

2011

Jan 4

Snowbound streets and pavements strongly criticised - - The heavy snow of the past few weeks gave people across the Buckie area and wider afield little to cheer about. Although the Council made efforts to clear the main streets in the Buckie itself the minor streets and all the pavements received little or no attention. The small tractor sent round with a plough on the front and a gritter at the back was a waste of time. Not only was the snow cleared off the pavements but they in turn became extremely dangerous when the snow at times turned to ice. The number of people who sustained broken limbs through falling was considerable.

One of those who vented his anger was Councillor Douglas Ross, Fochabers, who called for the way that resources were allocated to be reviewed and highlighted the dangers which often faced members of the public if snow and ice was allowed to build up on the pavements and pathways during an extended period of harsh weather such as has been experienced over the past few weeks. He said that he would have liked to have seen those on Community Service doing more to assist in the clearing up.

Taches grown and money gathered - A local darts team have raised over £2000 for the charity Breast Cancer by ditching their razors for a month.

The lads from the Marine Hotel darts teams who play in the Buckie league, played their part in the recent Movember fundraiser which involved growing a moustache for the duration of November

As well as collecting sponsors the group finished up with a big part night in the Marine with a big raffle, a pool competition and Wii dancing. There was a disco afterwards, with good fun all round. One of those behind the scheme, which went on to raise £2166, was hotel resident Ben Russell, who works on the catamarans servicing the offshore wind turbines near the Beatrice oil platform in the Moray Firth.

Firefighters Fund Handout - Money from the Buckie Firefighters' Charity Fund was distributed recently to two worthwhile causes.

The money was raised through various fund-raisers throughout the year, including a car wash and Christmas collection.

A total of £200 was presented to the Buckie OAP Association and a further £200 was presented to John Bowie, in support of his volunteer work in Africa.

John had visited Africa earlier this year with a group of 15 volunteers from Platform Two. He was involved in teaching at a youth centre, crèche and nursery and assisted with the general maintenance of the facilities there.

"It was a great experience and I plan to go back again next year," said John. "I am very grateful for this donation from the Buckie firefighters. It will be used to fund a shipping container."

"A friend from Birmingham, who was also on the trip, has held a number of fundraisers and has managed to buy a lot of toys, educational aids and supplies for the facilities. This £200 will fund the shipping container to get the things over there."

Jan 11

New Year's Day Arrival - New Year brought extra cause for celebration for one Buckie family as they welcomed a new addition to the family. Stuart and Katie Innes, of Cluny Terrace, Buckie, welcomed their new daughter into the world at 11.09am on New Year's Day

Lexie Innes weighed 7lbs 10.5 ozs and was the only baby born at Dr Gray's Hospital, Elgin, on New Year's Day.

Big sister, eight-year-old Regan was delighted to welcome home her baby sister and all grandparents are fair chuffed at the new arrival.

Local BB's Quiz Kings Four young members of the 1st Company Buckie Boys Brigade showed that they were top guns when it comes to Quiz competitions when they won Banffshire Battalion Junior section Top of the Form held in Macduff recently. The four lads were Drew Coull, Mitchell Adam, Karl Thomsen and Euan Strowger. They were up against teams from Macduff itself, Banff, Turriff and Huntly, and the quartet vanquished opponents Turriff in the final.

Gordonstoun and Aberhouse Pupils Give Cash Aid to RNLI Buckie RNLI enjoyed a four-figure boost to their finances thanks to some summer fun and games.

However, this was not due to any gratuitous levity on the part of the volunteer crew of the local RNLI lifeboat, the 'William Blannin' but rather the hard work of a group of Moray schoolchildren and their parents.

On hand at the Lifeboat Station to hand over a cheque for £1700 were representatives from Aberhouse School, the Junior School for the world-famous Gordonstoun. Generating the cash was the school's annual Highland Games, and joining youngsters from the school on the trip to Buckie were the Highland Games chairpersons from 2010 and 2011- Claire Griffiths and Brian Campbell respectively and Headteacher John McVean.

Buckie Fiddler Unveils long awaited album - An accomplished local musician is set to celebrate the glories of Scottish traditional fiddle music with his new and long awaited CD.

Douglas Lawrence, who hails from Buckie, his family living in Elsley Place, but is now based in Glasgow, has unveiled 'the Farewell' a collection of 14 tracks featuring many of the different styles which have made Scottish folk fiddle music renowned the world over. Over 30 tunes are contained within the album, which covers material from the 18th century to the present day. His Buckie roots are not hidden under a bushel, and the cover of the CD features Mr Lawrence at the local harbour.

Jan 18

Portessie Kids Boost Water Aid - Bringing clean water supplies to the mountainous small nation of Nepal was one of the main topics on the agenda for P6-7 youngsters at Portessie Primary School of late.

Visiting the school recently was Chris Sugden (former rector of Buckie Community High School) and a member of the local Rotary Club who was there to talk about the charity Water Aid. The pupils used the opportunity to hand over a cheque for £625.25 for the charity.

Headteacher Alison Vass said: "The pupils held a bring and buy sale and dress as you please day for Water Aid, which raised £625.25, and they were delighted to present it to Chris Sugden when he came along to do his talk

Mr Sugden and his wife Lynne accompanied their son, who left Buckie a geography research fellow at Stirling University on a 10-day journey in a remote area of Nepal last month. On this trek we stayed with wonderful families, six day's walk from the nearest road, which struggled to have access to good water and sanitation.

He told the children of what a beautiful country Nepal was and tried to explain the differing needs people had living in the Himalayan foothills the plains of Terai and in cities such as Kathmandu.

Buckie Rotary Club has had a long tradition of international service with last year seeing work done with primary schools to raise awareness of the need for Shelterboxes in disaster areas.

Shelterboxes provide a range of essential basic tools, utensils, and other equipment for families who have been made homeless due to disasters.

Schools themselves raised funds to purchase boxes, which have been sent to disasters in places such as Haiti, Brazil and Pakistan

Cullen Knitters Keep Craft Going. A team of Cullen ladies have been using their knitting talents to offer comfort to others and they hope to encourage more people to get involved and keep the traditional craft alive.

The Knit 'n' Yarn group meets every Wednesday morning at 10.00am, in Cullen Community Centre and would welcome anyone who would be interested in joining the group.

Members produce some impressive individual pieces, including hats and blankets, which go a long way to offer cheer to those in need.

A number of the group are currently knitting squares, which will make blankets for the residents of Wakefield House Care Home in Cullen.

Hundreds of traditional hats have been made and sent to the Fishermen's Mission in Aberdeen to be used by foreign fishermen who fish off the shores of the northeast.

Over the years the group have supported a Christian project, which sends beanie hats to India, and some members have made quilts for seriously ill children through Project Linus.

One of the group Avril Bowie leads an after school knitting group for Cullen Primary School pupils with the help of some of the others who help out by teaching knitting to the pupils and supplying materials.

Jan 25

another late sickener for Jags - East Stirlingshire 1 Buckie Thistle 0 in the 3rd round of the Scottish Cup. 'Jags Man' aka Easton Thain writer of the Thistle's exploits wrote - To Coatbridge 1978, Stirling 2001 and Greenock 2007 you now have to add Stenhousemuir 2011 a, again the opposition delivered a sickening and fatal blow to the Jag's Scottish Cup hopes.

