who served the people of Buckie as GP for a great many years. He was 81. He had a great love of music, organ, piano and singing and was Chairman of the local Choral Union for 25 years. In his time too, Sandy was an active member of the Probus Club, Chairman of what was then Action Research for the Crippled Child, an enthusiastic supporter of the Abbeyfield Home and an elder of the South and West Church

Apr 15 **Muirton Ward – Seafeld Hospital** - Councillor Gordon McDonald said : “There is a rumour in Buckie that the excellent facility at Muirton is under threat of closure and that patients and their families would have to travel to Elgin for future care.” A spokeswoman for NHS Grampian said: “There has been no decision to close Muirton Ward in Buckie, which is a dementia assessment and treatment ward for the whole of Moray. “ She added further, however, that ‘all options ‘were being considered and that a public consultation would follow in due course.

Apr 22 **Buckie's G. O. M.** - Bob Rennie, a native of Linwood, near Paisley, who has lived in Buckie for the last few years latterly in Burnside Court, Buckpool celebrated his **103rd** birthday with a small celebration surrounded by friends in the home of his daughter Mr James Murray, Barfield Road. Bob regularly attends meetings in Gospel Hall and calls at Linn Coort for a fish and chip lunch every Wednesday. He retains all of his faculties and still enjoys reading.

May 6 **Can I borrow you photos?** Allan Fraser had a letter in the 'Advertiser' this week saying that he intended to do a reprint of the booklet he had written in connection with the reunion of former pupils of Enzie Public School back in 1995 and would welcome the loan of any photographs people might have taken when they were pupils at the school. He was able to obtain some.

New Deputy Head - Mrs Moira Taylor, a former pupil of Buckie High School and who more recently has been a PT Guidance in the school has been appointed a Depute Rector. The Rector of the school is David Barnett who took over from Chris Sugden in October. There are three Depute Rectors, including Mrs Taylor, the others being Nigel Engstrand and David Strachan. Mrs Taylor is a graduate of Aberdeen University where she took a degree in English.

May 13 **Major Fire** - On Thursday afternoon 8th May around 2.05 pm a major fire outbreak took place in the storage yard of Karl Thomsen Fishing Gear on Commercial Road resulting in great columns of belching black smoke. The outbreak was fought by Grampian Fire and Rescue service appliances from Buckie and Fochabers with a unite from each station and alongside these a water carrier from Buckie. The fire was extinguished at around 3.30pm although firemen remained at the scene until 5.45pm to ensure that the fire and toxic smoke didn't flare up again.

Launch of book - Buckie and District Fishing Heritage Centre re-opened for the summer season on Monday May 5th and in the afternoon members and invited guests gathered to witness the launch of the newest book compiled by four members of the Heritage... – namely, Jim Farquhar, Ron Stewart, John Addison and John Crawford. The book entitled 'Jones Buckie – The Story of a Shipyard'. This follows on another very successful book written by the same four authors entitled Herd and Mackenzie – The Story of a Shipyard'.

The official launch of the new book was conducted by Vice Lord Lieutenant of Banffshire, Mr John Fowlie. Roderick Jones, a member of the Jones family who wrote the foreword to the book was present.

May 20 **Jelly Bean has gone** - The sweetie shop at 42 West Church Street owned by Jon Wileskwi which has been open for a number of years and proved to be a Mecca for school children at lunch times and in the evening closed its doors at the end of last week. The owner opened a coffee shop in 2007 at number 17 West Church Street. There were two rooms to the shop at 42 and when it first opened the room on the right was used as a chip shop but this closed down some years ago and used as an 'office' perhaps a work shop, by the owner who also runs a business caring for automatic games machines etc.

Still going strong - The car accessories shop called Motovation at 25 B West Church Street which was up for sale earlier in the year was still seen to be in operation with the For Sale sign removed.

Portgordon Victoria 1 Buckie United 2 (W/L) The United won the game but had to forfeit the points after an appeal was upheld for playing unregistered player.

May 27

Buckie Blethers - A group of local folk interested in the Doric and things of a local nature - poetry and stories - produced a multi media booklet entitled 'Weel May the Boatie Row' that was unveiled at a concert held in the hall of the Town House on Wednesday 21st May. Members of the group are seen in a photograph in this edition of the *Banffshire Advertiser* on page one along with a fuller report. Diane Flett, Moira Smith, Jean Redford, Isobel Geddes, Edward Mitchell and Moira Thain. The last five provided entertainment for the large audience.

'Buckie Venturers' - Three local women, Gillian Bailey, Dawn Dalton and Elaine Morrison were awarded with John Muir Trust Awards by Area Manager Alan Smith. The award is designed to encourage people to appreciate and conserve open and wild spaces in an area of their choice. The ladies who call themselves the 'Buckie Venturers' took as their study area - Strathlene. The issues they were concerned were fouling by dogs and unauthorised fires.

Muirton Wing - Seafield Hospital - At the May meeting of Buckie Community Council the rumour that the psycho-geriatric ward at Seafield Hospital was to close with all the patients being transferred to Stynie Hospital in Elgin was discussed and disproved. It was decided to send a letter to the powers that be registering the group's opposition to the plans and listing the reason for saying so.

Burghhead United 0 Portgordon Victoria 1 (W/L)

Vics - Markuzzeuski, Clark, Greig (Innes), Leslie, McIntosh, Wilson, Christie, (Gerrie), Collie, G. Thain (Burnett), Mair and McLaughlin. Subs- Morrison, D. Thain.

June 3

new uniforms at BCHS - Head Boy Shaun Khosla and Head Girl Claire Duncan are seen in a photograph in this edition modelling the new blazer which is to be standard wear next year.

We would like your help - Buckie Rovers via their President, David Robertson made an appeal through the medium of the '*Advertiser*' for helpers on 'home' match days when there are a number of jobs to be done both before and after the games. The Rovers have a good team but a very small committee this means a lot of work for a few.

