

## 2010

- Jan 5 **Snow, snow, more, more snow** - Moray joined the rest of Scotland in seeing out the old year firmly in winter's icy grip as the snow returned with a vengeance.  
The ice and snow that covered the area in the run-up to Christmas proved to be little more than an introduction to what was to come last Monday afternoon and evening as the mercury plunged and the skies darkened.  
An initial fall of snow was consolidated over night and those who had to make their way to work on Tuesday morning faced treacherous conditions, with many drivers struggling to even make it out of their streets. The front page of the 'Advertiser' showed the High Street on Tuesday with the most snow lying than has been the case for the past thirty years.  
It is recognised that other places away from the coast, Elgin, Keith and Forres for example have fared far worse, with the depth of snow being considerable.
- Buckie New Year Fun Run** – Despite the snow and more significantly the ice-bound roads upwards of 20 intrepid runners took part in the annual New Year's Day Fun Run. Organiser of the event, Paul Wojcik said: "It was good so many people made the effort to come and take part with quite tricky underfoot conditions. We raised £125 from the run with the additional amount of £100 from the fireworks display at Findochty on Hogmanay giving a total of £225 for Marie Curie Nurses, which will stay in the area."  
First male over the line was John Goodall with Steven Cox second. The first female was Wendy Christie followed by Pam Walker
- Jan 12 **They never had it so good** – Very rarely have the children of Buckie enjoyed more than one day's fun playing with sledges on the snow but with the snow cover remaining and held fast by low temperatures conditions have been very much to their liking. One again the 'Advertiser' had pictures of both Buckie and Fochabers which clearly showed the amount of snow that had fallen locally.
- Accidents** - The treacherous road conditions saw a number of drivers suffer damage to their vehicles as they slid off the road etc. One driver Kevin Fraser, however, was most unlucky his car suffered considerable damage, and in broad daylight when someone unable to turn a corner slid into his parked vehicle but did not have the grace to report what they had done. Kevin had a letter published in this edition of the 'Advertiser' thanking the culprit for the belated Christmas present. A rough estimate the damage was to cost him around £350.
- Jan 19 **Thaw breaks ice grip** – Last week saw streets and pavements go from deep freeze to deep slush as winter relaxed its iron grip to a degree. This was seen much more locally than inland where the ice had got a real grip on pavements and elsewhere with a distinct reluctance to let go continuing the danger to pedestrians that prevailed now for more than a month with the danger of falling and braking limbs still very real.  
In the Buckie area, thankfully, the much hoped for thaw made a very welcome appearance with main roads once again visible after spending days covered by a blanket of snow and ice. Those roads off the main routes, however, remained a lottery through the first part of the week in particular as the big melt got into full swing.  
At Victoria Park on Saturday a team of volunteers turned out with garden gnomes to bore holes to allow surface water that had gathered on the surface, with the snow melt, to sink out of sight and allow the game with Cove Rangers to take place. Their efforts were rewarded with the jags winning the tie to take them to the top of the Highland League for the first time for a long time.
- Jan 26 **Probus Club** - Buckie Probus Club celebrated the birthday of Scotland's national bard with a special lunch held in the Marine Hotel on Thursday past.  
President Jim Pirrie welcomed a party of 62, members, wives and friends before the haggis was piped in by Stewart MacMillan and the grace given by Hugh Patience. The address 'To the Haggis' was given by Alex Bruce but the usual speech 'The Immortal Memory' on this occasion was dispensed with while the following members George McKenzie, John Legge and Jim Pirrie recited the following poems respectively – 'Tae the Unco Guid', 'Sic A wife as Willie had 'Tae a Mouse' 'My Love is Like a Red Red Rose'. In between times Bill Smith was on his feet to give the 'Toast Tae the Lassies'  
Eddie Gray gave the vote of thanks
- Community Council** - Buckie Community Council witnessed some changes to their office bearer line-up at their January meeting held last Tuesday in Buckie Community High School, when the normal room in the Town House was unavailable.  
Stepping down after more than two decades of service as Secretary was Allan Fraser, who will nevertheless remain on the community council as an ordinary, active member.

Minute Secretary Lauraine Wishart, who only joined the council in October when she took on the task, also intimated that she was resigning from then post. Replacing Ms Wishart is Councillor Mrs Karen BCC Chairman James Smith paid tribute to the work that had been done by Mr Fraser, who was presented with a unanimous appeal to remain in the post. "It is sad to see Allan leaving the post of Secretary after so many years", he said. "He has served on Buckie Community Council since 1984 and has done a lot of hard work for the town..." "Allan is also very knowledgeable about the town and its history."

While overwhelmed by the appeals to stay on Mr Fraser said he had decided that it was time to hang up his notebook and pen in favour of new blood.

He continued "It was always my intention after the Community Council elections last year to stand down as Secretary. I agreed to stay on initially to help get the new community council up and running but I had no long term plans for staying on.

"I really appreciate the fact that members want me to stay on but it is time for me to return to the back benches, as it were." With no one prepared to take on the job of secretary Mr Fraser agreed to continue on a month by month basis rather than see the council collapse for the want of someone to write letters and such.

Feb 2 **RNLI**-Volunteers crewing Buckie's RNLI lifeboat have been the busiest in the north east over the course of 2009, recent figure have revealed.

Statistics published have shown that Buckie's all weather lifeboat, the 'William Blannin', was launched on 30 official call-outs or shouts, last year, rescuing some 21 people in the process. This topped Aberdeen (22 launches, 11 people rescued), Peterhead (12, 9), Fraserburgh (22, 26) and Macduff (16, 8)

"The increase in leisure sailing, for example at the Lossiemouth marina, has obviously had an impact on the number of shouts, explained Alan Robertson, lifeboat coxswain. These are changing days in many respects and we are seeing a lot more leisure craft as opposed to commercial craft involved in the shouts."

**Buckie Rotary Club** - Six harbours Walk DVD has proved a big success since its launch a few years ago and recently a decision was taken to hand some of the money back to the area. A total sum of £1800 from the proceeds was to be equally shared amongst the six communities - Portsoy, ~Sandend, Cullen- Portknockie, Findochty and Buckie which appear in the film,

The money to given to organisations in each of the six place – Portsoy 75 Club; Sandend Amenities Council; Cullen Christmas Lights, Portknockie Community Association; Findochty Community Council; Buckie Christmas Lights.

Feb 9 **Fochabers by Pass** - With a swing of a mechanical shovel Transport Minister Stewart Stevenson MSP created history last week when he ceremoniously cut the first sod in the Fochabers- Mosstodloch bypass project.

Fifty years of campaigning and waiting were banished last Tuesday morning when Mr Stevenson did the honours with the rallying call of "Let's go dig"! before an audience of invited guests in a field just off the Mosstodloch-Rothes road. Despite the wintry weather spirits were high as the £31, 5 million schemes, which has suffered innumerable delays over the years, was officially declared to be underway

**Portgordon Post Office** Last week saw confirmation of news that the community of Portgordon had been waiting to hear, namely that the local Post Office was set to make a welcome return.

Post Office Ltd. confirmed on February 2 that the village's Post Office will be re-opened with a Partner service situated at new premises within Portgordon Stores on 6 Station Road. The previous Post Office service had ceased when the village shop on Gordon Square, which previously hosted it, closed its doors for the last time in September 2009.

Feb 16 **New Superstore opens** - The latest addition to Buckie's supermarket shopping scene opened its doors to the public at 10.00am today (Tuesday)

Haldane's Stores Ltd. have taken over what was the former Somerfield's supermarket on East Cathcart Street, and after a few days of refurbishment reopened this morning to greet customers old and new. The building has housed more than one different firm since it was first built with Somerfield taking over from 'Prestos'.

The Buckie store will be the seventh of an initial 15 supermarkets in Scotland for the new supermarket chain. Launched in November last year, Haldane's are seeking to build a UK- wide network of 50 stores over the next few years as part of an ambitious expansion plan.

While the original Somerfield's outlet was one of those bought by the Co-operative Group following their acquisition of the firm, the Office of Fair Trading subsequently ruled that the group had to offload 133 of these in areas where they already had stores.

All 44 staff at the store has been retained following the change in ownership

Trading under the logo 'Refreshingly local' Haldane's are the first mid-sized supermarket chain to open in the UK for some 27 years, filling a gap left by Tesco's acquisition of William Low in the middle of the 1990s

**Buckie Round Table** – The opportunity to raise cash for good causes while enjoying fun and friendship has been highlighted as a local group launches a membership drive.

A call has gone out from Buckie Round Table as they approach their AG which will take place at 7.00pm in the Id Coach House Hotel on Tuesday March 16 for new blood to step forward to allow them to continue their fundraising work and other activities which have in the past supported local groups.

The Round Table is open to all young men aged 18-44 with Tablers leaving at the age of 45.

**Pipe band to go abroad** - Buckie and District Pipe Band are currently preparing for another trip to Holland where they are sure to be involved in a hectic piping and drumming schedule.

Fifteen band members and seven family members will fly to Holland on Thursday April 1 and return on Monday April 5. This will be the band's third trip to St Michielsgeste, in the south of the Netherlands.

Pipe major Robbie Innes said: "Our visits to Holland began when we met the Willikens family in 1995. They invited us to visit Holland and stay with them and friends and even paid something towards our flight."

Feb 23 **Dedicated supporters and then some** A Buckie couple who are dedicated to their local football team have been praised for their support over the years.

Joe and Annie Jappy have raised thousands of pounds for Buckie Thistle over the years and their fund raising efforts are recognised by everyone at the club.

Buckie Thistle President, Mark Duncan said: "Everybody in the Highland League knows that they get a great welcome when they come to Buckie thanks to Annie and Joe.

"Joe himself has won lifetime achievement awards from both Buckie Thistle and the Highland League. The work they do is invaluable for a club like Buckie Thistle"

Joe and Annie serve up some delicious treats in the club boardroom and Annie provides the players with post-match soup and sandwiches.

Following the match Annie also takes responsibility for washing the strips.

Joe has been involved with the club for 65 years and as Annie says she went along about 30 years ago to help out. Together they have raised over £30,000 for the club. One major fund raiser is the monthly tombolas which Annie holds in the Fishermen's Hall, where she has a team of committee members willing to help out.

Mar 2 **The Ga'an About Fowk dee mair than play** – A group of local singers and musicians have handed out a four-figure sum to a variety of charities thanks to the success of their CD.

The Ga'an Abbot Folk- comprising Anne Stewart, Helen Sandison, John Sandison, Hazel Stewart, Alison Skinner and Jim Petrie – handed over a total of £1500 to Buckie RNLI as well as Ardach, Seafield and Cullen medical practices and other good causes.

**The Toll Bar – an accident blackspot** - Down through the years an amazing number of accidents have taken place at the Toll Bar junction on the A98 (in earlier times known as the High Road) in the days of horse and carts they were not uncommon but recent years have seen an increase. Two people were taken to hospital last Monday evening following a collision between a car and a caravelle.

**Thistle Whisky** - Buckie Thistle fans are now able to toast the team's successes with a very special dram.

Last week saw the launch of a Buckie Thistle-branded single malt whisky, complete with the club crest resplendent on the label.

Club President Mark Duncan said, "We felt that there was a definite demand for something like this here for the club as it would be the ideal gift for supporters. Buckie Thistle single malt is specialist single cask malt, with each cask selected for its superior quality."

Mar 9 **Leadership Academy** - Wisdom, justice, compassion and integrity- these were the core values proudly set out last Monday night as Buckie Community High School launched their Innovative Leadership Academy scheme.

Parent, community groups, elected representatives and other guests gathered at the school for the launch, which saw keynote speaker Richard Lochhead, the SNP MSP for Moray and Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment, praise the new initiative primarily aimed at encouraging good citizenship amongst P1 students.

The programme for the evening saw the large audience welcomed by BCHS Rector David Barnett, with the evening then handed over to Depute Rector Nigel Engstrand, who is leading the multi-agency and multi-disciplinary Leadership Academy School Improvement Group

Mar 16 **Bridge suffers damage from recent major spates** - The partial collapse of a road bridge between Portgordon and Fochabers has seen it closed to allow emergency structural work to take place.

The bridge adjacent to the former Bone Mill which carries traffic between the two villages along the C16E road and is situated one mile west of Portgordon was closed off last Tuesday following the discovery of the partial collapse of an abutment.