However, on this occasion the KO blow looked on the cards ever since a moment of complete and utter madness by two of the Jag's most experienced players as they faced off to each other just before half-time leading to one being booked and the other sent off thus reducing the Thistle to ten men. Despite that, the Jags dug in and a woeful home side looked unlikely to break them and had there been a replay at the Vicky then there is no doubt in my mind that the Thistle would

have hammered Shire, but a late error put paid to that and dreams of what could have been remained that, just dreams. (The two guilty players were Murray, who was sent off, and Stewart)

Portknockie Air Raid to be Commemorated - The 70th anniversary of a World War II bombing raid on a local village is to be commemorated next month in a special service.

February 19th 1941 saw Portknockie attacked by a German Ju 88 bomber, which was to go on to drop two bombs, which killed three people and left a number of other injured before embarking on a strafing run. The raid and the memory of those who were killed are to be marked on Saturday Feb 19, 2011 at a special service to be held in Portknockie Church of Christ, Seafield Street, at 10.00am.

One of the even organisers is Portknockie man CY Pirie, who is also a Committee member of the Cullen, Portknockie and Deskford Heritage Group. He has a personal link to the raid, as his aunt, Annabel Pirie, was the best friend of Margaret Mair, who died in the attack, aged only 16.

Radio Equipment step forward for Radio BCK- Radio BCK, Buckie's fledgling community radio station, took another step forward last week when broadcasting equipment was installed in the Town House. A room off the upstairs hall, which is being rented by Buckie Area Forum, will be the nerve centre of the new station.

Fishermen's Hall requires a face lift - Further calls were made last week for the facilities at the Fishermen's Hall in Buckie to be upgraded. The poor state of many aspects of the hall, opened first in January 1st 1886, including the toilets, kitchen and Supper Room, were raised at last week's January meeting of Buckie Community Council. Community Councillor Allan Fraser told his colleagues that it was definitely time to "look at revamping the facilities", a point enthusiastically taken on board by Chairman Jim Smith. He said, "Now that the Fishermen's Hall has been saved from closure by the Council, for a year at least, it needs a lot of work to be done to it. The Supper Room is just a disgrace and badly needs to be redecorated."

Probus Club honour the bard - Buckie and District Probus Club held a very successful Burns Lunch in the Marine Hotel last Thursday when a party of 5s, members, wives and friends, were welcomed by Chairman Eddy Gray. Before sitting down to a traditional feat of haggis, neeps and tatties.

Chef Steven Murray who followed piper Stuart MacMillan carried the haggis in. Alex Bruce gave a lively Address to the Haggis.

Hugh Patience gave the Selkirk Grace. John Legge gave the Toast to the Lassies with Edna Legge giving a spirited reply. Some of Robert Burns poems were enjoyed by the company, with Jim Pirie reciting 'Tam O' Shanter and 'John Anderson, Ma Jo' and Allan Fraser 'Lady Onlie, Honest Lucky', taking time to give some insight regarding the background to the poem, reputedly said to have been written, or at least refashioned by Burns, when he stopped in Buckie enroute from Fochabers to Cullen

Feb 1 **Thistle Cup Dream Lives On** - "You could not have made this up" - that was the reaction of Jags President Mark Duncan to a week that saw the Scottish Cup visit Buckie a mere 24 hours before the Thistle were dramatically thrust back into the competition.

Dumped out of the tournament 1-0 on January 19 by East Stirlingshire, Buckie Thistle fans awaited anxiously to see if they were to be granted a reprieve after it emerged that their fourth round opponents had played an unregistered player in the shape of 21-year-old goalkeeper Michael Andrews, who is on loan from Falkirk. Following the meeting in Glasgow of the SFA committee the Shire were thrown out of the competition and the Jags cup dreams were reborn, meaning that they, instead of East Stirlingshire, were to meet Brechin City, in the next round, a mouth-watering home tie at the Victoria Park this Saturday.

Community Kist Project - A local community initiative is seeking the support of people in the Buckie area as they stand on the threshold of a bold new future.

'The Well', the base of the Milton Drive Community Project, is in the process of expanding to become the Buckie Community Kist (BCK), which will serve an area stretching from Portgordon to Cullen. They area also looking to take over and renovate the former NHS clinic building at Cathcart Grove, which has lain unused for many years.

The chairman of the group Peter Souter highlighted that by becoming part of the BCK project members would be giving themselves the chance to have a very real voice in how it develops.

"At the moment we are sitting at around 100 members, but our target is 800-900, or even more if we can," he said. "Obviously, we would like to reach this as quickly as possible, so I would urge people to come along and sign up."

More Volunteers Wanted - Buckie Credit Union have launched a drive to attract more volunteers, which could see them extend the range of services they offer.

Based at 'The Well' on Milton Drive, Buckie, and the B.C.U. Covers not just the town itself but the surrounding area and is part of the North East Scotland Credit Union.

However, a vital component of this service, which offers members the opportunity to access affordable loans, is the volunteers.

Gordon McPherson, from BCU, said, "The more volunteers we can get the better, not just to support our current services but to allow us to increase our opening hours."

Sad times - Only one fishing boat called into Buckie harbour last week to put ashore its catch. This consisted of two boxes of white fish, prawns and squid. The boat was the Carisma

Trade was also slack on the cargo front too with but one vessel paying a visit. This was the M Finja, registered in the Cook Islands that came in from Ipswich with a cargo of malt on board. She left some days later, light, for the North Sea to await orders.

Lodge Bulwark Installation - A young local lad recently began his second year at the helm of Lodge Bulwark 1202 in Findochty.

Christopher Coull accepted the aster's role for a second year and a ceremony was held which proved to be a real family affair.

Many members from the Provincial Lodge attended the ceremony and Christopher's father; James a Past Master had the honour of taking on the role as Installing Master.

Christopher follows in the footsteps of his father who was Master in 1988 and 1990. He joined the Lodge Bulwark 1202 at the age of 22.

Joining the Masons has proved to be a family tradition of the Coull's with Christopher's grandfathers and Great grandfathers all members of Lodge Gordons 589.

BCHS Memorial Honours Holocaust Victims - Last week saw a corner of Buckie become a permanent memorial to those who perished in the greatest single act of inhumanity in the planet's history – the Holocaust Ahead of Holocaust Day on January 27, S2-3 pupils from Buckie Community High School, aided by Moray Council ground staff, spent last Tuesday planting a total of 105 trees on ground to the rear of the Technical blocks at the school. A bench was also installed in the area, which will provide a contemplative memorial to over six million Jews who were murdered by the Nazis in a brutal and remorseless campaign of extermination during World War II, the so-called 'Final Solution' helping along this novel and ongoing way to mark the Holocaust were BCHS Librarians Shelagh and Sarah Marsh. "S2-3 pupils have been learning more about the Holocaust this month during book talks in the Library and in Modern Language classes," said Mrs. Toonen

Feb 8

John Steps Down - Eight years of sterling service as the Vice Lord Lieutenant of Banffshire was brought to a close last weekend for Buckie man John Fowlie when he retired from the post on reaching 75, the retiral age from the post.