Buckpool Post Office could close - Buckpool Post Office was in the list to be closed under rationalisation plans set out by Royal Mail. To gauge the interest the local MP called a meeting in the St Peter's School hall. The large crowd who attended the meeting showed the disapproval of the plans listing the many disadvantages a closure would have. The local paper carries a photograph of part of the crowd. People were advised to write to the address given stating why they felt the Buckpool Post Office should be kept open. The community council, at their June meeting decided that they would support the body in favour of keeping the Post Office open.

We don't want a mast here - the citizens of the Seatown area were up in arms because of the plans to site a 1.79 metre mast by mobile phone giant ORANGE and base station on land currently used a car park at the junction of Cluny Terrace and Gordon Street. **A photograph shows the crowd of protestors.**

June 10

Yachts in the harbour - About 30 yachts crammed into Buckie harbour at the end of last week when the first Varis Spey Bay Regatta was launched.

The event was sponsored by Varis Engineering of Forres - the result of a partnership between Findochty Water Sports Club and colleagues in Banff and Lossie. A number of races were held.

'The Sound of Music' - Buckie Lyric Theatre Group put on what might be described as their most ambitious show yet when they presented an adaptation of the film 'The Sound of Music.' It was given great acclaim when it played to full houses on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of last week

June 17

Reinstallation of Buckie Coat of Arms - Taken from the '*Banffshire Advertiser*' Despite atrocious weather conditions when the rain tried it best to wash out everything there was pomp, pride and plenty of ceremony in Buckie last Saturday when the town marked the reinstallation of its coat of arms. Buckie Community Council who have worked hard to make the dream a reality were joined by invited guests, local groups and organisations and a good swathe of the population in welcoming back Buckie's coat of arms after an absence of over 30 years. Friday evening saw towns people gather in the North Church where a dedication service led by Rev Gordon Mathew was held; Methodist Church minister Rev Sean Turner also took part. Open to those of all faiths or none the event featured Moray Male Voice Choir, Portessie Primary under teacher Alison Vass and accompanied on the organ by Mrs McKay.

Allan Fraser, secretary and treasurer of the community council gave the large congregation a fascinating talk on the formation of the burgh of Buckie and the history of the coat of arms, which was granted to the town on July 18 1951 under the auspices of the then Town Council signed by Wm W. Dickie and Thomas Laing, Rector and Depute Rector of Buckie High School and paid for by Provost Dr George Hendry.

The vote of thanks was given by the chairman of the community council James Smith who is himself member of the choir.

A full report on the Saturday afternoon's proceedings, including the reading of the Letters Patent by Charles Burnett, Portsoy, Ross Herald, is to be found on the front page of this edition and also on page 4.

Rathven WRI special party - The members of Rathven WRI celebrated the 90th anniversary of their founding date with a party held in their hall at Rathven. A cake specially baked for the occasion by June Milne was cut by one of the oldest members Anne Reid (Wilson).

Change of name for shop - The shop known as START (standing for Special Training and Retail Trade) at 33 West Church Street which provides training and work experience for adults with learning difficulties is to become known as 'Buckie Yarns' as from Wednesday when an Open Day will take place from 10.30 am till 3.00pm.

Class reunion planned - Those who began their secondary education at Buckie High School in 1980 are to hold a reunion on August 16 when most will have reached the age of forty.

Latest donations from the Friends - Members of the hospital staff and representatives of the Friends of Seafield Hospital and Community Patients met together recently to witness the handing over of a number of pieces of equipment which are intended to help make the quality of life for patients in the hospital that bit better. Among the latest items were four showers chair a stroke chair, a hair dryer and CD and cassette player. The stroke chair is a special piece of equipment that helps recovery patients sit and balance all together the cost of the items came to between £3500 and £4000. The chairman of the friends said that they had good reason to thank the people of the area for their generosity in providing the bulk of the money to allow the Friends to purchase them.

Harbour log - - Last week five fishing boats came in to Buckie harbour to put ashore their catches. This comprised - 48 boxes of white fish, prawns and squid together with 518 bags of scallops. The boats were - Reward, Georgia Dawn, Artemas, Pegasus and Kestrel.

One cargo boat paid a call. On board was a cargo of malt from Hamburg. She left again, light, bound for Rotterdam. The previous week two exports were a large steel reel, intended for the oil industry, fabricated in Buckie by Forsyth's of Rothes and weighing 45.000 tonnes.

The other commodity was a cargo of cobblestones weighing 1350,000 tonnes, which were destined for Rotterdam. Another cargo of malt came in from Kings Lynn.

June 24

Harbour Log - This past week again five fishing boats came in to land their catches at Buckie harbour. They were - Lynn Marie, Sardonyx II, Artemas, Reward and Blue sky. The total catch was - 318 boxes of white fish, prawns and squid with 108 bags of scallops.

A Dutch vessel, MV Simone, came in empty from Scalloway to take on board 1402.620 tonnes of animal feeding pellets destined for New Ross in Ireland.

Muirton Ward - Seafield Hospital - There had been rumours circulating in the town that the hospital ward which caters for patients suffering from dementia was to close with all patients being transferred to Stynie Hospital on the outskirts of Elgin.. The subject was discussed by the community council at their June meeting with a letter being sent to the authorities objecting to the closure if this be the plans. NHS Grampian bosses denied that they have immediate plans to close Muirton Ward but have nevertheless stated that there will be changes afoot regarding the delivery of care for the elderly in Moray. Both the Scottish Conservative Party and the SNP have added their backing to secure a long term future for the Muirton Wing.