**Probus Club** - The speaker at the recent lunch meeting of the Buckie and District Probus Club was club President Jim Pirrie, a retired teacher. Jim is a native of Ayrshire who came to live in this area a few years ago and has come to be known as an avid admirer and worthy exponent of the works of Scotland's national poet, Robert Burns. On this occasion he concentrated on two of Burns's best known works, 'Holy Willie's Prayer' and 'Tam o' Shanter' giving his audience an insight into why the poems came to be written and also the individuals who appear in both, all of whom Burns was well acquainted.

**Royal honour for Buckie piper** - Corporal Andrew Reid, a native of Buckie, meantime serving with The Highlanders, 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland (4 Scots) who have their base in Fallingb., Germany was one of a party of 11 pipers selected to play at Buckingham Palace in front of Her Majesty the Queen at a State Banquet given during the recent visit of the President of the Republic of South Africa, Jacob Zuma.

**Harbour Log** – Three fishing boats landed their catches at Buckie harbour last week, which amounted in total to 170 boxes of white fish, prawns and squid combined together with 520 bags of scallops. The boats were Aspire, Kestrel and Transcend.

One cargo boat paid a call. This was the German-registered Wilhelmine Steffens that came in from Ipswich with a cargo of sugar beet weighing 1006.080 tonnes on board. When empty she set sail again for the North Sea to await orders.

Mar 23 **Bus Link Fears** – Fears are growing that the only direct public transport link between the Buckie area and Keith may be severed in order to save Moray Council cash. Proposals are to be put before Councillors at the Policy and Resources Committee meeting on March 30 that will propose axing the 309 service which connects the Buckie area with Keith town centre and the railway station as a cost cutting measure. The matter was discussed at the March meeting of Buckie Community Council with a letter sent urging strongly that the link should be retained. A petition was also raised being signed by all those who would wish the link retained. The only alternative way of reaching the station or coming from there home to Buckie would be via Fochabers which is a non starter for a number of reasons, an important one being that the Aberdeen service bus doesn't go near the station. Other important considerations are the greatly increased cost and time factors.

Mar 30 **Fishing Boat Ban Causes Fury** – The decision by the Elgin and Lossiemouth Harbour Company to ban fishing boats from the facility has been met with fury by a Buckie fish-selling firm. With the exception of two vessels local to the Lossiemouth area, fishing boats, including the prawn and squid boat 'Jenna Maree' owned and skippered by Kenneth Findlay have been told that they are no longer welcome in the marina unless in an emergency. The managing director of United Fishselling, Alex Barr, agents for the Jenna Maree said: "This is an awful decision that at a time when everyone is trying to earn an honest living we have leisure and pleasure craft getting precedence over working fishing vessels." A petition circulating around Buckie has already been well signed. Among the reasons given for bringing in the ban, beginning in May 1 2010 by Chairman George Reid was that last year more fishing boats were using the harbour than they could safely accommodate. Damage had been sustained by some of the berth holder's vessels and at times the yachts could not leave their berths and get to sea. "We have already lost vessels because of various difficulties and have the indication that more will follow." Mr Barr who went to Lossiemouth to see things for himself said that he could see no problem as the boats in question were all under 10 metres long and as such take up less room than a caravan would.

Apr 6 **Word Physics Elite Beckons for James** Canada beckons for a Buckie student as he gets ready to join 29 of his peers from around the world on an elite physics course which features Professor Stephen Hawking, the renowned physicist among the lecturers. James Reid, 21 Merson Street, Buckpool, is currently putting the finishing touches to his Maths and Physics BSc degree at Aberdeen University and had been considering his options for post-graduate work when the breath-taking opportunity arose to join the Perimeter Scholars International Masters programme at the Perimeter Institute of Theoretical Physics in Vancouver. During his final year at Milne's High School, Fochabers where he was Head Boy, Mr Reid won a prestigious bursary at Aberdeen University from the Institute of Physics worth £3000 over the four years of his Physics course.

**Crash site provides information** The remains of a Lancaster bomber has been found in woodland near the town of Brandau, 25 miles from the city of Frankfurt in Germany. A Buckie man, Pilot Officer George Smith was Flight Engineer on board the aircraft which has recently been found and recognised. To date only a sketchy indication had been known of the whereabouts of the plane which went down on the night of November 25/26 1943 whilst returning from a bombing raid on Frankfurt. This was P.O Smith's 15 missions and he was commissioned shortly before the ill-fated trip.

The remains of the plane has shed light on the Buckie airmen's fate who had been first declared in missing before later being reported as killed in action. He was a brother of Alex and Jimmy Smith well known footballers with Buckie Thistle and Neil Smith, a son of Alex, who lives in Buckie travelled to Germany to view the site where the remains of plane were found.

Apr. 13 **Moray Labour Candidate Sacked-** The General Election race in Moray had an explosive start last week when Labour candidate Stuart MacLennan, of Forres, was sacked after his foul-mouthed rantings on social networking site Twitter were exposed.

It was barely a four-d day campaign for the shamed 24-year-old Labour policy researcher at the Scottish Parliament after he targeted figures in politics and show business for his X-rated comments, as well as hurling insults at some of the voters he was aiming to represent.

**Probus Club** –The guest speaker at Buckie and District Probus Club lunch meeting held in the Marine Hotel on Thursday 8 April was local man Jim Farquhar. Members learned how Jim had served his time as an apprentice painter with the shipyard firm of Herd and Mackenzie, where he was to remain all his working life apart from his two years on National Service, a total of 52 years, rising to become Yard Foreman and later a Director of the firm who were to later own the shipyard.. During his time in the shipyard he was privileged to see many ships built including the 'Captain Scott' He could have told a good story about any of the two things mentioned above but Jim chose to talk about the men he met, the journeymen painters and others and the lessons they taught him, not only about the trade but also life in general. . The shipyard then and the day's work had been a pleasure, there was lots of fun, but he was saddened to see that the apprentices of today didn't seem to see it that way. (A fuller report appears in the 'Advertiser' of May 11.)

**Findochty's Shipbuilding Heritage is marked** - Findochty's proud boat-building heritage has been commemorated following the unveiling of a plinth last week.

Last Thursday afternoon saw the information plinth at the Crooked Hythe in the village officially revealed to the public after three years of determined efforts by Findochty Community Council

Joining FCC Chairperson Lesley Loades were other members of the community council and local Councillor Gordon McDonald, as well as Andrew Gardiner from Findochty Community Church who performed the dedication ceremony. The plinth shows a picture of the first boat to be built at the Crooked Herd and Mackenzie and the last. The first to be built in 1903 was the 'Bloomfield' then followed 35 others with the last just before World War I being the 'Courage'. The plinth will be of interest to visitors as in addition to the pictures information about the village is given.

Apr 20` **RNLI Milestone Anniversary** Buckie RNLI's plans to commemorate their 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary this summer enjoyed a double boost last Thursday with the launch of both a commemorative book and the unveiling of their programme of events in June. The 150 Steering Group, chaired by branch Chairman Dr Alison Douglas, local GP, unveiled 'Buckie Lifeboats – 150 Years of Gallantry' by Nicholas Leach as well as a busy week of events for young and old alike spanning the period from June 12-19. "This book is a wonderful testimony to 150 years of service to the lifeboat by so many Buckie people," she said... "We hope it will prove of interest to many, both at home and further afield."

**Arts and Crafts Fair** the second Buckie Arts and Crafts Fair was hailed as a great success as droves of people, both local and outwith the area converged on the Fishermen's Hall last Saturday. Opening the event was the Lord Lieutenant of Banffshire. Clare Russell, who was so impressed by last September's fair that she was determined to make it to Saturday's extravaganza.

**Harbour Group Gain Charitable Status** – Portgordon Community Harbour Group have announced a major step forward on their way to achieving the dream of redeveloping Portgordon harbour, a major £1.5 million marina project designed to revitalize the harbour area for the benefit of the community

Apr 27 **Postal Votes** - Last Friday saw the largest number of postal votes sent out in Moray as the General Election day comes nearer.

Over 10,000 postal votes were dropping through letter boxes as more and more residents are choosing to vote by post as a convenient way of exercising their democratic right, instead of attending at a polling station. The Returning Officer for Moray, Alistair Keddie, said that it was vital for people to make sure they returned their votes as soon as possible.

**Anzac Day** -A representative of the RAF, members of the Royal British Legion, Buckie Branch, the local Moray Councillor, a local minister, Ex Service, a piper and other made up the party that gathered at the War Memorial at Bogmoor on Anzac Day to honour those from Australia and New Zealand who gave their lives in World War II.

**Another Launch** – Buckie Shipyard Ltd., and South Boats Special Projects Ltd., have announced the launch of their second wind farm service vessel, the ‘Lynas Point’, which will transfer renewable energy workers to offshore wind farms. This follows the successful launch of the first vessel, the ‘Penmon Point’ which left Buckie in early March 2010.

The ‘Lynas Point’ is a South Catamaran alloy wind farm service vessel measuring 16 metres in length. The vessel has been inspected by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency and is certified to operate under MCA Workboat Code up to 60 nautical miles offshore for up to 12 passengers, three crew and 5000 kgs of deck cargo

**Baxter’s New Trail** - Baxter’s Highland Village, Fochabers, went back to nature with the launch of a new Community Nature Trail. The 1.3km trail was funded by The Gordon and Edna Baxter Foundation, a personal trust fund of Mr and Mrs Gordon Baxter.

Gordon Baxter officially opened the trail last Thursday in front of an audience which included local school children, RSPB representatives and representatives from the WDCS Centre at Spey Bay. Pupils from Milne’s Primary, Mosstodloch and Aberlour House were present for the official opening ceremony and then walked the trail.

May 4 **Rotary Six Harbour Walk** - Sunday saw the 12<sup>th</sup> annual Buckie Rotary Six Harbour Walk with a large number of people gathered to walk or cycle the 15 miles from the starting point at Portsoy to the terminus at Buckie harbour. This year the causes set to benefit from the event are Help for Heroes, Erskine and a number of local youth organizations. The Walk Convener Bill Greig, speaking in midweek before the event said that already 300 had signed up but if like previous years this number will be greatly added to with people just turning up on the day. Last year the walk generated over £22,000 for the nominated charities.

**Buckie Thistle Won the Highland League.** The Thistle won the Highland League for the first time since 1958 when they beat Wick Academy by three goals to nil at Harmsworth Park, Wick. The statistics for the season were P 34; W26; D5; L3; F83; A26; P83. Cove Rangers, last year’s winners were runners- up. Around 500 Buckie supporters attended the match among the diehards being our lad, Karl Fraser, who drove all the way from Edinburgh to Wick and then back to Buckie after the match. Five friends found an easier way to reach Wick from Buckie when they hired a helicopter. According to reports there hadn’t been a night in the pubs etc of Buckie since the end of WWII

The Buckie team was Main, MacDonald (Duncan), H. Munro, MacRae, (D. Munro), Small, C. Angus, Napier, R. Brown, Bruce MacKinnon, Charlesworth and Stewart. Subs. C. Brown and Strong (GK.).

May 11 **SNP Hold Moray** - Angus Robertson held on to the Moray seat with an increased share of the vote. Mr Robertson increased his vote by over 3 % as did his nearest challenger, the Conservative challenger Councillor Douglas Ross. The Labour and Liberal Democrat candidates both saw their share of the vote fall.

**Buckie United boost for Diabetes Group** - Local Welfare League side Buckie United handed over a cheque for £500 to the Buckie Diabetes Support Group who are presently fund-raising to help those in the area who have either Type 1 or Type 2 Diabetes.

**Choral Union Concert** - A large audience gathered in the Fishermen’s Hall, for the recent Choral Union concert. The concert, entitled, ‘All in the April evening’ featured an entertaining programme with a wide range of pieces performed by choruses and soloists. The concert was conducted by Anne Corbett.

**Welcome to Buckie** - Last Wednesday was a proud moment indeed for youngsters at Buckie Community High School’s Special Education Department when they launched their guide to Buckie leaflet. The school library saw the colour leaflet, entitled ‘Welcome to Buckie’ which contains a wealth of information on the town and surrounding area, officially unveiled.

It was to be the culmination of many months of hard work by the students since October. Initial inspiration for the project was to come from School Librarian Sarah Marsh. Also involved in the production and present at the launch were Sharon Aitken, PT Special Education Department, Depute Rector Moira Taylor and Enterprise Co-ordinator Lorna Sinclair.

**Heritage Book Launch** - A large crowd gathered for the official launch of the fifth book produced by Buckie and District Heritage Centre Ltd. 'Sail and Steam Revisited' has been produced by John Crawford, Ron Stewart and Glen McIntosh and it aims to complete the story of boat-building in the Buckie and district area.

Officially launching the book at a ceremony held in the Centre recently was Dr Alison Douglas, a local GP and Chairman of Buckie RNLI.