In honour of his dedication and commitment to the role Mr Fowlie was guest of honour at Ballindalloch last Saturday where he was presented with an engraved silver photograph frame on behalf of the Banffshire Lieutenancy by the Lord Lieutenant herself, Claire Russell

Paying tribute to Mr Fowlie's hard work since he took on the role in 2003, Mrs. Russell "There could not have been a more loyal or supportive Vice Lord Lieutenant than John, and I shall very much miss his help, his patience and his quiet wisdom."

Anyone for a game of Ludo, Snakes and Ladders or perhaps a game of Cards? - There was a chance both to relive fond memories for adults and discover a whole new way of gaming for the younger generation thanks to an innovative session at Buckie Library last week.

Last Wednesday afternoon saw local man, Easton Thain, manager of the Blythwood Book Shop on West Church Street set out a selection of his board and card games going back through the decades for the young and the young at heart alike to get to grips with. There were a whole host of pre-computer game classics, many of which survive to this day in some form or other, plus those which have been overtaken by time.

Jack's winning logo – St Peter's Primary School Parent Council has a fresh new face thanks to a successful competition which showcased pupil's artistic talents.

All pupils were asked to design a logo for the Parent Council representing the school's 'Working Together Everyone Achieves More' ethos.

The winning design, of five youngsters holding hands, came from P1 Pupil Jack Hutchieson and he received a voucher for his effort.

The competition was judged by Councillors Gordon McDonald and Anne McKay

The end of the line – Two classy finishes by two of Brechin City's Mc's, McKenna and McAllister at Victoria Park on Saturday ended the Jag's dreams of becoming only the second Highland League side to reach the quarter finals of the national competition but although Thistle were beaten by a better team on the day, every single player gave it everything he could and the team was far from being disgraced.

Buckie was represented by – Main, H. Munro, Duncan, Small, Morrison, Brown, Sutherland, MacRae, Charlesworth, Low and Davidson. Subs – Gardiner and Strong (G.K)

The only Buckie loon in the side was Davidson; Munro is from Fochabers, Main and Charlesworth from Lossiemouth with the rest from outwith the area. There was a crowd of 2.500 at the game. A bigger crowd had been hoped for but Moray Council Environmental Department put a limit of 2.600 persons who would be admitted on health and safety grounds.

A Farmer's dother retires - Kathleen Sharp, nee Boyd, clocked up 41 years with the Health Service, serving as a midwife for the last 28 years, delivering thousands of babies." I helped to deliver around 200 babies a year, so that adds up to a lot of babies, "said Kathleen

Kathleen is the second youngest daughter of the late Mr and Mrs. Ernest Boyd, formerly of Hillocks Farm, Inchgower, and Buckie. She comes from a big family of nine children, with all three of her sisters following a career in nursing.

Feb 15 **She made history** – Outstanding ability, attitude and application saw a young Findochty woman land her place in history after she was crowned with a top oil and gas industry award.

Sarah Coull, 18, was top of the class amongst her fellow apprentices when she scooped the coveted 2010 Apprentice of the Year by OPITO, the Aberdeen-headquartered oil and gas industry body. She becomes the first woman to win the prestigious prize, which judges students on their talents and attitude during the two-year college phase of their four-year apprenticeship scheme.

Ms Coull is currently training to become an instrument technician through full-time study at Jewel and Esk College in Edinburgh, one of four industry-appointed colleges in the UK.

She faced stiff competition from apprentice technicians across Scotland studying disciplines including mechanical, electrical, instrumentation and process.

To mark her achievement, Ms Coull was presented with a shield and a cash prize

The Holocaust Memorial Garden damaged – Staff behind the planting of a Holocaust Memorial Garden at Buckie Community High School expressed their 'disappointment' following mindless damage that had taken place. . At some point over the weekend of Feb 5-6 tree protectors and canes supporting the young trees were pulled out and the area left in a mess. It was reckoned that four or five trees had been lost, which were to be replaced with repairs undertaken at the site.

Feb 22 **"Black Day" Commemorated** – Victims of a terrifying bombing raid 70 years ago on Portknockie- described as one of the "blackest days" in its history- were commemorated at a special service in the village.

Villager's young and old alike turned out in force to pay their respects at the Church of Christ in Seafield Street; with the service itself times to coincide with the 10.00am cessation of the attack on a cold February morning in 1941.

Leading the service was Stewart Gray and the event featured a tribute by local man CY Pirie to those who were killed or wounded in the raid.

Harbour Log - Last week four fishing boats called into Buckie harbour to land their catches. The total catch was 542 bags of scallops.

Mar 1 **Babs Funding Axed** – Shock and outrage has greeted Moray Council's decision to axe funding to the Buckie-based BABS Dial –a Bus service

The elderly or disabled members of the organization, which has been running for the last 11 years, as well as their volunteers and nine members of staff, were left stunned when Moray Council's Public Transport Unit informed them by letter recently that their local authority funding contribution was to cease at the end of March as a result of the budget on February 10.

BABS Dial-a Bus service transports 500 elderly, disabled or disadvantaged Moray residents every month. These individuals live variously in Cullen, Portknockie, Buckie, Keith and Fochabers.

The people who use the service describe it as a lifeline for them, enabling them to do their shopping and get out of the house for doctor's visits and social outings.

As regards the withdrawal of funding from BABS Dial-a-Bus Council Deputy Convener Allan Wright confirmed that the funds would indeed be redirected to another service provider, which is to be Deveron Coaches. Two important questions have to be asked, why switch funding from an organization, which has proved its worth to another, which has still to earn its spurs. And most importantly will the all round service provided, i.e. suitable vehicles, and the necessary social help, carrying in messages for those unable to do so Be on a par with that which people presently enjoy.

Mar 8 **a change of heart** – BABS Dial –a-bus staff and clients were celebrating last week as Moray Council dramatically cave in to mounting pressure and granted them a funding reprieve. However, serious questions as to how this will be enacted and other ramifications of the Council climb down will see a number of councillors calling for a full investigation of the whole funding debacle at the appropriate committee.

Tribute Dinner - The Rotary Club of Buckie is to hold an Ian Middleton Tribute Dinner later this year. October 29 will see the event in honour of the late Mr Middleton of Arradoul (earlier of Whitefield Farm, Drybridge where his father Bob was tenant farmer) who was renowned for his Doric poetry and songs. This will be held in the Buckie branch of the Royal British Legion. He passed away in 1999.

Mar 15 **IT'S NAE a SCUNNER TAE be a HUNNER** - Sunday was a very special day for a grand old lady in Portknockie when she celebrated her 100th birthday. It was 100 not out for Helen Anderson of Pulteney Street as she marked the milestone birthday at a special party at the home of her niece, Helen Field, in the village's Admiralty Street. Friends and family gathered round to make the most of the occasion, with a warm and convivial party atmosphere the order of the day as people dropped in to convey their congratulations in person. John Fowlie, former Depute Lord Lieutenant of Banffshire, and Councillor Ron Shepherd, presented Mrs. Anderson with gifts on behalf of Clare Russell, Lord Lieutenant, and Moray Council respectively. Mrs Anderson lived for many years in Garmouth, remaining there after her husband died but moved to Portknockie five years ago into a smaller house and to be near Mrs Field and other family members.