Organ Recital - On Friday evening music lovers were treated to an organ recital provided in St Peter's Church by Simon Nieminski, the organist at St Mary's Metropolitan Church in Edinburgh. His work as an organist often takes Mr Nieminski around the UK and abroad, both in concert and over the airwaves, with visits to the USA a regular occurrence. As a recitalist, his programmes often include rather unusual but attractive repertoire and it has become his aim to play programmes which appeal to organ buffs and sceptics alike.

Church Minister to move - Rev Graham Austin who has served the congregations of Findochty, Portknockie and Rathven for the past 11 years was to preach his last sermon in the area on Sunday before moving to Wishaw St Marks, a single charge.

Death of a Legionnaire - A founder member of the branch of the Royal British Legion when it was re-born in Buckie in the 1960's, has died at the age of 76, John Stewart, Raffan Road, Buckie, held the position of President at the time of his death a position he has held for many years. He also held the position of secretary of the Banffshire Zone for a number of years.

As commander of Buckie's Remembrance Day Parade he ensured that everything ran like clockwork.

He did his two years National Service in the Army serving with the RASC in Singapore

As well as his passion for the British Legion John also had a love of bowling and was an ex-President of both Buckie and Cullen Bowling Clubs.

John is survived by his wife Mary, daughter Eva and Mary and four grandchildren.

July 1

Clever Quine - The Dux of Buckie Community High School this year is Lauren Strathearn who is seen in a photograph on page ten receiving her Miller Medal from Dee Austin as her husband Rev Graham Austin and School Rector David Barnett look on.

A prizewinner - Among this year's prize-winners was Laurie Fraser who gained a prize in History. Her Mum and Dad had been proud of her as were her Gran and Granda.

Welfare League - Portgordon Vics. had two victories during the past week. Away from home on both occasions they first of all beat Newmill by three goals to one and then knocked Tomintoul out of the Planwell Cup by the same score.

Vics. - Swanson, Clark, Greig, Innes, Collie, Wilson, (Johnston), McIntosh, D. Thain, G. Thain (Mclean), Stewart, McLaughlan. Subs, Morrison, Markuszewski. (Innes at 'right half' was veteran Gary Innes.)

Donation of books - Buckie High School is very grateful to local man Allan Fraser, who has kindly donated items to the school. These are all items which he has written and compiled. These include a folder containing 'The Years of the Great War 1914-1919' and 'The War Years and Beyond 1939-1946', both highlighting snippets from the 'Banffshire Advertiser'. Allan has also donated a booklet called 'Buckie and its Hinterland from A-Z' and booklet entitled 'the Wye We Speak - A Doric Dictionary with a Difference' these items will be kept in the school library for easy access by all pupils.

July 8

The place is growing bigger - Plans to construct 64 new houses in Buckie have been put forward for planning consideration. Moray Council has received proposals from Milne Property Developments for a former agricultural site to the west of High Street in what was formerly a field belonging to the former farm of Mains of Buckie.

Fishing news - Ten boats last week landed at Buckie harbour 956 boxes of white fish, prawns and squid. The boats were - Osprey, Margarets, Nova Spero, Blue Sky, Artemas, Rival, Pisces, Reward, Ocean bounty and Ocean Maid.

Cargo traffic - The MV Ala, registered in Panama came in light from Methil and exported 1114,640 tonnes of animal feeding pellets destined for Bruges in Belgium.

Diamonds are Well known Portgordon couple Jimmy and Annie Gunn nee Anderson celebrated their Diamond Wedding anniversary recently. Jimmy was a carpenter to trade but ran a driving school for 34 years retiring 19 years before. They enjoyed a special gathering of family, close friends and carers at the Mill of Tynet Hotel. The couple's niece Mary Bremner baked a beautiful cake for the occasion.

Changes at Buckie High - Roy Boylan PT Maths left Buckie community High School at the end of the term after 36 years. Anne Liddle Pt Modern Languages for a good number of years left to become Depute Rector at Forres Academy. Elaine Robertson left after 19 years. She will be missed by the staff and children especially in the Special Education Department.

July 15

First Lady President - A photograph in the 'Advertiser' shows Immediate Past President of Buckie and District Rotary Club as he congratulates his successor Jeanette Brown on assuming office. Ms Brown is the first female president of Buckie Rotary.

Buckie bids Bishop Welcome - A photograph in the 'Advertiser' shows the priest in charge at All Saints Scottish Episcopal Church in Buckie Rev Canon Jeremy Paisey as he welcomes Bishop Sitembele Mzamane and his wife Tobeka to Buckie.

Bishop Mzamane comes from the Diocese of Mthatha in South Africa. He was in Britain to attend the Lambeth Conference of Anglican Bishops and took the opportunity to visit the Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney with which it is a companion.

A sandwich lunch was provided in the church hall open to all where local produce, including Scottish cheeses, eggs, meat, strawberries and Cullen Skink.

Mthatha is on the southern tip of South Africa along the coast of the Indian Ocean where the people rely largely on subsistence farming.

Top post for Buckie man – Ken Wood, Yardie, Buckie, has been appointed as the first Chairman of an international organisation aiming to promote greater standards of safety and training in the realm of vessel anchor handling operations.

July 22

Horror crash - Cullen was in mourning last week when the lives of three young people from the village were claimed in a horror crash on a road outside Portsoy.

Monday July 14 at about 6.20pm saw a Renault van belonging to the Portsoy Plumbing and Heating firm, Hutcheson's, heading north and a blue Citroen Saxo heading in the opposite direction collide approximately two miles south of Portsoy on the B9022 road to Glenbarry at a sharp bend. It was to take the lives of the car driver, 22-year-old Mark Gardiner, his girlfriend, Rachel Putnam 20, and her sister, Elena Putnam, 18.

The 44 year old driver of the van and 46 year old front seat passenger were both taken to Dr Gray's Hospital in Elgin with non life threatening injuries.