'Sail and Steam' was the title of a book written by Ron Stewart and published in the 1980s. It had always been his plan to update the book at some time. An idea of a book focussing on the McIntosh boat builders came about when Glenn McIntosh from Queensland, Australia, visited Buckie for an extended holiday. He is a direct descendent of the McIntosh family of boat-builders who began initially in Cullen before moving first to Portessie and then Ianstown

**Probus Club** On Thursday 6th May club member Allan Fraser was the speaker at the regular monthly lunch meeting, held, as usual, in the Marine Hotel. He chose as the subject of his talk 'Streets and their Associations, beginning his talk by saying how interesting and revealing they were compared to the simple Post Code. He said how the memory bank held a great store of names of streets, lanes, avenues or whatever with which we link a great variety of things, perhaps the home of a lost love, or that of your grannie or where you spent your childhood or best holiday ever. He moved from London and its streets to those one may have encountered whilst on National or war-time Service before returning home to the streets and their associations in our home area.

May 18

**Clochan Hall – Need of Repairs cause a Problem** – A public meeting is being held later this week to discuss the future of Clochan Hall the former Enzie Public School. Clochan Hall committee have been advised by Moray Council that the hall is in need of major repair work and three options have been put forward for the local community to consider.

The hall has been leased to the community since 1987 and Moray Council owns the building. The work will cost approximately £1000, 000 with £30,000 repairs required immediately and a further £70,000 repairs which can be carried out at a later date.

However the Council do not have the funds available for repairs and have put forward the three following options for consideration. 1- Closure and sale of the hall. 2- Sale of the hall and grounds but subject to reserving an area for a new smaller hall 3- Long lease of hall to the community on the basis that all liabilities are transferred to the tenant.

**Memories of Momentous Season** - Buckie Thistle fans are to be given the chance to contribute their views and memories of the club's title-winning season thanks to a new book.

With the party still continuing to mark the Jags first Highland League Championship in 52 years, club historian, Easton Thain is calling for supporters to get in touch so their impressions of an historic season can be recorded for posterity and become part of the club's legacy.

"Just putting in my own match reports or views of the games that won us the league would make for a pretty bland book, so I am really keen to hear from the supporters themselves," he said. "I would like to hear their stories and memories from the season, not only from the Wick game, when we won the title, but also other events from the season that stick in the mind."

**Tributes Flood in for Champion Jags** - Buckie Thistle's historic Highland League title on May 1 has seen the tributes and congratulations flooding in to Victoria Park.

The Jags broke their 52-year championship hoodoo with a 3-0 win at Wick earlier this month, ending Cove Rangers two year stint as champions, and since then good wishes have been coming in thick and fast.

Club President Mark Duncan said, "The amount of letters, cards and e-mails we have been receiving since we won the league at Wick has just been phenomenal. John Sherman, the Cove Rangers manager, was quick to phone me expressing his congratulations, which was really nice of him. Just a week ago we got a letter from Richard Lockhead MSP and Angus Robertson MP and we have been bombarded with good wishes from all over the world"

**High School Football heroes** - There was standing room only in the Victoria Park's Function Hall last Thursday evening when Buckie Community High School's football teams were honoured.

It was a special moment for the under 15 and Senior teams, who won their respective leagues, and in the case of the latter it is the first time the league title has come to Buckie since 1976.

May 25

**Clochan – Community Aim to keep the Hall open.** Last week saw a public meeting held to discuss the future of Clochan Hall (the former Enzie Public School which closed in 1966) which was very well attended and although no firm decisions were made, the outcome proved positive.

Chairperson of the Clochan hall Committee Heather Harvey said, "I was very pleased with the turnout and I feel that we did make some progress. The general feeling was that nobody wants the hall to close and most people were in favour of option three, however the financial issues threw up a few questions. Our lease of the hall does not end until March 2012 so most felt that Moray Council should carry out sufficient work to bring the hall up to a safe standard before we take it on with a longer lease. "Those attending the meeting asked how Moray Council had come to the £100,000 figure for repairs and it was suggested that a survey should be carried out and the work costed to ensure that this was indeed the correct figure.

**Historic RNLI Lifeboat set for Buckie Visit** - A slice of RNLI lifeboat history is set to form part of the celebrations due next month to mark the life-saving charity's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in Buckie. With festivities scheduled to run over the week of June 12-19 the Harbour Day on Sunday June 13 will see a 101-year old lifeboat on show in the harbour.

Special guest for the event will be the 'William Riley' an oar-powered, open rowing boat which formerly served Whitby. Visitors will be able to see both the 'William Riley' and her modern counterpart at Buckie, the all-weather, Severn class, 'William Blannin', as well as look around the station and chat to the crew at the event which starts at 2.00pm.

During her visit, the 'William Riley' will be crewed by volunteers from Findochty Water Sports Club.

**Celebration-**Buckie businesses answered to the call and created some fantastic Buckie Thistle themed windows for last week's Highland League title celebrations

The town was awash with green and white shop windows and great imagination had been put in creating the displays.

The window display judged to be the best out of many worthwhile entries by Easton Thain and others was the café/restaurant Emmas on East Church Street. Their prize was four complimentary tickets to a Jags home game of their choice next season.

**Long Service to the Community** - A well-known Fochabers man was recently presented with a long service award from Moray Council in recognition of his association with Lennox Community Council.

Sandy Horne, of Westmorland Street, a retired Master Shoemaker, received his award after 20 years of service to Lennox Community Council. Council Convener George McIntyre presented the award and congratulated Sandy at the Council headquarters in Elgin

Sandy joined the Community Council in 1975 and after a break of around four years in the 80's he rejoined in the early 90's

"I had always said I would stand down from the community council when I turned 80," said Sandy. "When the election came up plenty people had come forward for a place so I decided it was the right time to let some one else have a go. I really enjoyed my time on the community council and I met a lot of folk throughout the years. "

**Lifeboat Gala Queen** - The Lifeboat Gala Queen and her two princesses were selected at a special disco last week. The Gala is to take place on Saturday June 19 to celebrate Buckie RNLI's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Thirteen-year-old Holly Erskine was selected as Gala Queen and her princesses are Megan Dawson, 14, and Lucie Grant, 10. The girls were presented with goodie bags donated by Moray Hearing Care and Taylor's Pharmacy.

June 1

**Speyside Way Race to make Local Comeback-** There was a boost in store for Buckie last week when it was announced that the town was to form the finish line for a gruelling long distance race Saturday August 28 will see the return of the Speyside Way Race, which will see runners breast the tape at the Buckie end of the trail.

The event is set to make a return as part of the Scottish Ultra Marathon series after a hiatus of four years However, the race, which is being billed as bigger and harder than ever before, has become more demanding for the hardy entrants. When last run in 2006, it finished at Spey Bay, the former terminus of the route, but will now finish at the current terminus in Buckie.

A sting in the tail was to await participants, though, when just weeks after entries opened for the event it was announced the Buckie terminus was being moved from the former harbour in Buckpool to a site just off Cluny Square. This will not only see runners having to contend with an extra five miles of route but also a punishing climb up the steep gradient to the Square, a stiff test for the toughest of athletes following a 35-mile run.

**Opening announcement** A Salon and Spa with a Vibrating Plate and Detox Box called 'Indulgence' opened at 41a West Church Street in the first week of May last with a large advert appearing in this edition of the 'Advertiser'. The advert carries information with regard to the Vibrating Plate and also the Detox Box giving the health benefits one was likely to receive from a session of either. The charges for both were also given., a single session of the Vibrating Plate costing £5 with the same time in the Detox Box £ 10.

**Fantastic Fun Day for Rugby Fundraiser** - Buckie Rugby Club's second charity fundraising tournament and fun day turned out bigger and better this year as both teams and supporters flocked to Linzee Gordon Park. The 7's tournament saw the return of the Pigbarians, a team comprising former professional players from Scotland, Australia and New Zealand who tour the country helping to raise cash for children's charities. They were out for revenge after being vanquished by a young and fit Moray team during their last visit. This time the power, skills and sheer pace of the Pigbarians was to prove too much for Moray despite putting up a valiant effort.

June 8 **Jags Bombshell as Duncan's Quit.** Buckie Thistle fans have been rocked by the bombshell news that club President Mark Duncan and his brother Murray, a Jag's Director, are keen to leave Victoria Park. The duo has quit the title-winning side after what they believe is behind the scenes manoeuvring to change direction at the club. After a month of soul-searching, the Duncan's have decided to bring to a close their eight-year association with the club, which began at a time, were at a very low point in their history. **(The story made front page news and was carried on page6.)**

**Sailing club to play part in RNLI celebrations** - A local sailing enthusiast's club are getting ready to help Buckie RNLI celebrate their 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Findochty Watersports Club are set to take to the water to help showcase a century-old lifeboat which will be visiting Buckie harbour as part of the milestone festivities, and they are also organising the annual regatta to coincide with the planned Lifeboat Galas Day on Saturday June 19. A total of ten volunteers from the club will be manning the 'William Riley' an old rowboat style lifeboat which is coming to Buckie as part of anniversary celebrations.

**Buckie Baptist Church** This Tuesday June 8<sup>th</sup> sees Buckie Baptist Church celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the placing of the foundation stone of the building on Cluny Place that was to be their church. One hundred years ago a group of committed Christians built the Buckie Baptist Church after the congregation had worshipped first in the Volunteer Hall in 1904 then later in the Good Templar Hall on West Church Street.

**Probus Club** – Members who attended the lunch meeting of Buckie Probus Club on Thursday 3 June had the pleasure of listening to a most interesting, thought-provoking talk given by fellow member Jim Findlay. The subject of Jim's talk centred on the features and sights he and his wife Rita had seen and experienced during a month's holiday they had spent in the Far East, which included much of the time afloat. The trip took them from China through the islands of Okinawa, Taiwan and Hong Kong through Vietnam and Singapore to Bangkok.

June 15 **Civic Reception hails Buckie RNLI heroes** One week of celebrations to mark 150 years of life-saving and courage at sea was launched in style last Saturday when a Civic Reception was held to honour Buckie RNLI. The 'Buckie Drifter', specially re-opened for the week thanks to extremely generous sponsorship from No 1 Building Services, was the venue hosting the event, which ran from 2.00pm – 4.00pm. Following an hour to examine the exhibits and memorabilia gathered to help mark the milestone anniversary, the Civic Reception was officially opened by Buckie Councillor and former fishing boat skipper, Joe Mackay on behalf of Moray Council. He paid tribute to all those who had contributed to the local RNLI over the generations, including Elsie Murray, the only surviving member of the first Buckie Women's RNLI Guild and Dr Alison Douglas, the Chairman of Buckie RNLI and the 150 Steering Group who have spent the last year organising the celebrations. In order to exemplify the heroism and commitment of Buckie RNLI'S volunteer crews and their colleagues up and down the country, Councillor Mackay then asked the audience to turn their minds to the story of Grace Darling and her father who in 1842 when the RNLI was still in its infancy, took to a rowing boat to rescue some crew members from the wreck of SS 'Forfarshire' which had run aground on the low, rocky island of Big Harcur off the coast of Northumberland. Thanks to their bravery, 13 of the vessel's crew were plucked from the jaws of certain death. Councillor Mackay continued: "That incredible achievement was a baptism of what heroism and commitment means for the RNLI; Grace Darling was prepared to pay the ultimate price in order to save lives of others and she left a legacy of total commitment for the RNLI.

“The RNLI is probably the most popular charity in the country and must certainly be so along this coast. There cannot be anyone in this community that is not proud of the RNLI’s record here over the last 150 years.” *(More may be read on page 1 and also pages 5 and 13 on the start of Buckie RNLI’s 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary week including a special service in the North Church at which the sum of £545 was given in the collection towards the lifeboat funds.* During the service John Fowlie, a long-serving former Honorary Secretary of Buckie RNLI gave a personalised history of the life-saving charity’s local presence.

**Lifeboat men honoured** - A photograph on page 12 of the ‘Advertiser’ of this date shows Commander William Bowman, Vice Chairman of the RNLI in Scotland as he presents a vellum Letter of thanks to Buckie LOM Joe Herd to mark the Lifeboat Station’s 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary and a Long Service vellum to Kenny Farquhar to mark his 32 years service as a member of the crew.

June 22 **Jags pull back from abyss** – Buckie Thistle pulled back from the brink of potential collapse when brothers Mark and Murray Duncan agreed to return to the club.

Mark Duncan will return to his post as President for the coming season, with Murray returning to run the Function Hall along with his wife Sheryl for the same period.