Big Day for the Baptist Congregation – Saturday 12 March 2011 will go down as an historic day in the annals of Buckie Baptist Church, Cluny Place, when the building was officially reopened after an extensive revamp.

The church had reopened for Sunday services two weeks before.

Doing the honours at 2.00pm were Rebecca Munro and Janet Cowie, respectively the youngest and oldest members of the congregation. Around 200 people gathered to witness the event before enjoying the service, which followed. The day was rounded off with refreshments in the church hall.

While the building, which celebrated its centenary in 2010, by and large retains its traditional architecture on the outside, there are signs of the 21st century setting its own stamp. The roof now boasts solar panels, which will be used to provide constant ambient temperatures, which can be topped up when necessary from the gas-powered central heating.

An extension, featuring a new entrance, has been created at the Seaview Place side of the church, complete with a disabled access ramp.

The old windows have also been consigned to history with double-glazed replacements now in place to help keep the heat in and the draughts out. It is inside, however, that the greatest transformation has been wrought, quite literally from the floor upwards. Underfloor heating has now been installed throughout with new carpeting also having been laid. Gone are the old pews to be replaced with individual, comfortable seating the pulpit has been replaced and the church is now the proud possessor of a state of the art sound system.

The money to pay for the project, not a modest sum, was raised in a number of ways, including through offerings, concerts, a cook book, coffee mornings and a thrift shop.

The de facto project manager for the revamp was church member and experienced builder Duncan Urquhart, who was aided in accomplishing many of the labour-intensive tasks such as taking up the old floor by a legion of volunteers of which 'many of the best men were women' according to the church minister Rev. Vincent MacDougal.

Mar 22. **Buckie Student Probes Final Frontier Mysteries** - Twenty-two year old James Reid of Merson Street, Buckie a theoretical physicist, a graduate of Aberdeen University and who is presently studying at the

Perimeter Institute of Theoretical Physics in Waterloo, Canada. Is about to submit his first results to the Institute of Physics Journal in the form of a paper entitled 'Conformal Structures, Associated Bundles and the Barbero-Immirzi Parameter' which will likely appear later this year?

Mr Reid told the 'Advertiser' that his field of research- Quantum Gravity- explores topics as diverse as the birth of the very universe itself, with current theories in physics pointing to the fabric of existence being far more complex than has ever before been imagined.

"Theoretical physics investigates how the universe works from the smallest atoms to the largest galaxies," he explained. "It is surprising, but many of the everyday things we take for granted, like TV's microwaves and more recently the Internet, all came from advances in theoretical physics." (See more on page 1 of the B.A.

How the Banffshire Advertiser has changed - The huge changes, which have been seen in the Banffshire Advertiser since it's beginning in November 1881, were the subject of a talk last Wednesday evening in Buckie Library.

'Advertiser' Director Jack Johnston was on hand to take the audience through 'The changing Times of the Banffshire Advertiser' which featured a talk ranging from how the paper came about to the present day plus a chance to view old copies and examine some of the cameras used in the pre-digital age. (Page 7)

Mar 29 **Merger for Medical Centres** - Two local medical centres is to join forces in a bid to provide an increased range of services for patients.

April 5 will see Seafeld Medical Centre in Buckie and Cullen Medical Centre merge to become Seafeld and Cullen Medical Group.

Heather Pirie, the Practice Manager for both centres was keen to highlight how this would benefit patients of both practices.

Does Something Different Day - For an entire village last Saturday marked a determination to do something different and boost the size and number of community groups.

The McBoyle Hall in Portknockie was the place to be to get involved in a whole range of activities and interests as well as start groups for new ones as Do Something Different Day got into full swing. . Running from 1.00pm – 4.00pm the hall was packed with around twenty stalls proclaiming the benefits of activities as varied as arts and crafts to Zumba.

Amongst the stalls were Portknockie Community Association (PCA), whose brainchild the Do Something different Day was, and as well as encouraging new members to sign up and help with the likes of the Village in Bloom, they were also looking to expand such ideas as a Portknockie Project for 2012 and a University of the Third Age.

PCA secretary Bob Croucher explained that the driving force for Do Something Different Day came from the community itself.

"The Community Association undertook a survey a survey in the community back in November seeking ways in which we could encourage more use of the McBoyle Hall by local groups. The big idea is for Portknockie to have more of its residents engaged in social and recreational activities whether as part of a walking group for the retired or our very own village-based, line dancing group."

April 5 **Cullen Folk with 'Green Fingers' Receive Grant Boost** - Cullen Community Allotment Association have been celebrating a major cash boost after receiving a grant award of nearly £30,000.

The innovative community project is to be handed £29,333 by the Scottish Climate Fund, which will allow them to move forward with the creation of community allotments on the outskirts of Cullen.

Association chairman Jim McKay highlighted the cash would allow them to take the final step towards crating a allotment site and revealed that the project had already attracted a lot of interest from local people. He also reiterated the diverse appeal of the project.

A lot of people have worked very hard to bring the project to this stage. We are absolutely delighted that we can now go ahead and finally create between 20 and thirty plots.

Some of the members of the Association are shown in a picture in the 'Advertiser' hailing the award of the grant. They are – Bill McKay, Sharon Bennett, Cliff Kersley, Bruce Edelston, Simon Tucker and Alan Maloney

Sadness as Grand Old Lady Passes Away - There was sadness at the end of last week for the family of centenarian Helen Anderson after her sudden death.

Mrs. Anderson who celebrated her 100th birthday on March surrounded by family and friends at the house of her niece, Helen Field in Portknockie, died on the morning of Thursday March 31.

Mrs. Field said: "We were very surprised when she passed on so suddenly; she was so lively during her birthday party, which she really enjoyed

Mrs. Anderson whose parents both came from the mouth of the river Spey through she was brought up in Glasgow and lived there after she was married for many years moved up to Garmouth with her husband when he retired from the moved again to Portknockie five years ago after he died.

New Vice Lord Lieutenant - Immense pride and a sense of duty were the over riding feelings for Portsoy man Roger Goodyear yesterday (Monday) as he formally received his Commission from HM Queen to become the new Vice Lord Lieutenant of Banffshire.

R Goodyear was handed the Commission by the Lord Lieutenant of Banffshire Clare Russell on behalf of Her Majesty at a special ceremony at Ballindalloch Castle. He has served as one of the Deputy Lord Lieutenants since 2008 and takes over from Buckie man John Fowlie, who has held the post from 2003 to January this year.

April 12 **Portgordon Ladies Badminton Club** – A photograph that appears in the 'Look Back at the Past' column this week shows members of Portgordon Ladies Badminton Club in 1930. Jim Green submitted the photograph. It is a good copy and the faces of the individuals could easily be picked out.

Harbour Log – Last week two fishing boats called into Buckie harbour to land their catches. They were Georgia Dawn and Just Reward. Between them they landed 27 boxes of white fish, prawns and squid combines and 31 bags of scallops.

Buckie RNLI lifeboat's volunteer crew were called to the assistance of a small survey vessel last week.