Inspector Ewen Innes, from Grampian Police Roads Policing Department who attended the scene later referred to the seven days prior to the B9022 tragedy as one of the 'blackest weeks' on Grampian roads, he continued: "We are deeply saddened that our officers have had to deal with four fatal road traffic collisions in just one week."

New Web Site - Buckie Fishing Heritage Centre Ltd's contribution to cyberspace took a massive leap forward when they unveiled their all-new **website**.

Created by local web designer Neil Hedley, the last five weeks or so have seen intense efforts **come** to fruition in the shape of a brand new site, which boasts a whole host of interactive and highly informative features on www.buckieheritage.org.

John Crawford, Heritage Centre Committee member explained. "One of the main differences between the old and the new websites is that there is now a forum where people can interact with one another."

"A feature which we believe will be very popular is the section featuring snippets from previous editions of the 'Banffshire Advertiser' running from its origin in 1881 right through to 2007. They are in easy to read format and perfect for people who want to flick through various periods in the area's past." This was compiled by Heritage member Allan Fraser.

Portgordon folk have a joy day - The fifth Portgordon Community Harbour Group Ltd. Gala heralded an afternoon of fun last Saturday as the crowds gathered to enjoy a whole host of different events including a ferret race with music provided by the RAF brass band.

Kicking off at around midday, the blustery weather claimed an early casualty in the form of the raft race. Although an excellent entry had been recorded for the event, the winds persuaded the organisers to cancel the event.

A dance and musical entertainment took place in the village hall from 8.00pm till late.

As well as providing an eagerly-awaited annual dose of fun the gala has a very serious purpose as part of a vision to redevelop the village's run-down harbour and transform it into a vibrant marina. Formed in 2003 the (PCHG) a non profit making group have been battling to overcome the many hurdles in their path in order to make the dream become a reality.

July 29

Peter Fair - Once again the age-old fair has come and gone and now as is commonly said its all down hill now with the nights creeping in. It was rare to have a week in July when the sun shone for the whole week previous to Friday making things much more pleasant fair-goers and obviously for the fair organiser John Cowley who was bound to have been pleased with the crowds of young and not so young who made the trip up to Rathven to see what was going on.

Changes at the RNLI - Alex Fowler who has been chairman of the Buckie RNLI for the past 15 years retired last Monday with his successor being local GP and Buckie RNLI Deputy Lifeboat Medical Adviser Dr Alison Douglas.

Mr Fowler first volunteered for the role in 1993 and his term of office has seen him witness two major milestones for the RNLI in Buckie, the new lifeboat station built in 1995, and the arrival of the current Severn class all-weather class lifeboat, the 'William Blannin' that arrived in the town in 2003.

A former Police Inspector, Mr Fowler played a role in organising past Gala Days helping to raise significant amounts for the life-saving charity.

First steps taken for new pitch - Work has begun on the full-sized synthetic turf pitches at Buckie Community High School and Speyside High School.

The work is expected to be complete by October and the facilities will be available for use by the schools and the wider community.

The Buckie pitch is being created at a cost of £378,000 while the Speyside pitch reaches £359,000. The contract for both was awarded by Moray Council to Blakedown Sport and Play Ltd. who specialise in the installation of synthetic pitches.

The pitches will be able to withstand 20-30 times the amount of play of a natural grass surface and in addition to a third generation synthetic turf carpet, both will have perimeter fencing and floodlighting.

Aug 5

Closure of Buckpool Post Office - There was widespread disappointment when it was announced that in the round of closures by the Post Office, Buckpool was to be one of them with the shutters coming down in September. . Many people tried their hardest to put forward a case for keeping it open if not only because it was far more readily accessible to older and disabled people than the one up to a mile away for some on High Street. The writing, however, was perhaps on the wall as in recent times the powers that be the E.U playing a strong part have robbed the Royal Mail and the Post Office of so many things that made smaller Post Offices viable concerns.

The SNP tried to make political capital out of the situation but they were fully aware of what was taking all along the line and were supporters of the E.U.

Keith Show - An insert along with this week's edition of the local paper was full of adverts for the Keith Show that this year was celebrating its 136th anniversary. Nowadays it is known as Keith Country Show and this year takes place on Sunday 10th and Monday 11th when for many years it was simply known as 'The Great Keith Show' and fell each year without fail on the second Tuesday in August. Falling attendances and the reluctance of traders to travel north for the one day led to the change.

Gordon Baxter gets Freedom of Moray - A lifetime of achievement, including the fearless promotion of Moray and Scotland was rewarded last Tuesday when Moray Council bestowed the Freedom of Moray on Gordon Baxter, the President of the internationally renowned Fochabers-based Baxter's Food Group whose brand is known and respected the world over with a turn over of £120 million annually.

At a special ceremony at Innes House, near Lhanbryde around 120 guests were present to see the Freedom of Moray scroll presented by Moray Council Convener Councillor George McIntyre. Following the text of the scroll being read by Moray Council Chief Executive Alistair Keddie.

Accepting the award, Mr Baxter commented: "I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation for this award."

"I am most touched and honoured by this generous award. It is a great joy to be honoured by my ain folk."

Senior Football - In their opening Highland League game of season 2008/09 Buckie Thistle were held to a 1-1 draw against their opponents Forres Mechanics at Mossat Park, Forres.

Buckie was represented by: Main, Shewan, Duncan, Davidson, good, Small, Hamilton (Robison), Macrae (Neill), Brown, Bruce and Napier (Low). Subs – Edmond and Urquhart.

Aug 19

More houses in Buckpool - Moray Council gave the go-ahead for the construction of 150 houses and flats Springfield Properties PLC, who are based in Elgin, received the green light for the £22 million scheme that will see some 115 three and four bedroomed semi-detached and detached houses and 32 flats built on farmland previously used by the farm of Mill of Buckie and in earlier times formed part of the lotted lands of Buckpool The east of the Barhill Road. The development will include 30 affordable homes in line with the Council's Development Plan policies which demands that where a development exceeds a threshold of 20 houses affordable houses must constitute 20% of the total units.