The duo, who have led the Jags for the last eight years after being asked to take over the reins to save the club from disaster, dramatically resigned two weeks ago as reported in the ‘Advertiser’ of June 8<sup>th</sup>.

A crunch meeting last Thursday evening saw the Duncans step back into the frame as Thistle once again stared possible oblivion full-square in the face.

**CBE for Fochabers’ man** - there was joy for a Fochabers’ businessman in the Queen’s Honour’s List when he was made a CBE.

Gordon Baxter, 92, the Life President of Fochabers-based Baxter’s Food Group, stated that he was ‘very honoured ‘to be recognised with the award for both his services to business and his work with the charitable Baxter Foundation.

**Girl Guides celebrate the centenary of the movement** - Local Girl Guides in conjunction with the Trefoil Guild worked alongside staff from Moray Council to create a floral representation of their logo on a specially prepared bed created on a patch of ground next to Buckie Victoria Bowling Green on West Church Street.

Local Trefoil Chairperson, Margo Howe, and Dallachy, said: “The local Trefoil guild has been working since the beginning of the year with the girls towards creating this floral project to mark the Guides’ centenary year.

It has been a very useful and enjoyable experience for the girls, as they got to participate in the whole process, beginning with choosing the sort of flowers they wanted from Moray Council, watching them grow and then planting them.

I also think that this shows how the younger and older sections of the community can work together.”

The floral layout will boast the blue, red, white and gold colours of the Girl Guide movement.

**Salvation Army Officer to leave** – Pastures new will soon await Findochty Salvation Army Corps Captain Ann Courdelle as she gets ready to face new experiences and challenges in the Central Belt.

Captain Courdelle will leave Findochty after three years in the village towards the end of July to take up her appointment with the Fauldhouse Corps.

**The RNLI mark their 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in style.** A highly successful Lifeboat Dinner was held in the Fishermen’s Hall on Saturday June 12 when Mrs Clare Russell, Lord Lieutenant was the guest of honour and keynote speaker.

She was to leave all and sundry pleasantly stunned when she donated £2000 to the local branch of the life-saving charity.

The cash came from the profits derived from Mrs Russell’s book, ‘I Love Banffshire’ and brings to £3000 the amount she has donated to Buckie RNLI.

Mrs Russell said:” This is a donation from the people of Banffshire as so much of the work for my book was done by the people of Banffshire’.2

All profits from the book are to be ploughed back into good causes across Banffshire.

Comper for the evening was Charles McKay while musical entertainment was provided by the Ga’an About Folk.”

A fundraising charity auction was also held during the evening with a wide-range of top-notch prizes donated by local firms and individuals.

Catering for the dinner was a local affair with Glen Campbell and his Event4u team providing a sumptuous spread

A wide variety of local talent converged on the fishermen's hall last Wednesday evening to help Buckie RNLI celebrate a century and a half of life-saving heroism.

Entertainers of all ages turned out to mark the historic anniversary at the Community Concert, which formed part of the week-long programme of events devised by the 150 Steering Group, chaired by Dr Alison Douglas. The widely varied programme revolved around the central theme of Buckie and the Sea' and the performances were thoroughly enjoyed by a jam-packed Fishermen's Hall.

Compere for the evening was Portknockie singer-songwriter Frank Reynolds who along with fellow local musician John Starsmore, led off the event with a few songs,

The first Lifeboat Gala for a number of years was held on Saturday June 19. This included a parade, and procession of float, also the 'William Riley' lifeboat on a trailer and a veteran fire engine and crew. which preceded by Buckie and District Pipe Band moved through the town from West Church Street then down McLaren's Brae to the harbour area cheered on by a crowd of onlookers. The weather was kind which helped to make it a really special day enjoyed by all.

(A much fuller report on all the events that took place can be read in the pages of the 'Advertiser' of this date)

June 29 **Outstanding Achievement Award** - Outstanding fundraising work by a Portessie resident with a passion for music has seen him win a national award from Cancer Research UK.

The charity's annual Flame of Hope Awards recognises remarkable efforts in fundraising and volunteering made by people from all walks of life.

Syd Harris, 76, who moved from England to Buckie after his retirement, scooped the 2010 Outstanding Achievement accolade beating off stiff competition from across the UK. Since 2006, Cancer Research UK has been the official charity of the Festival of Brass and Voices, a tri-annual event held at the Royal Albert Hall, which brings together choirs from around the UK for a celebration of traditional and classical music. As chairman of Brass and Voices committee and with overall responsibility, it was Mr Harris's choice to support Cancer Research UK, a cause close to his heart. Over £150,000 was raised last year from the event.

**Buckie Community High School Dux** - The Dux of the school for 2010 and winner of the Miller Medal is Michael Ewen, of Barhill Road, Buckie. He was presented with the medal by guest speaker for the evening Karen Wiles, formerly of Moray Council.

July 6 **Major Fire** - The blaze which has left Buckie Red Cross shop and store on West Church Street with extensive damage has been condemned as an 'atrocious' with police launching an appeal for information to help apprehend those responsible.

Shock and disgust have greeted the sickening aftermath of the blaze, which is being treated by Grampian Police as suspicious, early last Monday morning that will almost certainly see much of the stock – the proceeds of which would have gone to help some of the poorest and neediest people on the planet- written off through smoke damage.

In addition to the stock damage, training equipment kept at the rear of the premises, including defibrillators and dummies used for instructing trainees in life-saving CPR techniques were destroyed.

"Although the exact value of the damage is not known at this stage it is believed that it will stretch into tens of thousands of pound", said a spokesman for Grampian Police.

**Canada Day marked at Dallachy** - The sacrifices made by service personnel from Canada were remembered when Canada Day was marked at Dallachy Strike Wing Memorial, Bogmoor, last Thursday July 1. Present was RCAF Captain Mary Cameron-Kelly a representative of the RAF local councillor Anita McDonald, WWII veteran Arthur Coubrough, Fochabers, representing the Royal British Legion, and local members of the community council. A short service was conducted by Padre Alisdair Nicoll.

**She lived life to the full** - The funeral service for Ms Linda Gordon took place in the crematorium at Broadley on Wednesday July 6, attended by a large gathering of people. Linda, a mother of three, who spent many years in England where she became active in a number of charitable organisations returned home to Buckie five years ago. She was a most gregarious person, enjoyed being among people, and quickly joined a number of organisations on her return, including the Over 50's Club, the North Church Guild, Rathven WRI and the 'Buckie Blethers' She had always written poetry in the 'Lallan's' and the 'Blethers' gave her the opportunity to write more and recite this when the group were invited to provide the entertainment for different organisations. She will probably be best remembered, however, for her ability to organise events, not least being the prime mover of one of the first school reunions to take place in Buckie, with her powers of persuasion leading to people from all parts of the globe coming back for the event. She was largely instrumental in the setting up of the Ladies Lunch Club, established primarily to raise funds for Barnardos, a charity close to her heart, with which she had been associated for many years in Uppermill, near Oldham, which had been her home before coming back to Buckie. The Ladies Lunch Club has proved to be most successful, with over 90 women meeting

for lunch once per month. This event, together with coffee mornings she ran have already raised thousands of pounds for Barnardos.

Unfortunately Linda, who was not only my sister in law but also a dear friend, did not enjoy the best of health throughout much of her life but her indomitable spirit and great love of life meant that she was rarely without a smile even in her last days when she was doomed to fight a losing battle against cancer. The size of the donations given for Clan House, Aberdeen, over one thousand pounds, was a reflection of the esteem in which she was held.

**Probus Club** – The speakers at the regular monthly lunch meeting held on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> July were John Rennie and Steve Liley, both members of the Probus Club and also members of the Cullen, Deskford and Portknockie Heritage Group. John spoke on the beginnings and development of radio while Steve's contribution was that of TV

The day before a party of members, wives, partners and friends went on their annual bus outing. This took them to Cawdor Castle, Nairn, before continuing to end the day out in Inverness...

July 13 **Long service recognised** - A long serving member local Community Councillor was honoured recently for the many years of service he has given.

Fred Rumbles who is currently chairman of Rathven and Arradoul Community Council was honoured at a ceremony by Moray Council for his dedication to the community.

Doing the honours on behalf of the local authority was Buckie Councillor Anne McKay, who handed over a specially framed certificate for 20 year's service to Mr Rumbles, who has in fact completed 33 years on Rathven and Arradoul Community Council. . A photograph on page 12 shows Fred receiving the specially framed certificate from Councillor McKay

**Cullen Town Crier's Bell** - Cullen folk welcomed the return of a piece of local history when the Town Crier's bell was put on display last Saturday.

The Memorial Hall in the village was the scene for the handover that will see the bell on display over the summer at Cullen, Deskford and Portknockie Heritage Group's exhibition, after it has been admired at the local library.

Following the disbanding of the old Cullen Town Council in 1975 the bell was taken into the safe keeping of Bill Mustard, the then chairman of the local community council.

The Heritage Group were contacted by Elaine Cooper, the daughter of Bill Mustard, about returning the bell to Cullen. On Bill's death it was passed on to his brother and when he died earlier this year it passed on to Elaine and she was keen to see that it should return home.

The bell which has Royal Burgh of Cullen inscribed within was used by the Town Crier at least up to the 1960's and perhaps the 1970's when there was anything of significance to bring to the attention of the public, especially housewives when the water was to be switched off for a while to give them the opportunity to fill pails and so on.

The last Town Crier is believed to have been Jock Kyle. (See page one for photograph and longer report.)

July 20 **You can tak the bus** – BABS Dial- Bus launched a the first of two new bus services on Monday July 19 that saw the bus leave Buckie at 8.30am from door-to door on a route for Keith that took it through surrounding areas such as Arradoul and Clochan arriving at the destination at 9.45am. On Friday a further new service will commence between Buckie and Keith but taking a different route to the Monday one. This will go via Cullen. Lintmill, Deskford and Grange with a return ticket costing £1.

**A unique event** – An unusual and beautiful wedding steeped in history was held in Deskford Church recently.

Elly Tubbutt and David Johnston were married in the ruined church at Kirkton with a marquee roof providing shelter from the elements.

After the ceremony the bride and groom led the procession on foot from the church to the Muckle Hoose where another marquee provided the venue for the reception. The groom's parents live in the Muckle Hoose

Deskford Church at Kirkton has a plaque marking the wedding of Mary Seaton and William Oglivie. Mary Seaton was one of the 'Queen's four Mary's'

The castle at Deskford was owned by Sinclairs, with Mrs Johnston being a descendent, The Sinclairs moved from Findlater Castle to Deskford when their son was drowned. They had eight daughters.

**New streets named** - Three new streets, part of a housing development off High Street, beyond the Linzee Gordon Park. Two of the names Work Way and Fairway Road were proposed by Councillor Gordon McDonald. Work Way is named after the late Jessie Work who was a local community member and a stalwart in Seafeld Hospital. Fairway Road has been named after a fishing boat that was owned at one time by Buckie Councillor Joe Mackay. The third road name given the nod at the Economic Development and Infrastructure Committee recently was Bin View in reference to the Bin of Cullen.

**Rotary members receive prestigious awards** – Two members of the Rotary Club of Buckie were recently presented with a prestigious award for their hard work and dedication to Rotary.

Malcolm Watt and Hugh Patience were presented with the Paul Harris Fellowship at a recent Buckie Rotary meeting. Handing over the award in a surprise presentation was District Governor Bill Macfarlane. Malcolm Watt was given his award in recognition of his tremendous achievements in boosting international funds and Hugh was recognised for his long service and dedication to Rotary and for his involvement with Buckie Fishing Heritage Centre.

The Paul Harris Fellowship, named after the Rotary founder, is only given to Rotarians who have gone the extra mile to support the charitable work of the Rotary both at home and abroad.

“It is a very prestigious award and not given lightly and it is a great honour to see two members from Buckie Rotary being recognised in this way”, said Robert Scott, press Officer for Buckie Rotary.

July 27 **New book** - The many sights and fascinating features found along the coast from Burghead to Portknockie have been encapsulated in a new book which enjoyed its official unveiling at Portgordon Gala last Sunday afternoon.

Written by Stanley Bruce, the chairman of the Banffshire Maritime and Heritage Association: ‘Along the Coast: Burghead to Portknockie’ is the newest in a series of books exploring the rich coastline along the north east of Scotland. Sharing the limelight on the day was another book in the series, ‘Cullen to Pennan’ which is going into its second print edition after first being published in 2007.

**Keswick in Buckie** - A quarter of a century of Keswick in Buckie Conventions will be celebrated over July 31-August 6.