Monday afternoon saw the 'William Blannin' head to Lossiemouth for the rescue at 4.33pm following a launch request from the Coastguard. Which told of how a 6m-survey rig had been reported to be having difficulties off the coast of Lossiemouth? One of the craft's two outboard motors had failed and she was taking on water.

A tow was established and the vessel towed to the mouth of the Lossiemouth harbour which she then entered under her own steam.

The 'William Blannin' was back at her mooring by 6.35pm after what was described as a 'routine' rescue.

Cullen Pensioners Group Celebrate - The Royal Burgh of Cullen Pensioner's Club celebrated their 60th anniversary in style last week with a special party in the Town Hall.

All of the club's 230 members were invited to share in the celebrations at Cullen Town Hall with 111 coming along to enjoy a hearty meal and splendid entertainment given by Andy McCormack

The anniversary itself was commemorated when a special cake was cut by honorary club member 98 year old Cath McArthur who is a former treasurer of the group and current secretary Bunty Gardiner

April 19 **Boost for Heritage Centre** - There was good news last week for a local heritage group when Moray Council agreed to waive hall hire fees for their forthcoming summer exhibition.

Cullen, Deskford and Portknockie Heritage Group were delighted when the local authority's Policy and Resources Committee gave the nod to allowing the group to use the Memorial Hall in Cullen Town Hall with no fee being charged to host their exhibition set to run over June, July and August. This will be the second year the exhibition has run, with last year's inaugural event being hailed as a huge success.

Walking Group – Walk Buckie is launching a new evening group. The weekly walks will take participants around the town on a 30-45 minute walk. The group is open to people of all ages and abilities.

The first walk will take place on Wednesday April 20, departing at 7.00pm from the swimming pool car park.

April 26 **New Facility opened at the High School** - Buckie Community High School proudly unveiled state-of-the-art performance facilities last week, bringing to an end years of planning and hard work.

The "1.8 million project, which gives the school some of the most modern performance facilities in the north east, was officially declared open last Wednesday morning by the Lord Lieutenant of Banffshire Clare Russell. She was helped to cut the ribbon to declare the new facility open by Head Boy Stuart Cowie and Head Girl Lauren Hay.

Opening the event was BCHS Rector David Barnett, with tributes paid to the new facility by Moray Council Convener Councillor George McIntyre and the chairman of the local authority's Children and Young People's Services Committee Councillor Jeff Hamilton. Two songs were performed by the school's Glee Club.

Mr Barnett told the audience “” This is a very historic day in the life of the school. The performance base, classrooms and multi-agency base have all been wanted for a very long time and you can see for yourselves how impressive they are.”

Heritage Centre Celebrates Milestone Anniversary - Buckie and District Fishing Heritage Centre Ltd., celebrated 25 years of recording and promoting local history last week at a small and informal ceremony.

Tuesday April 10 saw Heritage members gather to hail the achievements of the past quarter of a century, with the guest speaker being local Councillor and former fishing boat skipper Joe Mackay. Also present were the five remaining founding members: James Addison, Peter Flett, Adam Robertson, William Smith and Ronald Stewart. (See fuller report on page 2 of this edition.)

Diamond Wedding Celebrations - Buckpool couple Eddie and Mary Geddes of St Peter’s Terrace, celebrated the diamond anniversary of their wedding with a family meal and entertainment in the Marine Hotel. The couple were married in the South Church now known as the south and West Church on April 25, 1951 by Rev Walter Johnstone. Eddie was a fisherman all his working life apart from two and half years from 1943 when he served in the Royal Navy on board a patrol boat in the Indian Ocean. Mary was a shop assistant with J & T. Campbell, who owned a china shop and ironmongers near the entrance to the railway station.

They have four children, Edward, John, Peter and Mary; they received a card from the Queen.

North Church Minister Takes Early Retirement - Rev Gordon Mathew, who has been the minister of Buckie North Church of Scotland since September 2006, preached his very last sermon on Easter Sunday and is due to retire at the end of the month. He and his wife Lorna are to move to Montrose to be nearer their family.

Rev Mathew had intended to stay until the age of 65, two and half year on, but he felt that the time was now right to leave. He said how it would be a wrench to leave as both he and his wife had grown to love Buckie and wished that he had come here earlier in his career.

At the end of the morning service on Sunday following an appreciation of both the minister and his wife who had been a Sunday school teacher and member of the Guild, given by Session Clerk Mrs Liz Reid he was presented with a cheque from members of the congregation handed over by treasurer Norman Mitchell. Mrs Mathew also receives a gift from organist Gloria McWhirter. During the service the Sunday school pupils had sang and performed a dance learned for the occasion before presenting Rev Mathew with a collage showing pictures of all the children.

Christmas in April for Rotary - Christmas came early to Buckie this month when the Rotary Club held their festive party on Saturday 9 April.

Last year’s Christmas party had to be cancelled due to bad weather. To compensate, members decided to hold a party in April and Club President Leigh Brown welcomed guests and Rotarians to the event.

Rotarian Alex Smith introduced Emma Hay and Fiona Jagger to entertain the group. Emma sang – ‘Warwick Avenue’, ‘Use Somebody’, ‘Best Day’, ‘Hallelujah’, ‘Fields of Gold’, ‘Beautiful Disaster’, ‘Make You Feel My Love’, and ‘On My Own’.

Fiona sang – ‘A Whole New World’, ‘Largo’, ‘I Dreamed a Dream’, ‘Air’, ‘Imagine’, ‘When She Loved Me’, ‘O For the Wings of A Dove’, and ‘For Good’.

May 3

Royal Wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton - a report on how it was marked locally is given on page one and elsewhere in this edition of the ‘Advertiser’.

Drug Swoop on Buckie - Buckie was one of the many communities in Moray where alleged drug dealers felt the full force of the law last week. Local policing teams took to the streets last Wednesday during the first day of Operation Moravia, the Force’s new community focused operation to tackle drugs, violence and anti-social behaviour.

Drug search warrants were executed at four addresses in Buckie, Keith and Elgin. As a result, a 33 year old man and a 33 year old woman have been charged and two other men and women were also detained for questioning in relation to drugs offences. A quantity of drugs and money have also been recovered although the exact amounts involved have still to be established.

Rotary Six-Harbour Walk - Sunday saw around 400 people from near and far turn out to take part in the huge local fund-raiser that is the Buckie Rotary Club’s Six Harbour Walk and cycle.

The good weather had its role to play in boosting the numbers of those registering at the last moment to raise cash not only for the primary Rotary-nominated charities but for the whole host of other good causes as well. Although no funding targets were set for this year's walk the Walk convener Bill Greig said that he thought they would be happy if they made £15,000 or more. Over the years that the Walk has been running the sum of £120,000 for good causes, both local and national has been raised. This year the primary focus of the Rotary's fund-raising efforts is Quarriers, CLAN, Shelterbox and local youth organizations and charities.

Historic Vessel to Visit Buckie - Buckie is set to play host to the historic fishing vessel 'Reaper' for two days this month.

The 109-year-old flagship of the Scottish Fisheries Museum in Anstruther will be moored at the harbour over Wednesday and Thursday May 11-12 as part of a two-week tour of old herring ports in the Moray Firth. She will be open to the public from 10.00am – 5.00pm free of charge.