House flooded by sewage - A burst sewer at the junction of March Road and Rathburn Street, Gordonsburgh went on to flood with sewage and do structural damage to a nearby house, the home of Ian and Gail Mearns. The couple together with their children were forced to vacate the property and seek accommodation elsewhere until the whole business was resolved.

Another supermarket perhaps - Tesco are to lodge new plans for a supermarket in Buckie after Moray Council agreed to allow some retail development on a Greenfield site to the west of High Street. Plans were put forward at an earlier date but were withdrawn.

Aug 26

on strike – Local council workers joined a Scotland-wide one-day strike last week in protest at a pay deal worth 2.5% a year for the next three years. A photograph in the *Advertiser* shows High School staff, janitors, technicians and cleaners at the entrance equipped with their placards.

Open Day at Green Home – Businessmen, community groups, social enterprise and voluntary organisations pulled together last Sunday to offer people, from far and wide, a great day out at Green Home's inaugural Family Fun Day.

The Green Home, a charity sited on the March Road industrial estate has been in existence for three years and serves to take in unwanted furniture, white goods and electrical appliances many of which they are able to recycle, reuse and provide at minimum cost to families on low incomes and allow them to furnish their homes on a budget.

Sept 2

Coat of Arms booklet – The pomp and ceremony not to mention the dedication and sheer hard work that went into returning Buckie's coat of arms to the town this summer has been captured in a new commendable booklet.

The 32 page A5 publication went on sale this week at a cost of £2.95. The booklet contains many photographs of those who took part on the parade also inside the Town House of the platform party and the children and folk group who entertained a large audience. It also contains the speeches made by the chairman, James Smith; vice chairman and compiler of the booklet Ian Moir and secretary and treasurer Allan Fraser.

New teachers at Buckie High The following joined the staff of Buckie High after at the summer break- Karin Flett in the Geography Department; Stephanie Cruickshank in P. E; Barry McGhee in Maths and Richard McWhirter in Music. The last named three are probationers. In addition Sharon Aitken joined the staff on a part-time long term temporary basis as a teacher of Support for Learning in the Special Education Department

Silver anniversary - Buckie Flower Show celebrated its 25th anniversary in some style when both exhibitors turned out in force to ensure the occasion was nothing short of special.

The trophies this year were handed over by founder member Mrs Margaret Geddes and current treasurer. The Taylor Trophy for most points gained overall was won by Mrs Gladys Smith, The Hunters, Drybridge. She also took the Bill Reaich Trophy for most points in pot plants, the Mace Supermarket, Buckpool Trophy for most points in the fruit section and the Hugh Munro trophy for most points in jams and jellies.

Former Pupil now Head- The new head teacher of Portknockie Primary School is Mrs Shona Idle who though a native of Portknockie came from New Zealand to take up the post where she and her husband have been staying since 1999. She said that as a former pupil it was a nice feeling to be back

Fishing news – Last week 19 boats came in to Buckie harbour to put ashore their catches. The total landings comprised 433 boxes of white fish, prawns and squid together with 452 bags of scallops. The boats were – Lynn Marie, Blue Sky, Calisha, Kestrel Osprey, Charisma, Restless Wave, Boy Bryan, Rois Mhairi, Staronia Discovery, Eschol, Stronsay Maid, Aspire, Vigilant, Jenna Maree Reward and Carisma

Sept 9

Local Councillor and referee - A local Councillor is set to join an elite band of talented referees on a fast track programme that could see him take the whistle at Scottish Premier League games.

Councillor Douglas Ross (Fochabers-Lhanbryde), who has been a referee for two years to date has been one of only 27 referees from across Scotland selected to attend the SFA's prestigious Scottish Football Academy which aims to nurture the best and most talented men in the middle.

Ardach Exhibition – Ardach Health Centre in Buckie once more gave itself over to things artistic for an evening recently when it hosted a highly successful fundraiser.

Saturday August 30 saw the third Art for Ardach exhibition take place, with all funds raised going to the charity 'Friends of Ardach' who have, over the past two years or so taken on the running of a GP referred, gym-based exercise scheme, monitored by a nurse-trained Health Trainer.

One of those delighted with the event was Chairman of the 'Friends of Ardach' GP Dr Lewis Walker.

New Health Project - Get up, out and active was the major thrust of an exciting new initiative recently launched by NHS Grampian.

Buckie Library marked the starting point last Thursday at 1.30pm for the local arm of Walk –Moray Health Walk, led by trained volunteers, which have been created specifically to encourage people to become more active and combat the negative aspects of today's increasing sedentary lifestyles.

Sept 16

Book launch – Buckie and District Fishing Heritage Centre last week launched their latest book, which tells the story of Thorn Lighting Works from 1956 to 1987. The book entitled 'The Bulb Factory – the Light in Our Lives' was produced by John Crawford and Ron Stewart, two committee members of the Heritage Centre.

The 'Bulb Factory' was a major employer in the town giving work to 300 people over the 30 years it was in operation. The book which cost £15 contains photographs and stories provided by former employees and also a poem by Barbara Bowie.

Sudden death of High School teacher. Robert Fowler, a teacher of Technical subjects at Buckie Community High School was aged 56. He and his twin brother Alan were the last in a large family of nine eight sons and one daughter of David 'Lin' Fowler and his wife Ann who ran a large bakery business in the town for a long time. Music and fiddles in particular, played a large part in Robert's life at the time of his death he was a member of Macduff Strathspey and Reel Society and previously played with Elgin Strathspey and Reel Society. He not only played the fiddle he made them and had just recently completed his second one which has been described as a work of art. He is survived by his wife Caroline and sons Robbie and Stuart.