Keswick in Buckie was begun in 1986 by Rev Roberts Morton when he encouraged a small band of helpers from the Buckie Methodist Church, where he was minister, to consider hosting a Bible Convention in Buckie. He was aware of the Keswick Convention held annually in Cumbria since the early 1860’s and through the encouragement offered by Billy Strachan, a lecturer at Cliff College, Keswick in Buckie was born.

The Keswick movement is evangelical in nature whose speakers hold to the absolute inspiration of the Holy Scriptures. A major aim of the Keswick in Buckie Convention is to cross denominational barriers and to bring all Christians together.

Aug 3 **Highland League Champions** - The first new Highland League flag to fly over Victoria Park for 52 years was unfurled on Saturday prior to the kick against Inverness Clachnacuddin in the first game of the new season. A photograph in the ‘Advertiser’ shows the flag being proudly displayed, held by Gregg Carroll, Buckie Thistle Manager; Eddie Innes HFL President; Alan Scott; John Grant, HFL Secretary and Mark Duncan, Buckie Thistle President.

**New Cullen Minister** - Cullen gave a warm welcome to their new Church of Scotland Minister Rev. Douglas Stevenson last week when he was formally inducted into the post.

A packed Auld Kirk was the scene for the ceremony last Thursday evening, which saw the ceremony carried out by Rev Andrew Robertson, Minister at Lhanbryde. At the induction was Anne Bowie with the Presbytery Clerk role undertaken by Rev. Hugh Smith.

Mr Stevenson has moved to Cullen, along with his wife Jackie and children Meghann, 15, Rory, 11 and Andrew 9, after spending two years at the Elgin High and Birnie and Pluscarden parishes as Associate Minister in a team ministry of three.

Aug 10 **Clever Folk** - Findochty twins Amy and Stuart Cowie pupils at Buckie Community High School gained nine A’s and one B in this year’s Higher exams. Stuart who is the new Head Boy swept the board taking the top grade in Maths, English, Physics, Chemistry and Biology while Amy gained an A pass in Maths, Chemistry, Geography and Art with a B in English.

Also celebrating an A-list set of results was Portknockie S6 student Louise Mair who claimed five A’s in Graphic Communications, Physics, Maths, Geography and Art. A number of other students gained Highers with the rector David Barnett being of the opinion that the results could prove to be the best ever.

**Flower Festival Blossoms in Auld Kirk** - Cullen Auld Kirk was resplendent with blooms and the scent of summer at the tail end of last week as the Cullen Flower Festival got underway.

Running from Thursday through to Saturday, visitors and locals alike made their way to the picturesque kirk to witness the skill and talent of a group of ladies drawn from a number of local churches.

A total of 20 displays were to be discovered in the church all based around the theme of ‘For the entire For Saints’.

The displays were done by three ladies from Portsoy, two from Buckie and three from Cullen, one of whom was Brenda Wood one of the event organisers.

**New Salvation Army Officer** - Territorial Envoy Gordon Lovie recently took over the Findochty Salvation Army Corps. Mr Lovie who moved to the village with his wife Ann took over from the previous incumbent Captain Ann Courdelle.

**The Buckie 'Drifter' goes on sale** - The end of an era for an often controversial Buckie structure could well be nigh with the announcement last week that the Buckie 'Drifter' is to go up for sale. Moray Council's Resources Committee came to the decision last Tuesday to sell off the former fishing heritage visitor centre and café, which is believed to need significant repairs in the order of £250,000 after lying empty and largely unused for half a decade.

**TESCO Cash boost for Buckie** - Buckie is to benefit to the tune of over £400,000 as part of the deal to build a Tesco store at the edge of the town.

As construction work proceeds apace at the site to the south of Parklands Car Home the extent of the developers contribution to be paid by the retail giant was confirmed to Councillors on the local authority's Policy and Resources Committee last Tuesday, with some £406,861 earmarked for a variety of different uses. The funds are part of a legal requirement designed to help mitigate potential impacts on Buckie town centre that the store may have.

Aug 17 **Former Buckie Thistle player** - Buckie Thistle F.C. were saddened to hear of the recent passing of former player Vic Sutherland and the club's belated but sincere sympathy has been extended to his remaining family. Mr Sutherland had fascinating football career and when doing his National Service with the RAF he was posted to Kenya and played for a Kenya Select. In the late 1950's he played a trial match for Bury F.C. and promptly netted a hat-trick and yet they didn't sign him. He joined Buckie Thistle in the summer of 1958 and made his home debut on August 9 at home to Deveronvale in the Highland League Cup, netting the second goal in a 2-0 win for the Jags. His time spent with the Thistle was relatively short but in the 48 games he played he scored 20 goals before moving to Elgin City.

**Fishing Focus** – Last week seventeen fishing boats came in to Buckie harbour to land their catches. The combined total landings were 1034 boxes of white fish, prawns and squid. The boats were: Quiet Waters, Transcend, Prospect, Shekinah, Pegasus, Moray Endeavour, Conquest, Heather Sprig, Sparkling Star, Andrias, Blue Sky, Loyal Friend, Scotia, Deeside, Shalimar, Our Pride and Staronia.

**Cargo call** – One cargo boat paid a visit. This was the British-registered MV Swift that arrived from Amsterdam with 1075.820 tonnes of soya on board. She left again, light, bound for Middlesborough.

Aug 24 **Speyside Way Move** – The new Speyside Way start/terminus gained a ministerial approval last weekend when it was formally reopened. Scottish Transport Minister Stewart Stevenson MSP was on hand last Saturday morning to do the honours at its new location just off the Stroup Brae (North High Street) and adjacent to the east car park, Cluny Place. Formerly based at the old Buckpool Harbour the distinctive stone markers denoting the start/terminus point were relocated by Buckie Area Forum's Economic Regeneration Steering Group in order to attract more tourists into the centre of the town and encourage them to spend money in local businesses.

**10 Not Out** - Willie Milne, whose home for many years prior to staying with his daughter-in-law Sheila, was Blantyre Terrace, Ianstown, Buckie, celebrated his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in the Lythe Care Home, Cullen. Following war service during WW2 Willie took up employment with Hamilton Bros, Engineers, and Buckie where he was to remain for 40 years.

Among those who called to wish Willie all the best on his birthday were Vice Lord Lieutenant of Banffshire John Fowlie and local Councillor Ian Gray. R Fowlie presented him with no one but three birthday cards – one from Her Majesty the Queen, another from the Lord Lieutenant of Banffshire Clare Russell and one from himself – and a box of chocolates while Councillor Gray was delighted to hand over a bottle of whisky and a card on behalf of Aberdeenshire Council.

Willie lost his wife Lena 14 years ago and also his only son Bill, five years ago.

**Buckie Flower Show** - Despite the wet inclement weather conditions, during the month of July when the area experienced a higher than average amount of rainfall the organisers of Buckie and District Flower Show had to

be pleased that there were over 500 entries. They were also pleased to find a fair number of visitors turning out to view the exhibits.

The President, Ms Marion Mitchell, declared her happy with how things had gone and said how she had received positive feedback from many who had attended either as an exhibitor or a spectator.

The exhibit judged as the Best in the Show was a tapestry showing a young girl which was created by Heather Geddes.

The exhibitor gaining most points in the show over all was Mrs Gladys Smith, The Hunters, and Drybridge.

**New Headteacher at Portknockie** - A new chapter was opened for Portknockie Primary School last week as new Headteacher Karen Murray settled into her new role.

A teacher with 16 year's service, Rothes born and bred Miss Murray had as the school's Acting Head since last November until being confirmed as the permanent incumbent of the post on July 1, just before the start of the summer vacation.

As Miss Murray takes over her role as Headteacher the school has a roll of 64 pupils which is divided into three classes.

**Death of popular Buckie Teacher** - A much respected and well-known former Buckie teacher has died at the age of 74.

Grace Morrison, nee Moir, of Land Street, Buckpool, Buckie, taught at Cluny Primary School for 31 years, holding the post of Acting Headteacher when she retired in 1996.

Grace was born in Huntly and educated at Huntly, Aberdeen, Strichen and Fraserburgh before going to Aberdeen University where she graduated with an MA degree in English and History.

Her first teaching job was at St Peter's Buckie, where she taught English and it was during her time there that she met her future husband Hector.

The couple went on to have two children, Cathy and Charlie and once Charlie had reached school age Grace returned to teaching.

Grace was a founder member of Buckie's speaking club, the Cameo Club and was a past President of Arradoul WRI. She liked knitting and would enjoy making baby clothes and shawls.

An interest in which she had a real passion was poetry and in particular Doric poetry. She was a member of the Scots Language Group in Buckie and would feature in many concert parties with Hector and would entertain many local groups with her Doric poetry.

Aug 31 **In Memory** – The memory of a Buckie man and his comrades who died aboard their Lancaster bomber on a raid over Germany in World War II have been remembered in the form of a special memorial plaque.

A moving ceremony in Brandau, some 25 miles from Frankfurt saw tribute paid to Flight Engineer Pilot Officer George Smith and his six fellow crewmen who were killed when their aircraft was shot down by a German nightfighter while on a raid on November 25/26 1943. The exact resting place of the Lancaster JB221 had remained a mystery for the past 70 years until time-worn pieces of wreckage were discovered in the forest outside Brandau

P.O. Smith, who was a brother of Alex and Jimmy Smith two noted local footballers, Joined the RAF in 1934 as an apprentice and was to fly 15 missions as Flight Engineer on Lancasters over Germany. At the time this represented quite a total and admirable survival rate with the average crew lifespan stretching to a mere three missions.

Present at the ceremony was P.O. Smith's nephew, Neil Smith, his partner Susan, his cousin Linda Ralph and her daughter Fiona together with descendents of the ill-fated crew members. The service at the memorial was taken by Pastor Hobson RAF who ended the ceremony with the Kohima Epitaph - - "When you go home, tell them of us and say: For your tomorrow we gave our today.

Sept 7 **Emma's Prom Date** - The musical talents of a young local string player were recently displayed when she had the honour of playing with the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain in the BBC Proms.

Viola player Emma Alexander of Hillhead Farm, Drybridge, enjoyed a two week course with the orchestra, which saw her perform in various concerts, attend seminars and receive expert tuition.

In a concert that received rave reviews and was broadcast on both television and radio recently the orchestra performed to approximately 600 people in the Royal Albert Hall.

**New faces at Buckie High** - Five new members of staff joined Buckie Community High School at the start of the new school year. They are – Ben Evans who has joined the Geography Department; John Henderson, Physics; Eilidh Mc Dougal, Music; Diane Somerfield, Maths while Louise Cameron is the new PT of Home Economics. Also joining the BCHS teaching team is Bill Duncan, who works part-time. He was formerly PT Technical subjects at Elgin Academy.

**Buckie welcomes new Church Ministers** - Rev Martin Keenan and his wife Anne recently moved into the Methodist Church manse on Titness Street, Buckie and now takes charge of the Methodist Church in Buckie, Portgordon, Portessie, Findochty, Cullen and Banff.

In his previous post in Eastbourne, Sussex, he had charge of nine different churches, so has said that there won't be much difference up here.

On Thursday September 9<sup>th</sup> the Rev Alan Macgregor BA BD was inducted as Minister of Buckie South and West linked with Enzie. (Portgordon.)

Sept 14 **Long trek by four brothers** - Four Buckie brothers recently completed a challenging sponsored walk around the north east coast from John O' Groats to Portessie to raise funds for the charity 'Children in Need.' Findlay, James, Errol and John arrived home in Portessie on Friday September 10 after a demanding nine day trek and were met by a large crowd of family and friends who cheered as they crossed the finish line. It was an emotional affair for the brothers who were tired and sore but delighted to see their loved ones. On arrival in Buckie they paid a visit to Burnside Cemetery, Rathven, as they dedicated their walk to their granny Bella, who died in January and grandfather Jeems.

**Champion of Champions** – Strathlene Golf Club member David Anderson was thrilled and honoured to take the top prize in the North East District Champion of Champions competitions.

David, from Portknockie, is the first golfer from the Buckie area to take the prestigious Champion of Champions title in the Scratch final. Only one other member of Strathlene has ever reached the final of the whole 26 years that the competition has been played.

The finals, held at Newburgh of Ythan, proved to be an emotional affair for David as he was watched by his wife Diane, son Jamie and daughter Hannah.

“It was a challenge and quite a close match,” said David. “When I won my kids came running towards me with massive grins on their faces. It was just such a great experience.”

**Portgordon have cause for double celebration** - Portgordon Village Hall committee were celebrating last week as they were offered the funding required undertaking a feasibility study with a view to renovating the hall. It was a double celebration for the committee as the news came on the same week that they launched the Portgordon Pensioners Lunch Club.