Harbour Log - Last week four fishing boats called into Buckie harbour to land their catches which in total consisted of 91 boxes of white fish, prawns and squid combined... No cargo vessels paid a visit.

**** **The following week, in excellent weather, there was no landing of fish at all though two cargo vessels did call.**

Former High School Teacher Dies - Bill Ettles a native of Keith and a former Principal Teacher at Buckie High School died at Glenisla Home, Keith last Tuesday. He was aged 90. . He was a great example of a life well spent and whether it was in his teaching career, war service amateur dramatics sporting interests or public service Mr Ettles gave his all to everything he did.

Bill who began his studies at the age of 16 graduated in 1939 and just after joined the Royal Navy where he served for six years in the meteorological department in Malta, Sicily, Italy and Egypt.

In 1969 he came from Keith Grammar when he was appointed Principal Teacher of English at Buckie High School where he remained until his retirement in 1983. He was highly thought of among both staff and pupils and many still have fond memories of him.

Former Deputy Headmaster Eddie Jagger said "Bill was a really nice guy and an excellent teacher."

May 10

Scottish Parliament election - The SNP gained a majority in the Scottish Parliament, the first party to do so in their own right. Due to boundary changes most of Buckie and the surrounding area fell into the brand new constituency of Banffshire and Buchan Coast with those living west of the Gollachy Burn remaining in the Moray constituency. Stewart Stevenson was elected MSP for the new constituency with a 67% share of the votes cast.

Probus Club A.G.M- The Annual General Meeting of Buckie and District Probus Club was held in the Marine Hotel on Thursday April 28.

The Minute of the AGM of April 201 was duly read and approved before the Secretary Bob Jamieson gave his report on the past year, making mention of the various events that had taken place like the Christmas and Burns Anniversary Lunches and the bus outing to Cawdor Castle.

The club had been fortunate, he said, in being able to enlist four new members during the year but this was offset, sadly, by the loss of five through death while two others had moved away. The membership at present stood at 49.

Mr Jamieson also listed the various speakers who had spoken at the lunch meetings, their subjects being wide and varied and altogether most enjoyable.

Retiring President Eddie Gray in his valedictory address said he had to admit to having been quite apprehensive when he first put on the mantle of President but had gradually grown into the job and would always look on it to have been an honour to lead the club as President.

The office bearers elected to serve for the next year were as follows: "President- Steve Liley; Vice President- Bill Cecil; Secretary- Bob Jamieson, who had agreed to continue in office; Treasurer- John Smith. Committee members – Peter Stephen, George Farquhar, Duncan Woodham and Eddie Gray.

Hugh Patience retired as Treasurer after holding the post for a number of years. His final statement of accounts showing the club to be in a healthy state. He was presented with a bottle of malt whisky by the new President as a token of thanks from club members.

Steve Liley, who served for many years in the RAF, thanked members for doing him the honour of electing him President and would endeavour to carry on the good work that had been done by Eddie Gray.

He spoke of the real friendship that he had found and enjoyed within the club, greater than he had ever felt in other circles where he had been a member.

He said that the Secretary had spoken of their being a fall in the membership and asked that members try to encourage some new people to come and join our ranks and so boost numbers.

Mr Liley let it be known that he would be the first speaker of the new session when his subject would be the village of Portknockie with special reference being made to the Fishermen's Hall there, its history and the many twists that have taken place in the redevelopment of the building into a dwelling house by his family.

May 17

Flagship makes Buckie visit – Buckie harbour played host to a piece of fishing history last week when the 109-year-old sailing drifter 'Reaper' came to visit last Wednesday and Thursday.

The flagship of the Scottish Fisheries Museum in Anstruther, Fife, and the vessel called into Buckie as part of an educational and promotional tour of the former herring ports on the Moray Firth. Schoolchildren and members of the public alike were welcomed aboard the 'Reaper' free of charge to see for themselves what life would have been like for the eight-man crew aboard the lovingly restored drifter, the class which was once the mainstay of the herring fleet on the east coast of Scotland.

The vessel is certainly no stranger to local waters, being a stalwart visitor to the Portsoy Boat Festival for many years now

Local primary schools were amongst the 34 invited to visit the 'Reaper' during her five harbour tour, within the region of 1300 pupils making their way round the historic vessel on a voyage of discovery of their own.

Knockout success for Hospital Friends - There was some knockout fundraising afoot at Linzee Gordon Park on Saturday when an 'It's a Knockout' contest got underway, attracting a total of eight teams.

Despite the rain the event was a great success and more than £8000 was raised, with sponsorship still being collected. Behind the afternoon of hilarity for all the family were the Friends of Seafield Hospital, whose fundraising over the years has seen a wide range of equipment purchased for the hospital and its patients and on an occasion for those in the community also. It has to be said that the items bought by the Friends, paid for by money raised in various ways helped by donations, would not have been provided any other way.

The 'Lilywhites' remain upstairs - Buckie Rovers will once again be playing in Division! Next season after a nail biting wait to see if they would beat the drop. The weeks of uncertainty were ended when Bishopmill United, the team that had been in competition with the Rovers in the relegation battle, could only draw on last Tuesday evening away to Dufftown.

May 24

Major award for the 'Knockers' Members of the Portknockie Community Association were celebrating this week when they learnt that their application for a substantial grant from Awards For All, The Big Lottery Fund, had been successful.

A grant of £10,000 has been awarded to the Association to fund a re-modelling scheme for Portknockie's McBoyle Hall. The Portknockie Community Association has managed the hall since 2004.

The grant will pay for significant structural changes designed to enhance the environment the hall can offer community users.

The scheme will involve the lowering of the ceiling to provide a cavity for roof insulation, the fitting of new lights and re-decoration. The false ceiling will help to improve heating efficiency, will substantially reduce heating costs and will enrich the hall acoustics.

The changes are intended to alter the ambience of the McBoyle Hall, making it more flexible in use and better able to cater effectively for the community's wishes to take part in a wider range of local social and recreational activities.

Chairman James Urquhart said: "We were thrilled when we found out that our application had been successful."

Death of former Councillor - The well-known and much respected former Fochabers-Lhanbryde Councillor Tom Howe died last week.

Tom who lived at Nether Dallachy, died suddenly on Wednesday May 18 while on holiday in Germany with his wife Margo prior to embarking on a cruise.

He served the Fochabers-Lhanbryde areas for many years, serving on both Moray District Council and Moray Council. He was also an early SNP candidate for Westminster in the 1960's. **(An obituary can be found on page 5 of this edition.)**

Finechty fowk do a beach clean - The community in Findochty came together recently for a beach clean event

Organised by Findochty community council young and old alike turned out to clean all the beaches along the village's coastline beginning with the harbour beach.

The team of volunteers then moved on to the Sanny Craig, the Slip Shore and McKenzie's Beach.

Council Chairman Andrew Slater said: "This is the first time we have done something like this and we have had a very enthusiastic response to the idea. There is a lot of community support for this, which we are very glad to see.

I do a lot of environmental work on the rig I am on so I thought it would be a good idea to do something like a beach cleans for the environment here in Findochty."

BCHS Head Pupils - - Two deserving pupils at Buckie Community High School felt honoured to have been selected as the school's new Head Boy and Head Girl, said both Kieran Murdoch and Josie Walls after being chosen for the prestigious titles.