Harbour Group hold meeting - Portgordon Community Harbour Group recently held a public meeting in the Village Hall to update villagers on recent developments and discuss the way forward for their proposed harbour project.

The receipt of a 'letter of intent' allows the group to move towards charitable status and pursue the major funding bodies for grant assistance. They intend to step up local fund-raising activities which has traditionally centred on the annual Raft Race and Gala Day.

Sept 23 **Buckie10K** – The winner of the 9th annual Buckie 10K was Frankie Barton from Keith who was handed the winners trophy by Mrs Myra Sim whose late husband Alistair 'Pinto' Sim was a regular entrant in the race. Mrs Sim also presented the Pinto Sim JP Pozzi Memorial Trophy Raymond Hardie, as first veteran. He was also second runner home. John Goodall, a Buckie man was third. The winner's time was 33.32 minutes. John Goodall came in with a time of 35.22 minutes. Best young local runner was sixteen year old Steven Cox who rid the race in 35.53 minutes. The first lady to cross the line was Elaine Whyte from Fraserburgh with a time of 39.15 minutes. There was an entry of 124, just slightly down on the previous year. The 2K Fun Run also attracted a large crowd of young and not so young entrants.

Fishing Heritage - Buckie and District Fishing Heritage Centre held a coffee morning in the North Church Hall on Saturday which proved to be very successful with £831 net being raised.

The Centre, which is manned by volunteers five and a half days a week, closes on Friday after enjoying a very busy season since the opening of the refurbished building in May and received three Stars from 'Visit Scotland.'

Sept 30 **Top Award** – Buckie Community High School's commitment to giving their pupils the most enterprising of starts in life bore fruit last week when they were presented with a prestigious award. Friday September 26 saw the school honoured as the Most Enterprising Secondary School in Moray by Moray Chamber of Commerce in recognition of the work carried out to promote Enterprise in Education. Rector David Barnett, accompanied by Loran Sinclair, who led the school's efforts on the enterprise front, attended the Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner in Elgin where they accepted, on behalf of the school, the £1000 award, sponsored by the Baxter Foundation. Pupils from all years in the school contributed to the effort that saw BCHS's enterprise acumen judged to be the tops for the region.

Oct 7 **Star Quality** – Buckie District Fishing Heritage Centre Ltd. Finished the tourist season with not one but three votes of confidence from the Scottish Tourist Board after being awarded their three star visitor attraction. The volunteer -run organisation, which is based to the rear of the Town House on Cluny Place in Buckie, rounded off their first full season since extensive renovation and expansion work was carried out on the Heritage Centre with this further boost to their burgeoning profile. With visitor number already soaring to record heights during the recently finished season, the Heritage Centre are looking forward to their latest acquisition helping to make these rise even higher next year.

Haiku poetry session – Japanese poetry Buckie style was the order of the day last Wednesday evening at Buckie Library when a haiku session came to town.

The event, which is the first of its kind to be held in the area, was the result of collaboration between Moray Council, Buckie Library, Arts Development and Buckie Community and Learning Team to make the sessions a reality. Each workshop came under the expert leadership of Colin Will, Moray Libraries' Poet Partner.

Traditional haiku is a form of short verse comprising only 17 syllables which follows a three line format of five, seven and five syllables respectively. Among those present were A. L. Nath and Will Hay of the *Banffshire Advertiser*.

Oct 14 **Opening of Skateboard Park** – It has taken years of effort and determination, but for a group of local enthusiasts the dream became reality last Saturday afternoon when Buckie skateboard park was officially opened

Twelve years have spanned the time when Buckie Skatepark Group first articulated their vision of bringing some of the best skateboarding and BMX facilities in the north of Scotland to town, which has included some very determined fundraising efforts, but all the work was justified when the £150,000 facility was declared open by Moray MP Angus Robertson. It was a big day for many but especially for Christopher Bremner, Skatepark chairman.

A large crowd of all ages gathered to witness the event at Tarbuckie in a former unused tennis court part of the Ian Johnston Park adjacent to Victoria Park.

BB Conference Comes to Buckie - Last weekend saw Buckie become the Boys' Brigade capital of the north for three days when the North of Scotland Area Annual Conference was held in the town.

Over 100 BB officers from an area stretching from Aberdeen to Shetland gathered in the town for a series of workshops and other events looking at various aspects of the movement and improving skills all round,

Oct 21

Thistle sack management team – The search for a new Buckie Thistle manager got underway last Friday afternoon when the club parted company with their management team of Kevin and Doug Will.

Appointed to the hot seat jobs in May of this year, the parting of the ways represents the end of the brother's second spell managing the Jags, having previously exited Victoria Park in October 2004.

They took over the role after former Dons and Scotland star Duncan Shearer left the management post at Buckie following what many felt was a disappointing tenure in many respects.

Death of former High School teacher - September 28th marked the sad passing of a popular former Buckie High School teacher Margaret Green (known to family and friends as Margie) at Northwick Park Hospital, Harrow Middlesex, aged 90.

A native of Giffnock, Glasgow, she was an honours graduate of Glasgow University where she was awarded a BSc degree with First Class Honours in Botany and Chemistry.

She arrived in Buckie in 1940 to take up her first teaching post at the town's High School. It was here that she met and married modern languages teacher James Green, Portgordon, who like her was to spend most of her career at the school

She took a break from teaching to have her family, Ian born in 1944 and Anne in 1947. On returning to teaching she spent some time at St Peter's R.C. School, in Buckie before returning to Buckie High. Where she was able to pass on her love of science to generations of students who never forgot her knowledge and enthusiasm.

By the time she retired she had taken on the post of Assistant Head Teacher (Guidance)

(She was a lovely lady who I knew as a teacher and also had the pleasure of knowing her as a colleague and was so pleased to receive a card from her on my retirement A.F.)