A good crowd of pensioners attended the first lunch club in the hall, held on Tuesday September 7. The club, which has around 25 members, will meet every Tuesday, to sit down at 12 noon for a tasty lunch and chat.

The weekly meetings have been made possible thanks to a £1553 grant from the Scottish Communities Foundation which was used to purchase a new cooker, pans and kitchen equipment.

To fund the study, the committee were given an offer of £10,000 of LEADER funding subject to match funding. Last week they were offered the matching from the Big Lottery Fund.

**To extend opening times** - Buckie and District Fishing Heritage Centre is to open its doors to the public during the winter season. This will be the first time that the Centre will be open at this time. The centre was due to close on September 24 for the winter but following a very successful summer season the decision was taken to keep the Centre open to the public from Monday September 27 to Thursday December 23.

During the winter period the centre will open Monday to Friday from 1.00pm-4.00pm.

**Goodbye – You will be missed** - The congregation of Buckie south and West Church paid tribute to locum minister Rev James Thomson as he retired from the post after four years. Rev Thomson and his wife Sheila were presented with cheques and flowers as a token of gratitude from the congregation. These were handed over by George Smith Stewardship convener, Mary Ritchie, Session Clark and Wilma Smith.

**As one goes another arrives** - The South and West Church formally welcomed their new minister Rev Alan Macgregor at his induction ceremony last Thursday.

Sept 21 **A fine wye tae blaw the cobwebs awa** - The annual Buckie 10K attracted a big crowd as it was held as part of the North East Scotland 10K Championships for the first time.

The 10K, now in its 11th year drew a total of 160 runners, with participants coming from as far afield as Inverness and Aberdeen.

The runners were flagged off by race starter Alec Ferguson and were accompanied by music on the pipes by Buckie and District Pipe Band. Members of 1<sup>st</sup> Buckie Boys' Brigade acted as marshals along the route while members of the Quine's Club provided refreshments.

The first male and female runners to breast the tape each received prizes comprising £50 in cash and a further £50 in vouchers.

Taking the Emil Wojcik Trophy for first male runner to reach home was Robbie Patterson from Forres harriers with a time of 33.49 secs. The second male to cross the finish line three seconds later was Gary Jenkins of Moray Road Runner. He was also the first veteran home. Taking fourth place was Frankie Barton from Keith and District and he was the first super veteran with a time of 34.05.

Melissa White of Inverness Harriers was the first lady to cross the line, with a time of 35.05. She was presented with the Louis Jannetta Trophy. The Rhodella Trophy awarded to the first female veteran went to Lindsay Brae of Macduff

**They were well known** - Buckie lost three well known personalities within the past few days with the deaths of John Alexander Watt, Robert (Bert) Dawson and Norman Anderson.

John Watt was a policeman for over 30 years serving in Buckie with Grampian Police Force from 1974 till 1985. He was a past president of Buckie Speakers Club and Buckie and District Probus Club. He was 78.

Bert Dawson, of 36 Land Street, Buckpool, became well known as a successful exhibitor of all manner of plants at flower shows held in the area inevitably, in his time, taking the trophy awarded to the exhibitor gaining most points over all. He was 92.

The last of the trio Norman Anderson, a native of Findochty who lived at 2 Merson Street, Buckpool, died in Dr Gray's Hospital in Elgin at the age of 56. Norman earned fame as a most successful athlete who had survived three transplants and three strokes and still managed to win gold medals.

Norman first began to have kidney problems whilst serving on board an oil rig supply boats in the late 1970 saw him require to have three transplants in 1980, 82 and 90 this did not stop him from becoming active in a great number of sports, competing at venues all over Britain and winning a vast number of medals.

Sept 28 **Plans for New Community Centre** - Neighbourhood services in the Buckie area took a significant step forward last week when plans to convert and refurbish a former NHS clinic on Cathcart Grove into a community facility were lodged.

Buckie Community Kist (BCK), formerly known as the Milton Drive Community Project have submitted an application to Moray Council that would see the currently empty and unused building transformed into a base for a range of services benefiting the whole town.

The new facility would replace the current base at The Well at the corner of Well Road and Milton Drive which was officially unveiled in November and has become so popular that space has become something of a problem. The new place is much larger with room for facilities not available at The Well.

**Baptist Church Undergoes Revamp** - - Work has got underway on extensive revamping works at Buckie Baptist Church. Major changes are underway that will affect both the inside and outside of the building which is celebrating its centenary year. The project has seen a large commitment made by the church, as well as a concerted fund-raising effort by its members over the last two years or so. A photograph on page 5 shows some of the congregation together with the minister Rev Vincent MacDougall involved in some of the basic foundation work.

**Harbour Log** - Two fishing boats called into Buckie harbour last week to land their catches which comprised in total 42 boxes of white fish, prawns and squid. The boats were – Charisma and Osprey.

There was more activity on the cargo side with four vessels being in port at some time in the week. The MV Scot Carrier (British) arrived light from Invergordon. She left the following day bound for Varberg in Sweden with a cargo of pulpwood logs weighing 2071.000 tonnes.

A Dutch vessel, MV Flinterbright came in light from Sharpness. After taking on board a skid package (for the oil industry) she set sail again the same day bound for Mongstad in Norway.

A second British-registered vessel, the MV Scot Explorer came in from Kilroot in Ireland carrying 2390.660 tonnes of rock salt, which will be used on local roads during the winter. She sailed light for Invergordon.

The last visitor of the week the Norwegian-registered MV Anette arrived light from Aberdeen. She left the following day bound for New Ross with a cargo of animal feeding pellets weighing 1456.260 tonnes.

**Heavy Rain Brings Flooding** - Continuous heavy rain last Wednesday and into Thursday caused localized flooding and made for difficult conditions on the roads.

The roads around Arradoul, Lintmill and Cullen Bay were particularly affected by flood water flowing off the fields with the A98 badly affected from Enzie Cross Roads to Cullen.

Local burns burst their banks flooding water on to many fields.

ScotRail trains services between Keith and Elgin were suspended due to flooding.

Oct 5 **Best in Scotland** - Buckie Co-operative staff were on cloud nine last week after the store was named the best of its kind in Scotland within the retail group.

The store on East Church Street came top of the medium size category, beating off competition from across Scotland. It will go forward to the national final of the competition, and the overall winner will be announced at the Co-operative's 'Good With Food' Awards in November.

The national title will be one that Buckie are also attempting to retain, having captured it in no little style in 2009. Stuart Campbell, Manager of Buckie Co-operative has 47-strong team of staff.

**Portessie Hall gain big cash grant** – There were celebrations aplenty last week for the hard-working volunteer team who run Portessie Public Hall when they received a substantial grant from the Lottery-funded 'Awards for All'

The Management Committee has a number of different uses earmarked for the £8700 grant windfall, as chairman Bill Cooper explained.

"The very generous grant will fund the installation of solar panels to help heat the hot water for the hall and hopefully reduce ever increasing electricity bills.

The funding will also pay for the purchase of decking to provide an outside area for hall users and to allow us to expand fund-raising activities, as well as the installation of paving slabs to permit easier access to the side entrance."

**Financial support for the RNLI** - Buckie RNLI received two substantial cash donations recently. The residents of Burnside Court a Sheltered Housing complex on the banks of the Buckie Burn, Buckpool dressed a doll they had christened Lifeboat Lucy in a lifeboat outfit knitted by ladies at the complex with funds being raised through the sale of the patterns used and also a guess the birthday competition. Patterns and tickets from the competition was sold by businesses from Elgin to Cullen who also supplied the prizes given to the winner of the birthday guessing competition. This was won by Mrs Jenny Miller of Portknockie who received a meal for two at the Old Coach House Hotel, a free haircut at Flick's Hairdresser's, Portgordon, a box of chocolate and a bottle of champagne.

A monster cheque for £927 was handed over to lifeboat crew member Kevin Herd who thanked Mrs Dot Bremner, warden and the other organisers for their generosity.

The second major donation of £1180 was given by Glen Campbell who runs Event4U and is also owner of the Aurora restaurant at Strathlene.

Glen and his team were heavily involved in the catering which took place at a number of events held during the week of June 12-19 to celebrate Buckie RNLI'S 150 year anniversary celebrations and felt that he wanted to do something to help the cause.

Oct. 12 **Fishermen's Hall Closure Threat** - Buckie's Fishermen's Hall first opened in January 1<sup>st</sup> 1886, having been built by the fishermen of Buckie for the community, could face closure as part of the potentially savage cuts in the provision of community halls in the local area, moves which have been branded as a 'massacre'.

Leaked details obtained by the 'Advertiser' from the forthcoming public consultation on proposed cuts to Moray Council's budget show that not only could the Fishermen's Hall face the chop, it could be joined by the Town House, Buckie Community Centre, Portgordon Community Centre, Findochty Town Hall, Cullen Town Hall, and Cullen Community Centre. Such a move would also see staff redundancies.

**Rotary Six Harbour Walk** - Good causes large and small benefited from the funds raised through Buckie Rotary's Six Harbour Walk and Cycle event held this year on Sunday May 2, and which generated the sum of £18,500.

Primary charities for this year were Help for Heroes and Erskine Scotland, both of whom seek to look after Armed Forces veterans and those who have been wounded in the line of duty, with each receiving £5000

Being handed £1000 were 1<sup>st</sup> Company Boys' Brigade, which with 250 officers and boys is the largest company in the UK. In line for a boost of £500 were "Buckie Thistle Football Development; Buckie Friends of Guiding; The Quines' club; AMP; Junior Jog Scotland; Buckie and District Pipe Band; 1<sup>st</sup> Cullen Guides.

A further £4000 will be used by Buckie Rotary for charity use.

**Death of former Thistle player** - Andy Morrison, a native of Buckie and a joiner to trade, who played for Buckie Thistle from 1954 through to 1960, apart from the period when he was on National Service from 1957-1959, passed away on September 28.

**Cash help for Heritage Centre** - Buckie Fishing Heritage Centre received the sum of £5000 from Buckie Common Good Fund. The money will be used to purchase digital audio and video equipment to record interviews with members of the community to form an archive of the area's past and heritage.

**Portsoy woman medal winner** –Kay Copland, 20, of Portsoy along with her shooting partner Jen McIntosh, Aberdeen, claimed a gold for Scotland in the 50m Women's Rifle Prone Pairs as well as a bronze in the Women's 50m Rifle 3 Positions Pairs at the Commonwealth Games being held in Delhi, India.

Oct 19 **Harbour Log** - Last week 17 fishing boats called into Buckie Harbour to land their catches. In total this comprised 437 boxes of white fish, prawns and squid together with 192 bags of scallops. The boats were: Vigilant, Reward, Blue Sky, Carisma, Enterprise, Radiance, Osprey, Moray Endeavour, Kestrel, Deeside, Pegasus, Jenna Maree, Carona, Beryl, Shekinah, Heather Sprig and Shaulora. One cargo vessel paid a visit. This was the MV Anette, registered in Norway that arrived light from Lerwick on October 9th and left again three days later bound for St Petersburg with a water treatment package, weighing in total 236.518 tonnes on board.

**The 'Mannie at the Pool'** The death took place on October 9<sup>th</sup> of David Addison (50) who spent all his working life of 35 years working at Buckie Swimming Pool and rightfully acquired the soubriquet of 'The Mannie at the Pool'. David began working there part time while still at school before becoming fully employed rising to the position of Senior Leisure Supervisor. He hadn't enjoyed good health for a long time and his passing marked the end of a battle with illness which he bore with typical dignity and courage. He was described as 'one of a kind' and also 'a man who touched so many lives' by his partner of 14 years Shirley Cowie and his elder brother John.

**Pakistan Flood Relief** - Soup and sweet lunches served in Cullen Town Hall recently raised the sum of £1400 for the Pakistan Flood Appeal. The congregation of Buckie North Church through their Harvest Envelopes raised the sum of £1,815 for the same fund which had been sent off.

**Class reunion** - A goodly number of those who began their secondary education at Buckie High School in August 1972 met for a reunion in the Royal British Legion Hall recently. All together there was a party of 140 which included former pupils, and their wives and partners. One former pupil, now domiciled in Chicago, was present while others travelled from various parts of the British Isles. Two of the main organisers of the event were Lynn Lauriston (nee McIntosh) and Vanessa Gunn (nee Jappy). Teachers present were – Alistair Ingram (Technical), Ian MacPherson (Geography), and George Christie (Science). Two charities are set to benefit from the evening, with Buckie British Legion Pensioners' Christmas Dinner and Buckie and District Fishing Heritage Centre both set for a boost to their coffers.