All teachers and S5 pupils were invited to nominate any S5 pupil for the position and the top three faced a gruelling interview by Head Teacher David Barnett; Mrs Taylor, Depute Rector and Mrs Jagger, PT Guidance.

May 31

Cullen School pupils are Quiz Winners - Cullen Primary School were named as the champions in the Great Moray Inter-Schools Quiz 2011 after beating off competition in the hard-fought final.

The Cullen team made up of Michael Reid, Caleb Mair, Cameron Paterson and Jennifer Walker, came out on top in the finals held in Elgin on Tuesday May 24.

A total of 44 teams from 28 primary schools across Moray entered the event. Competing were Applegrove, Bishopmill, Cullen, Knockando and St Geraldine's Primary Schools.

The winning Cullen team received their shield from Alistair Farquhar, Moray council's Head of Educational Resources. The Cullen team secured their place in the finals after coming out on top on the Buckie area contest. They were faced with questions on books, authors and general knowledge.

Elliot Office Equipment donated prizes to all the finalists. As well as the shield, the Cullen pupils each received book tokens and also scooped some books for their school, courtesy of Yeadon's of Elgin and Banchory.

Harbour log - Two fishing boats called into Buckie harbour last week to land their catches. This comprised 84 boxes of white fish, prawns and squid combined together with 100 bags of scallops. The boats were Pegasus and Kelly

Two cargo vessels also paid call. The British-registered Scot Explorer arrived light from Guinness to load up with 2060.000 tonnes of pulpwood logs destined for Moss in Norway.

The MV Birch, registered in Antigua, also arrived empty and left for Waterford in Southern Ireland carrying 1801.000 tons of animal feeding pellets a by-product of the whisky industry.

June 7

Spey Bay - A successful businessman has rescued a struggling golf club in the area from administration and work is ongoing to transform it into a modern, bustling complex.

Colin Murray, who owns six businesses throughout the northeast and employs 90 people, bought Spey Bay Ltd., which runs the Spey Bay golf course and hotel complex in January and great improvements have already been made at the site.

Work already carried out at Spey Bay Golf Club has seen the old pavilion revamped and it now offers a bar and restaurant, which are open to the public.

Plans for the complex include introducing houses and a restaurant near the shoreline. The hotel is in a very bad state of repair and will prove to be a long-term project but Mr Murray hopes to revamp the building in some way and thought is currently being put to the project.

100 Years Not Out There were good wishes aplenty going the way of Linn Coort resident Andrew Horne when he celebrated his 100th birthday.

A native of New Pitsligo he served his time as a shoemakers but had a chequered work career, during WWII he worked as a welder in the Glasgow shipyards later working in the building trade as labourer and then as a mason. He moved from Aberdeen to Mosstodloch in 1991 when his wife died to be nearer his daughter. When he became less able he moved into sheltered housing first in Fochabers before moving to Buckie.

Harbour Log - Last week ten fishing boats called into Buckie harbour to land their catches, a big increase on recent weeks when two boats, sometimes only one was the norm. Despite the increased number 497 boxes of

white fish, prawns and squid might be seen as not being a big all round catch. The boats were - Pegasus, Maggie J, Blue Sky, Scotia, Heather Sprig, Conquest, Carisma, Discovery, Shalimar and Just Reward. Three cargo vessels paid a call all coming in on the same day There was only the one import, soya from Rotterdam with two exports – crushed aggregate destined for Glassom Dock and pulpwood logs for Moss in Norway.

June 14

Double jobs blow for local area - Buckie was dealt a bitter blow last week when it emerged that the local Haldane's supermarket is to close. The store, situated off East Cathcart Street, is due to close its doors for the last time at close of play today (Tuesday) as the independent retail group as a whole slid into administration last week. All but four of the group's 26 stores are set to shut

Twenty three people were employed by the local store, 21 store staff and two cleaners who will all be looking for jobs as with the Haldane's group going into administration there is no possibility of being redeployed to other stores

Haldane's opened in Buckie in February 2010 taking over the premises previously occupied by Somerfield's, another supermarket group.

Last weekend saw the local jobs gloom deepens when a major hotel ceased trading. . The Seafield Arms Hotel in Cullen is believed to have shut its doors for good last Sunday evening after dinner service ended. Also shutting is the Kris Kros bar attached to the hotel.

Estimates have put the number of staff, including both part and full-time employees who have lost their jobs at between 20 and 30, placing it at least on a par with the redundancies announced at Haldane's in Buckie last week.

According to the Seafield Arms website the hotel offered 22 rooms as well as a restaurant, an extensive wine cellar and a choice of 122 whiskies.

The Seafield Arms Hotel, on Seafield Street, the main thoroughfare through the town, was built in 1822 by the Earl of Seafield and was greatly restored by the present Earl in 1972.

Death of former Thistle player - George 'Ruf' Stewart as he was known to many of a certain age, to distinguish him from another George Stewart who played around the same time for Buckie and who was known as 'Ru' died on June 4 at the age of 84. To others he was known as 'Seven Goal Stewart' because of his goal prowess, scoring this mammoth figures in one game on a number of occasions.

He made his debut for his home club on December 1945 when he scored two goals. His ability to score goals in a number of following games saw him quickly come to the notice of senior clubs and he was soon snapped up by Dundee where he played for four years. He was to play for a number of clubs thereafter on both sides of the border before returning to play out his career with the Thistle in season 1959-60 finally hanging up his boots in season 1961-62. **An Obituary to George Stewart, written by Easton Thain, the Thistle historian, in to be found on page 5 of this edition of the B.A.**

Buckie Rovers - Keith Ingram, Buckie Rovers manager, called it a day after being at the helm of the local junior club for the past six seasons. Mr Ingram, who took over the reins of the club when they were in abeyance after struggling to attract players, has cited work (he is a self employed joiner) and family commitments as his reasons for leaving the Merson Park side. In leaving he paid tribute to all those who had backed him during his tenure.

He is to be replaced by Alfie Morrison and Jackie Reid, both of whom have already had experience of being a manager of a junior side. Jackie Reid had a spell as joint manager of the Rovers some years ago while both of them have managed Deveronside. Although it had been loudly whispered for some time that the two were to take over it was only confirmed at the club's annual general meeting.

Manager of the Year - Gregg Carroll was voted Highland League Manager of the Year by his fellow managers fending off the spirited challenges of Scott Anderson of Deveronvale and Kris Hunter of Turriff United. Anderson was manager of league runners up while Hunter did remarkably well with Turriff United in their first season in the Highland League.

June 21

Beechgrove Challenge - Wind and rain did nothing to deter a band of volunteers last week in pledging their support for an ambitious TV garden project.

The Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society wildlife Centre at Tugnet, Spey Bay is set to feature on BBC TV's 'The Beechgrove Garden's Community Garden project, which will see two gardens at the site, as well as other areas around the facility, transformed.

Filming is planned to take place over a three day period encompassing August 31-September 2.

Royal Honour for Music Stalwart - A local musician who was the driving force behind the creation of Speyfest and the Fochabers Fiddlers is to receive a Royal honour. James Alexander, who lives at Auchenhalrig, is to receive an MBE for his services to Scottish traditional music in the Queen's Birthday Honours List.