Oct 28

New management team at Victoria Park - A new chapter was opened at Buckie Thistle F. C. last Tuesday when Gregg Carrol was officially unveiled as the club's new manager.

The experienced and highly-respected former Deveronvale boss takes over from the Will brothers, Kevin and Doug, who departed Victoria Park after their 157-day tenure brought a string of disappointing results for the club.

Mr Carrol, 37, will be taking Gary Hake who served with him at Banff and former Aberdeen, Peterhead and Rothes midfielder Colin Smith to Buckie as coaching staff.

Sad passing of Dufftown Highland Games former chairman - The recently retired Chairman and founder-member of Dufftown Highland Games, James (Jim) Murray passed away on October 14 in the local hospital at Dufftown after a long battle against cancer.

Jim Murray was a Buckie, brought up a fisher family at Elora, East Church Street, but chose to serve his time as an engineer before becoming a teacher. He served as such for over forty years for a long time at Speyside High School where he was PT of Technical Subjects. He retired in 1997.

Jim is survived by his wife Betty, son James and daughters Beth and Ellen. Also his brother Alex.

He was a man of many interests, keen on historical research and writing and during his last year of his life published a historical study of his adopted home, Dufftown, which was keenly sought after.

Nov 4

Changes at the 'Advertiser' – The 'Banffshire Advertiser' has changed format and size. While remaining a tabloid, the paper now sports an eight-column size throughout.

The change has been necessitated by alterations in the paper size used by the printers.

A bike for the Bobby- Buckie Area Forum (BAF) unveiled their latest contribution to the battle against anti-social behaviour last Monday evening when Buckie Community Beat Officer PC Kevin McPherson officially took possession of a specialist bike and other equipment.

They celebrated half a century in existence – The Rotary Club of Buckie saluted its 50th anniversary recently when a commemorative dinner was held in the Marine Hotel.

Before the event, Ms Jeanette Brown, the current President stressed that it was a great honour for her not only to be President of Buckie Rotary during their 50th year anniversary, but to be the first female occupant of the post. She also took the opportunity to thank members past and present who had contributed to the Rotary ideal of service over self at local, national and international level.

Royal Honour for Buckie Boys' Brigade Sunday saw 1st Company Buckie Boys' Brigade extended an honour from Her Majesty the Queen when they were presented with Loyal Greetings from the monarch. The greetings were read out at a service in Buckie South and West Church by the Lord Lieutenant of Banffshire Clare Russell, Ballindalloch Castle, and saw the Buckie boys and officers enter an elite band of Companies to have been honoured in this way by the Queen.

Nov 11 **Remembrance Sunday** – Local communities joined with thousands of others up and down the land last Sunday in order to remember and honour those who have given of their lives in the service of the British armed forces .

Remembrance Sunday, which fell this year on November 9th, once more provided the enduring opportunity to ponder upon the sacrifice generations of service personnel have made and are still making in the name of liberty and freedom.

This year has been one of big military anniversaries in the UK: the T.A. reached its one hundredth birthdays; the RAF celebrated nine decades in the air; and perhaps the most poignant of them all is the 90th anniversary of the ending of World War 1.

Harbour Log - Last week eleven boats came in to Buckie harbour to land their catches. They were – Carisma, Flowing Stream, Illustrious, Carona, Charisma, Pegasus, Blue Sky, Aspire, and Southwards. Vigilant and Reward.

Three cargo boats paid a call. The MV Elektron II, Norwegian registered, arrived light from Alesund in Norway and left for Hamburg carrying four large reels made in Buckie by Forsyth's of Rothes, weighing in total 217.000 tonnes.

The Bahamas-registered vessel, MV Celtica Hav came in light from Perth. She left again for Tofte in Norway with 1685.000 tonnes of pulpwood logs on board.

The last of the week was the MV Fehn Cartagena, registered in Gibraltar that came in from Kings Lynn, Norfolk, carrying 1497.560 tonnes of malt. She left once empty for the North Sea to await orders.

Nov 18 **Rotary Club of Buckie** – This year's Six Harbour Walk, the tenth such event, raised the sum of £15,000, which was distributed to the following organisations at a recent ceremony. The local RNLI Lifeboat Station was primary beneficiary receiving the sum of £6000. Cheques for £3000 were presented to representatives of both the local British Heart Foundation and the cystic fibrosis charity, the Butterfly Trust. Seafield and Cullen Medical Centres each received £1500 which will go in each case to purchase new defibrillators to replace those originally bought with Rotary aid back in 1999.

Photograph of Jim Campbell - This edition carries a first class photograph of Jim Campbell of Merson Street. The original photograph was taken the week before and appeared in the previous week's 'Advertiser' when he and fellow World War II veteran, Ronald Shand, took part in the march of Legionnaires on Armistice Sunday. Jim was a young Terrier with the Gordon Highlanders and was called up in September 1939 and saw active service first in France later North Africa, Sicily and Italy before being captured at Anzio. Jim will be remembered by many as a first class footballer with Buckpool Celtic and the Rovers in the 1940's and 50's.

Nov 25 **'The Well' is opened** - Members of the Milton Drive Community Project were delighted to see their hard work come to fruition last weekend with the official opening of 'The Well', a new community resource centre which is to benefit the residents of Milton Drive and the surrounding area.

Welcoming everyone to 'The Well' on Saturday November 22 was acting chair George Stewart. He thanked everyone for attending and said how he hoped people would make good use of the facility to ensure its success. The facility was declared officially open when Councillor Gordon McDonald cut the ribbon. In attendance were fellow Moray Councillors Joe Mackay and Anne McKay also chairs of Buckie Area Forum, Moray Forum and Buckie Community Council. Also present was Mrs Gillian Bailey Community Learning and Development Worker and Milton Drive Community Project committee member who had worked hard to see the project come to fruition.