**Librarian retired** - Mrs Charlotte Campbell, who had worked in the Buckie Library since 1995, latterly as Senior Library and Information Assistant, retired recently through ill health. At an informal ceremony held in the library she was presented with a gift from Alistair Campbell, Libraries and Museums Manager, Moray Council, and also received jewellery, vouchers and a bouquet of flowers as a token of respect in which she is held.

Oct 26 **Buckie's first Continental Market** - Buckie's Cluny Square became a window on the world last Friday and Saturday as the town's first ever Continental market set up shop. The usual weekend shopping scene was displaced by a riot of colour and aromas as people from the local area and further afield came to see over 25 traders from France, Belgium, Italy, Spain Poland and the Netherlands ply their wares. In addition to the foodstuffs, of which there was a great variety, fair trade produce such as arts, handicrafts and wooden carvings from Africa, south East Asia and Latin America were also on display.

**From one Search and Rescue organisation to another** - Buckie's RNLI Lifeboat Station received a four-figure boost from their colleagues in the RAF last week thanks to the sales from a limited edition print. A cheque for £2500 was handed over at the Lifeboat Station last Thursday afternoon by Squadron Leader Nigel 'Buster' Edwards as well as a copy of the print, which depicts a Nimrod MR1 plus three versions of the MR 2. The print was commissioned to commemorate the retiral of these aircraft from active service after 41 years. Nimrods past and present have been a vital component of the country's search and rescue system along with the RNLI and Coastguard, to name but two. A total of £5,300 has been raised so far from the sales of the print and this has been split between the RNLI and the Children's Ward at Dr Gray's in Elgin. A photograph shows crewmember Lynne Pirie accepting the cheque from Squadron Leader Edwards, Mechanic and Second Coxswain Gordon Lawtie displaying a copy of the print while other crew members David Grant, Carl Cowie, Craig Wilson and Brian Cowie look on.

Nov 2 **New Supermarket opens in Buckie** – It was a subject that generated a lot of opinions both for and against over the course of the last few years but the talk ended on Monday when the new Buckie Tesco store was officially declared open in no little style.

Doing the honours was Lifeboat Operations Manager Joe Herd and Coxswain Alan Robertson from Buckie RNLI, and it was certainly a day for the life-saving search and rescue charity to remember in more ways than one when they were presented with a cheque for £1000 from the retail giant. The first customers through the door were also offered champagne, orange juice and cake.

Store manager John Junor said: “We are delighted to have donated to RNLI Buckie. It is a fantastic organisation which does great work in the local community. I would also like to thank my staff who worked so hard to make the new store such a success. The store looks great and I am proud of their hard work.”

Mr Herd was keen to thank Tesco for their generous donation, stressing that it would help lives at sea.

The new store has been built on the outskirts of Buckie in a field to the right of the Toll Bar road and on ground that once formed part of the farm lands of Mains of Buckie.

**Buckie Travel Club** - Forty members of Buckie Travel Club met up at the Marine Hotel recently where they enjoyed a special meal to celebrate their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

President Lilian Jappy gave the welcome address and Veronica Innes the Tourists’ Prayer. The grace before the meal was said by Margaret Cooke.

Two former members Eileen Smith and Doreen Watt cut the celebratory cake.

The after dinner speaker was Charles McKay who transported members from Main Street, Buckpool, to main Street, USA and enthralled his audience with his informative and humorous talk, giving a light hearted comparison between some of the best known American tourist attractions and life on Main Street, Buckpool in the 1940’s

Buckie Travel Club began in 1985 with Marjory Wheatley at the helm and six like-minded travellers who liked to share their experiences and adventures. Over the years the club has flourished.

The club meets in the Community Lounge at Buckie Community High School on the second Tuesday of each month.

Nov 9’ **The Buckie Drill Hall** - The building on West Church Street erected and opened in 1878 for the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion Volunteers, Gordon Highlanders, later to be known as the Territorials was on offer for rent or sale. In earlier years the front part of the building was divided into two shops. The building which was largely destroyed by fire in 1935 and reopened two years later ceased to be used by the Military many years ago and became a social club, known as Buckie Thistle Social Club appeared to go downhill after the opening of a Function Hall at Victoria Park opened in the mid 1990’s with numbers using it becoming less and less.

**Former Shipyard Director Dies** - The death took place in a hospital in Stirling on September 21 of Ronald Ian Sinclair (Ian) aged 73. He was Managing Director of Herd and Mackenzie Shipyard in 1985 following the buyout by the management of the business from the Fishermen’s Mutual Association. He was also a past President of Buckie Rotary.

**Arts and Crafts** the third fair of this nature took place in Buckie on Saturday. Such is the fame of event grown that this year with 45 stalls requiring space both the Fishermen’s Hall and the Town House Hall were pressed into service as venues. Refreshments were supplied by volunteers from the local RNLI in the Fishermen’s Hall with morning teas and coffees being followed by hot snacks at lunchtime and rounded off with afternoon teas, including home bakes and shortbread. Refreshments in the Town House were provided by volunteers from local group Knitting Nanas.

To add to the entertainment on the day local group The Billhillies, featuring ‘Billy’ with Neil Hankin and Ronan Fitzimmons, providing a mix of Christmas, Country, Scottish, Scottish and Irish music in the Fishermen’s Hall first and later in the Town House. Such was the success of the event that it is planned to use different venues in the future.

**Proposed budget cuts discussed** - There was a full house in Buckie Community High School Hall last Monday evening when proposed cuts to Moray Council’s budget were put before the public for comment.

**Harbour Log** - Last week eighteen fishing boats called into Buckie harbour to put ashore their catches. The combined catch comprised – 631 boxes of white fish, prawns and squid together with 105 bags of clams. The boats were – Courage, Kelly, Carisma, Discovery, Osprey, Harvest Reaper II, Shekinah, Carona, Valkyrie, Deeside, Jenna Maree, Reward, Blue Sky, Shalimar, Vigilant, Aspire, Pegasus and Transcend.

Tow cargo boats paid a visit. The MV Scot Explorer, a British-registered vessel, came in light from Swansea on October 31 and left again on November 2 bound for Varberg in Sweden carrying a cargo of pulpwood logs weighing 20009,000 tonnes

The Danish-registered MV Uno came in from Kings Lynn on November 3 with 1507.880 tonnes of malt on board. She sailed light for Mistley two days later.

**Highland League football** - Following their win of 2-1 over Huntly at Victoria Park on Saturday the Thistle lead the Highland League with 28 points from 11 games played; Turriff United coming second with 25 points from 13 games played.

**Junior Football** – A complete reversal of fortune exists for Buckie Rovers who after being beaten by Inverness Thistle on Saturday are bottom of the League 1 having only one game in the league this season.

Nov 16 **Remembrance Sunday** - Large crowds once again turned out on Sunday at all the war memorials in the local area from Deskford via Dallachy, and Bellie to Fochabers. To mark the sacrifice of members of the armed forces in two world wars and conflicts since that time. The ceremony at Buckie was organised by the Royal British Legion with a parade of legionnaires being led by commander, ex-serviceman Peter Reid. The salute was taken by John Grant who did his National Service with the Gordon Highlanders. And a long standing member of the Legion

The service at the war memorial was conducted by Rev Canon Jeremy Paisey of All Saints, Scottish Episcopal Church in the company of ministers from various kirks in the town and the Salvation Army.

Wreaths at the Buckie War Memorial were laid by Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Banffshire Alan McIntosh, Moray Councillor, for Buckie Joe Mackay, Territorial WO2 Peter McPhee, Cathy Calder of Buckie British Legion and Allan Fraser from Buckie Community Council. Others were laid on behalf of the Red Cross and the ACF.

The 'Last Post' and 'Reveille' were sounded on the bugle by while piper Robbie Innes of Buckie Pipe Band played the haunting pipe tune 'The Flowers o' The Forest'.

**Birthday boy sees his team win** - A lifetime member of Buckie Thistle Football Club spent a special birthday doing what he loves best – watching his team win on the field.

Joe Jappy celebrated his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday at Victoria Park on Saturday November. watching Buckie Thistle beat Huntly by two goals to one.

Joe said, "I had an excellent day I received lots of gifts and I was very touched by everyone's well wishes. Seeing the Jags win 2-1 was just the icing on the cake."

Joe was presented with a beautiful cake from the club and after the match 90 balloons were released from the stand.

**Shoebox Appeal** – Buckie Baptist Church was overwhelmed by the generosity shown by the public as they continued to show their support from the annual Blythswood Care Christmas Shoe Box Appeal.

A dedicated team of volunteers packed and checked 1108 shoe boxes which have now been dispatched and on their way to Romania in time to spread some Christmas cheers to those who would otherwise not receive a festive gift.

The Blythswood Care shoe boxes are this year destined for Bulgaria, Hungary, Moldova, Pakistan, Romania and Serbia. Last year's appeal saw a total of 128.000 shoeboxes distributed by the charity.

Nov 23 their long Service to Deskford area Honoured - Two members of Deskford and District Community Association were recently recognised for their long service to the group.

Willie Taylor and Jackie Smith retired from the Association after each having served for more than 40 years.

To honour their loyalty and dedication the men were presented with some beautiful paintings at the recent Harvest Home event held by the Community Association. The paintings were created by Association member Mary Jesson. She said: "Jackie's painting showed him in the field with his sheep and Willie's showed the old Deskford Church hall, the school and kirk." Both men were thrilled with their paintings.

**Rotary Post Service** - Buckie Rotary are gearing up for their second year running the local Christmas Post.

Last year saw the Rotary take over what had previously been the Scout Post, (The Scout Troop is meantime in abeyance) with around £3000 being raised for local charities as a result.

**Community Council honour long serving member.** At the November meeting of Buckie Community Council Allan Fraser who first joined the council in 1984 was presented with book vouchers by the chairman James Smith. Mr Fraser, a retired Geography teacher, carried on the dual duties of secretary and treasurer for twenty six years before retiring this year due to having a hearing problem.

Mr Smith told the 'Advertiser' that he and present members wished to pay tribute to Allan for all the time he has devoted to the Community Council. His local knowledge is valuable to the group and we are happy that he is to continue as a member.

For his part Allan said "I was truly taken aback by the gesture and obviously I have to thank my fellow members for the kind their kind thoughts and generosity the question of being paid in any way for what I did as a councillor never entered my head as I have been just happy being a councillor."

Besides attending meetings of the community council he has been in his time their representative on the Joint Community Councils of Moray, the Crime Prevention Panel and at the War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday.

**Seatown Shops on a DVD** – The shops of the Seatown in Cullen in days of yore are set to take centre stage thanks to a new, locally produced DVD.

'Cullen Craik – Seatown Shops' which is available for sale in local stores is the brainchild of duo Sandra Taylor and James Addison, both whom originally hail from the Seatown.

The DVD takes the form of the two of them taking a nostalgic wander through the Seatown and reminiscing about the many shops that once made a living there. Social history is part of the dialogue as well and is spoken in the Doric

A follow up DVD covering the shops that once were to be found in the upper part of the town is the pair's next project.

The present DVD is priced at £10 and is available from Cullen Corner Shop, Cullen Paper Shop, Cullen Deli Shop and the Coffee House on Cullen Square and Cullen Pharmacy

Mr Addison is a retired fisherman and although sight-impaired is no stranger to making DVD's having previously made the popular 'Scenic Walks around Cullen' disc.

Mrs Taylor spent her childhood in the Seatown and returned to the village a number of years ago after living in Newton Mearns, Glasgow, and has been a member of the Cullen, Deskford and Portknockie Heritage Group almost since its inception.

Nov 30 **Snow and still more snow** - Moray's turn to experience the snow came over last weekend as the region shivered under an icy white blanket.

The snow-covered roads and pathways may have looked very bonny and festive looking but there was little cheer for travellers and gritting crews handed the thankless - and endless- task of keeping the highways passable. It is recognised that although a considerable fall of snow had taken place along the coast, much more than has been experienced for a number of years, the depth was considerably more inland and towards the east.

**Medal for Korean War veteran** - A local Korean War veteran returned to his former battlefield in order to receive an honour from a grateful nation.

Bill Cecil, 80, who originally hails from Stirlingshire but has lived in the Buckie area for 50 years travelled halfway across the globe to join other former servicemen to receive the Korean Ambassador for Peace Medal by the Korean War Veterans Association at a special ceremony. He was accompanied by his daughter Rosella Smith.

Along with other veterans he was presented with the medal, a smaller dress variant of the medal and a pin badge bearing the same design.