Panto time - Buckie Lyric Group are to present their latest pantomime 'Jack and the Beanstalk', written for the company by Liz Imlach in the Fishermen's Hall on three nights, Wednesday 2, Thursday 4 and Friday 5th.December. Liz and co-producer Keith Mackay are delighted with the interest that has been shown in their latest production with tickets going really well.

Dec 2 Still to be copied

Dec 9

Economic downturn felt in Buckie the economic downturn has forced a Buckie fish processor to scale back operations until the New Year due to a drop in orders.

Moray Seafoods underwent a phased lay-off of around 100 staff last week, of whom around three quarters were local and the rest agency staff.

Despite the huge blow coming before Christmas, management at the family-run firm moved quickly to dispel long term concerns as to the future of the Low Street plant.

Buckie Tax Office to close - Moray SNP MP Angus Robertson and MSP Richard Lockhead have reacted with anger to the news that HM Revenue and Customs are to close both its Buckie and Elgin offices despite strong representations against the plans.

The news further deepened the gloom that descended over the Buckie area following the announcement that Moray Seafoods were laying off around 100 employees until after the New Year.

Winter came early and with a vengeance – winter announced itself in no uncertain fashion last week, both locally and across much of Scotland as cold, inclement weather became the order of the day. A freezing cold weekend saw the temperatures plummet further and local residents woke to find the area blanketed in snow on Tuesday morning. While Moray was affected it was not to the same extent as some other areas of the country where schools were forced to shut and power shortages reported.

Buckie High School - Extensions are planned for Buckie Community High School. The huts between the school proper and the leisure centre which have stood there for close on twenty years, perhaps even more are to be removed and in their place, extending out into the playing field, will be built a new structure. One of the main features of the extension will be an area of dedicated performance space, featuring retractable seating. This will allow the area to be used both for the likes of concerts and other performances and various teaching purposes. In addition to three music classrooms there will also be several high quality music practice rooms, and will bring the Music Department together in the one place as opposed to being in different parts of the school as at present. Two RME classrooms are included in the plans as well as foyer space which can be used, especially during public performances such as school shows, for serving refreshments and so on.

Dec 16

Buckie Rugby Club - The local rugby club, formed two and a half years ago has received an early Christmas present – a set of proper rugby goal-posts.

Up until now the club has made do without the H-shaped posts associated with rugby pitches up and down the country. Instead it concentrated on teaching its young members the rudiments of the game and honing their skills. Now the club not only has its own pitch at Buckie's Linzee Gordon Park, it also has a set of regulation-size goalposts at either end. The £1000 cost was met by grants from the SRU; the sport's governing body in Scotland, and Moray Council's Sports Development section.

The club was founded in April 2006 by Moray Council's Buckie-based Active Schools Co-ordinator Hein Mijzen, who organised after school rugby sessions for pupils from two local primary schools, Cluny and Millbank, with the help of parents. Thereafter school groups merged to form a Saturday morning club which met at Buckie High School playing fields and it has gone on from there.

Dec 23

Buckie to grow in size – A massive double shot in the arm to the local affordable housing sector and the construction industry was handed out last Tuesday when Moray Council approved an application for just under 200 houses and flats to be built in Buckpool.

Council members at last week's public hearing, a special meeting of the Planning and Regulatory Services gave the thumbs up to plans to build 146 houses and 29 flats on a 7.16 hectare area of land to the west of the Barhill Road and to the south of Seafield Hospital, subject to a number of conditions. Included amongst the affordable housing is provision for a special unit catering for special needs occupants.

Outline planning permission was also granted for associated neighbourhood community facilities to the north of the housing development

The development is set to be undertaken by Grampian Housing Association and Elgin-based Springfield Properties, working in partnership with Moray Council and the Scottish Government.

Rochomie Reservoir will disappear - A century old reservoir containing 15 million gallons of water that used to provide drinking water for Buckie is set to vanish. Rochomie Reservoir, two miles south of the town was formed in 1908 by building a large dam wall across the steep-sided valley of the Bogfud burn. It stopped being used for the area's drinking water eight years ago when supplies were switched to boreholes at Dipple near the River Spey, south west of Fochabers.

Scottish Water has described Rochomie as a piece of engineering history so we're alerting people now to give anyone interested time to say goodbye. In the New Year Scottish Water will start to lower the water and eventually take away the dam and restore the area to a natural state.

Some years ago Buckie and District Angling Club were stopped fishing in the reservoir by the farmer of Hilton who owns the road leading to the dam.

Christmas Concert - Buckie Choral Union's Christmas concert has become a much-loved stalwart of the local festive scene and this year proved no exception.

The Fishermen's Hall once more played host to the event, entitled 'A Christmas Fanfare', which, in something of a first, welcomed Keith and District Silver Band under their conductor Glenn Munro, as special guests.

Taking the conductor's baton with no little skill once again for the Choral Union was Anne Corbet, with Gay Cadenhead doing her usual excellent job in the role of accompanist.

Dec 30

Harbour news although the harbour was fuller of boats than it has been for some time, with local boats and crews that fish out from elsewhere tied up at home over the festive season, only the one boat landed its catch at Buckie. This was the Georgia Dawn that put ashore 140 bags of scallops. There were no cargo boats.

Buckie Thistle - Christmas came early for Buckie Thistle this year when the club celebrated signing no less than 12 of their current squad on new contracts.

The 12 days of Christmas were replaced by the 12 players for Christmas as many of the Jags' big names' put pen to paper for extended deals.

Committing their future to the club for two or three years are: Kevin Main, Jamie Shewan, Andy Low, Andy Matheson, Stephen Bruce, Paul Lamberton, Neil Davidson, Mike MacDonald, David MacRae, Kevin small, Mark Hamilton and David Angus.