Bill was a regular soldier, joining the Army Boy Service in 1945 where he trained as a radio technician. He was invalided out of the services in 1955 when he contacted M.S.

In Buckie he first worked as a TV engineer and instructor before going into partnership with Mike Harvey when they opened a Radio, TV and Music Shop on East Church Street.

**Former Footballer and Cricketer Dies** - A former Rovers and Buckie Thistle football player who also played for the Broch died last week at the age of 90.

William Geddes died suddenly on Thursday November 18, at Dr Gray's Hospital, Elgin.

Bill as he was better known was born in Buckie. He attended primary and secondary schools here before serving his time as a motor mechanic with Eddie Hillocks who had a garage business at 50 West Church Street.

At the start of the war in 1939 Bill volunteered for the RAF. Following training as an air mechanic he was posted to Rhodesia where he was to remain for the duration of the war.

Bill had a great love of football and played as a teenager for the 'Hotspurs' a team set up by R. Jappy in 1938 and which played in the local Welfare League. Mr Jappy was also a poet and wrote a poem about the 'Hotspurs' some time after the war had begun in which he mentioned, in verse, all those who played for the team, including Bill. Bill carried a copy in his wallet.

After the war Bill joined the Rovers, forming part of a team that was nigh invincible, playing in the Welfare League, winning the championship and numerous cups in their first season.

At the end of the season along with five others Bill joined Buckie Thistle but returned to the Rovers the following season when they were now playing in the Morayshire Juniors.

With the promise of a job in the Broch bill joined Fraserburgh F.C. in 1948 where he was to remain for two seasons. He scored two goals in his first game and was given much praise in a brief report given in the *'Banffshire Advertiser'*.

From 1947 until the end of the 1948 season Bill played cricket for Buckie coming in frequently as third man and knocking up some good scores as an accomplished batsman.

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**MS Anniversary Celebrations** - As the Buckie branch of the Multiple Sclerosis Society prepares to fold and awaits the formation of a new Moray Wide branch, members celebrated the branch's 40th anniversary.

A large group of members gathered at the Marine Hotel for a delicious meal and a fun quiz.

A cake had been baked for the occasion and a photograph on the *'Advertiser'* shows this being cut by Bill Cecil and Nan McKenzie.

Dec 7 **Festive Season Sparkle** - Last weekend saw three local communities extend a warm welcome to the festive season when they switched on their Christmas Lights.

Saturday saw Cullen and Portknockie light up their displays with Findochty doing likewise on Sunday.

While Cullen's switch on ceremony was cancelled for Saturday afternoon, the festive lights were nevertheless shining that evening

The lights at Portknockie were switched on by Jade McLean, the youngest pupil at Portknockie Primary School, while Leyla Calder was given the honour at Findochty.

**Charles extends his life story** - A Buckie author and prize-winning poet has seen his popular autobiography extensively extended and reprinted.

Charles Geddes has extended his autobiography, *'Love Lifted Me'* to cover the 25 years of missionary work in the West Indies that he and his wife Grace were involved in

Charles served his time as a mason with local firm A. Milne and Son before attending becoming a teacher as a mature student. Prior to taking up missionary work he was PT of R.E. at Buckie High School (A fuller report may be read on page 7 of this edition of the B.A.)

**Portgordon's St Andrew's Night success** - Portgordon folk rallied round and defied the weather recently in order to celebrate St Andrew's Day.

The Village Hall played host to an evening of food and entertainment on Friday November 26 to honour Scotland's patron saint. It was to prove a very successful one as Anne Banks, from Portgordon Village Hall Committee explained.

"There were over 90 people at the event despite the bad weather", she said. "It was a very successful night all round and we are delighted with the outcome.

The St Andrew's Night was the first event of its kind to be held in the hall for some time and marks yet another step in the Hall Committee's plans to thrust the facility into the forefront of the local community.

Mrs Banks continued by saying: "This was the first of a number of events to be held in the future to get the community behind the revamping of the hall. One of the ideas we have for next year is holding some sort of event to mark the Royal wedding."

**Ardach Art Exhibition** - There was plenty to celebrate at Ardach Health Centre in Buckie last Friday evening when the latest Art at Ardach fund-raiser got underway.

However, it was not just the artist's labours that painted a great picture; there were a number of upgrades to the facility being formally unveiled as well.

Being officially opened were a new on-site Normac Pharmacy and consulting rooms, as well as an updated website for patients.

Dec 14 **New book has names down to a 'Tee'** Buckie and District Fishing Heritage Centre Ltd., had plenty to be festive about last Wednesday afternoon when they played host to the launch of a new book on tee-names.

Tee-names or social nicknames, were popular in Buckie and other fishing communities in the past to differentiate between people who had the same Christian and surnames and amongst other uses, also between the various strands of the same surname.

It is these, as well as a welter of trade advertisements, which have formed the basis for Heritage Centre member David Fowler's book *'A Closer Look at Tee names and Trade Advertisements from Portgordon to Cullen'*, which includes contributions from Allan Fraser, also a member of the Heritage and Arnold Pirie a member of the Cullen, Portknockie and Deskford Heritage Group.

The book is the result of seven years labour for Mr Fowler, a former baker, who in past years has produced a number of works under the 'A Closer at ....' Title including Danish pastries and chocolate handling. Mr Fowler launched the book, which cost £12 and is available to purchase from the Centre and other sources, at a packed ceremony in the Heritage Centre.

**Harbour log** During last week four fishing boats called in to Buckie harbour to land their catches, which in total comprised 170 boxes of white fish, prawns and squid combined. The boats were Carisma, Blue Sky, Valkyrie and Scotia.

One cargo vessel paid a call. This was the British-registered MV Swift that came in light from Montrose on December 4 leaving again three days later bound for New Ross with a cargo of animal feeding pellets weighing 950.360 tonnes on board.

**SNP Christmas card competition** - A Buckie youngster has come out on top in a Moray-wide Christmas card competition.

The annual competition was run by Moray's SNP MSP and MP Richard Lockhead and Angus Robertson, who were delighted to unveil 13-year-old Buckie Community High School pupil Emily Allan last week as this year's overall winner. The winning card was revealed in a presentation at the Gallery at Elgin Library.

Emily and the two runner-ups were presented with art sets.

This year's competition was on the theme of 'Community' and entries were received from schools all over Moray. Emily's design will feature on the cards that will be sent out from the MP and MSP

The Christmas Card competition has been sponsored by the following companies – Robertson (Builders); Walkers, Aberlour; Gleaner Oils Ltd.; Forsyth's Rothes; Baxter, Speyside; Moravian Motors, Buckie and Elgin; Tennants Quarry and Timber Products; Mansion House Hotel and Country Club. Prizes for the winning entry and runner-up were donated by Moray Office Supplies.

Total sponsorship amounted to £900 with £450 being donated to the Samaritans.

Dec 21 **Winter renews its icy aspect** – Those with a long memory liked the wintry conditions to that of the winter of 1947.

It was widely predicted for around a week and the forecasters were not wide of the mark when Arctic weather returned to Scotland. After the mercury tumbled on Wednesday night which heralded hail showers and icy patches on the road, snow came in with a vengeance to the local area on Thursday morning.

Strong winds coming in from the north brought with them bitterly cold temperatures (-13 degrees in Buckie reaching record levels) and fanned drifting snow in many parts of Moray

Friday saw every local school, with the exception of Portessie Primary School, shut as the snow continued to fall

As the gritter crews and snow ploughs fought an unceasing battle to keep main routes clear the Police were again urging motorists to travel only if absolutely necessary.

**Buckie "Obvious Choice" for green energy base** - Significant opportunities await Buckie and the surrounding area thanks to a multi-billion renewable energy scheme planned for the waters of the Moray Firth Moray Councillors were told last week.

At a presentation Moray Council's Economic Development and Infrastructure Committee heard last Tuesday from Moray Offshore Renewables Ltd. (MORL), who are proposing to create a 200 plus turbine farm around 13 miles off the Moray coast, that Buckie and its harbour could provide a good onshore base for the project over the next 50 years.

**Rotary Post** – The Rotary Club of Buckie who for a second year took on the task of delivering Christmas mail to local householders, a scheme originally began by the now defunct Boy Scout Troop, delivered over 17,000 cards a considerable increase on last year's figure of 16000. All proceeds from the Rotary Christmas Post, which are believed to be in the region of £3000, will go towards Rotary and local charities.

**Cullen Beacon in place** – There was plenty to celebrate in Cullen recently when the long battle to secure a replacement beacon from the harbour bore fruit.

Replacing the historic beacon, which was seen as a listed structure, was a joint effort between the local community council, Moray Council, Historic Scotland and the local community. **A fuller report may be read on page 9**

**Firefighters collection** - Buckie firefighters who toured Portgordon, Portessie and Findochty besides Buckie itself on their annual fund-raising charity collection last week raised the sum of £2658 in the process. The figure was up on that of last year.

**Savings Vouchers** Following the great success of their Christmas voucher book which saw local businesses offering customers good deals, Buckie Business and Retailers Association are making plans for the launch of the second edition.

The Sale voucher book will be launched on the week beginning January 17 and local businesses have again put forward some fantastic offers which will run until February 28.

Consumers can pick one up, free of charge, from any of the participating businesses and from Buckie's new Tesco store.

**Labour candidate for local seat** - Banffshire and Buchan Coast Labour Party have announced that their Party Secretary and local solicitor Alan Duffill has been selected as their prospective parliamentary candidate for the 2011 Holyrood elections

The 41-year old, who lives in Macduff, is a partner in a Banff law firm where he practices family and court law.

**To Fly Lib Dem flag in Banffshire and Buchan coast** - Galen Milne has been selected by Banff and Buchan Liberal Democrats at their recent AGM as their preferred candidate to contest the new seat of Banffshire and Buchan coast at the Scottish election in May 2011.

Mr Milne, a former Highland League referee, is presently Managing Director of Thistle Scientific a, UK – wide supplier to the Life Science research sector.

**Buckie RNLI launch into cyberspace** - Buckie RNLI Lifeboat Station launched into cyberspace recently when their new website was officially unveiled.

Created by Portknockie web designer Neil Hedley, the site – [www.buckielifeboat.co.uk](http://www.buckielifeboat.co.uk) – features a whole wealth of information and up to date news about the station, the lifeboat and her volunteer crew, as well as chance to join in various fundraising activities throughout the year.

One of those who helped get the ball rolling on the project was Deputy Launching Authority Adam Robertson

**Friends of Seafield Hospital** - As they have done since coming into being in the early 1980's the Friends of Seafield bought, wrapped and delivered Christmas parcels to patients in the hospital at this time. Among the Friends involved this year was Alistair Robson, chairman, Betty Gauld, vice chairman, Nan Clark, Shona Mair, and Jackie Pirie.

**Halls saved as Council caves in** – It was the best Christmas present those battling to keep local community halls and centres open could have wished for last week when Moray Council dramatically binned their highly controversial closure plans.

Outrage greeted possible moves to axe a total of seven facilities in the locals area – the Fishermen's Hall, Town House and Community Centre in Buckie, Portgordon Community Centre, Findochty Town Hall and the Town Hall and the Community and Residential Centre in Cullen - as well as reduce the opening hours at Buckie Swimming Pool and close Cullen Library.

This was reflected in the massive local response on the subject to the Council's public consultation on the budget and saw nearly 150 people turn up at the consultation meeting held in Buckie Community High School in November.

**Winter keeps a cold, icy grip** - Pictures in the local paper show parts of the town well blanketed with snow. Local Police Sergeant Ian Docherty said–“ heavy snow and sub-zero temperatures have made road conditions fairly treacherous and folk need to take the conditions into account when they are out and about over the festive period and ensure that they have made provision to get home safely.”

**Final tribute to Buckie MS Society branch** - With the Buckie branch of the Multiple Sclerosis Society sadly closed down their Vice chairman, Linda Smith, felt moved to write a poem looking back on the many years of service they gave local people with the condition

The poem is a thank you to everyone who supported them all these years in so many different ways, and comes with best wishes for the new year.

The poem is entitled *'Finale Tae Buckie Branch* and can be found on page **5 columns 1, 2 and 3.**

**Generous Friends** - Seafield Hospital has taken delivery of three new pieces of equipment thanks to the generosity of Friends of Seafield and their supporters.

Hospital staff were proudly showing off two new turning discs and an electric hoist recently, which has been provided thanks to the Friends' fundraising efforts and are set to be pressed straight into action on the wards.

One of those delighted with the latest donation to be made by the group was Hospital Manager Wendy Edwards, who described the new equipment as 'invaluable.'