June 28

RNLI blow for Buckie - Cost-cutting measures by the RNLI have seen the charity end its lucrative refit contract with Buckie Shipyard Ltd.

Buckie Shipyard will join a number of yards up and down the country falling victim to changes in the RNLI's maintenance structure, with refit contracts being phased out over the course of the year. Only three yards- Alexander Noble and Sons in Girvan, Carroll's in Ireland and South Boats on the Isle of Wight – will retain refit contracts, although Buckie, along with other yards, will be eligible for repair and general maintenance work on RNLI vessels in the future as need arises.

Big repair bill to be met for Fochabers Institute- We will fight to save this hall – that was the message coming loud and clear from a public meeting last Thursday evening to discuss the future of the Fochabers Public Institute.

Local community groups and residents banded together at the packed crises meeting, which was called by the Institute's Hall Committee, to reaffirm their support for the vital local facility.

A report placed before Moray Council's Policy and Resources Committee on August 31 last year detailed a number of 'substantial defects' in the building and the meeting was to learn from Alex Burrell, from Moray Council's Estate's section, that essential repairs to the building to bring it up to an acceptable and safe standing would come in at an estimated £240,000

Harbour log - Last week seven fishing boats called into Cluny harbour, Buckie, to land their catches. In total this comprised 644 boxes of white fish, prawns and squid combined and 8 bags of scallops.

The boats were – Carisma, Scotia, Discovery, Sunlight Ray, Sparkling Waters, Shalimar and Deeside.

One cargo vessel paid a call. This was the British-registered MV Elektron II that came in light from Kristiansand, Norway on Wednesday and left again the following day bound for Newcastle carrying five steel reels with a total weight of 296.000 tonnes.

5 July

High School Departures - Friday July 1 marked the last day in school for a number of members of staff at Buckie Community High School. Mr David Barnett, Rector, left to take up a new post as Head Teacher of Elgin Academy. Mrs. Joan Jagger, PT Guidance, retired after 34 years of service to the school

Promotion A change will also take place at Buckie Community High School when Mr David Strachan will be officiating as Acting Rector. He was appointed following interviews that took place on June 30. Mr Strachan, a graduate in Geography has been an Assistant Recto at the school for the past 16 years.

Harbour Log – Last week twelve fishing boats called into Buckie harbour to land their catches. In total this comprised 420 boxes of white fish, prawns and squid together with 555 bags of scallops.

The boats were – Aspire, Carisma, Transcend, Scotia, Shalimar, Discovery, Norlyn, Courage, and Jenna Maree. Kestrel, Deeside and Heather Sprig

Two cargo vessels paid a call. The first to arrive was the British-registered M Falcon from Kings Lynn with a cargo of malt weighing 1918.860 tonnes on board. The second was an Antigua-registered vessel, the MV Birch that arrives empty from Aberdeen. After taking on board 1198.980 tonnes of animal feeding pellets she left again bound for Bruges.

They were tops at Milne's - Stuart Laurie and Bria Steven were joint Duxes at Milne's High School, Fochabers, and winners of the Sir Ashley Mackintosh medals. Other prizewinners were – Katriona Anderson, Graham Lister, Megan Wiseman, Siobhan Kingham and Rachel Stoker.

12 July

Duncan Deal "Reality Check" - We tighten our belts or risk the Jags going bust – that was the stark reality check handed out by Buckie Thistle President Mark Duncan last week at the club's AGM.

Last Thursday evening saw the Victoria Park Function Hall host a tempestuous meeting that witnessed Mr Duncan and his brother Murray, who is a club director; decline to pursue further involvement in the club. However, during a half hour adjournment in the meeting, they were persuaded to return by Secretary Albert Phimister and other committee members, many of whom threatened to quit the Highland League Champions if the Duncan brothers were not at the helm.

Mr Duncan was returned as Thistle President, although the post of Vice President, vacated by Iain Clark at the end of last season, has been left unfilled for the time being. **(More on the story can be found on page 1 and also page 6)**

Excellence Award for Rebecca - Ballindalloch Castle beckoned for Buckie Community High School's latest Dux, as a new award to inspire excellence was unveiled.

S6 student Rebecca Taylor, from Buckie and her parents Barry and Hazel, were the guests of honour at the castle last Sunday afternoon where they received a warm welcome from the Lord Lieutenant of Banffshire Claire Russell

As well as enjoying tea and a chat Rebecca was presented with a signed copy of Mrs Russell's book, 'I Love Banffshire', £100 and a box of chocolates in recognition of her achievements in the field of academic excellence.

Behind the scheme, which he is funding for the next 20 years, is Buckie Councillor Joe Mackay, who highlighted the vital role education plays in giving young people and the country as a whole a future.

Said Mr Mackay, "I was so impressed by Buckie High School's outstanding pupil, Rebecca Taylor, this year's Dux and Miller Medal winner, and her efforts, that I felt she was deserving of an additional award. "**(More on this story may be read on page one and page 6 of this edition of the 'Advertiser')**

Jake takes courses by storm - A young local golfer has been celebrating not one but four championships wins at courses in the area.

Despite being aged only 16 he plays off a handicap of one and in the last few weeks has claimed the Junior Championships at Cullen Buckpool, and Duff House Royal, as well as the Men's Club Championship at Buckpool?

In addition to seeing off a very competitive field at Cullen and Buckpool Junior Championships, he also played many of the rounds sporting a plaster after he broke his foot playing golf.

At Buckpool he became one of the youngest ever golfers to claim the Men's Club Championship, finishing with a record score of 73,68,68,69 to give a one under par total of 279

Gold Standard - True grit and determination saw a young Buckie lad push himself to achieve great things and he was recently presented with a top award in recognition of his efforts.

Stewart Pitt, a pupil at Buckie Community High School, attended a special ceremony held in Holyrood House, Edinburgh, where he was presented with his Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award from HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, the patron and founder of the award scheme.

To achieve this top honour, Stewart was faced with a demanding programme, completing tasks in five different sections, all while studying for four Advanced Highers at school **(See what this involved on page 3)**

19 July

RNLI Anniversary Boost - Celebrations marking 150 years of the RNLI'S life-saving presence in Buckie have yielded a huge five-figure financial boost for the lifeboat charity.

June 12, 2010, saw a week of festivities get underway to commemorate the milestone anniversary. A whole host of events, including the return of a traditional Lifeboat Gala, ended up putting the 'fun' into fundraising and thanks to the generosity and combined efforts of all those involved a total of £11,042,25 has been raised. The cheque was handed over last Thursday to Buckie RNLI Branch Treasurer Ali Simpson at the Lifeboat Station. By Dr Alison Douglas Chairman of the 150 Steering Group.

A week that is unlikely to be forgotten in the annals of Buckie had its origins in a public meeting held in Buckie Community High School in April 2009 to ascertain public support for commemorative events to mark the 150th anniversary of the date when the first lifeboat came on the scene in Buckie.

Dr Douglas said that due to the need to ensure donations had all been accounted for and bills paid it had not been possible to hold the cheque handover at an earlier date.

With the cheque now presented to Buckie RNLI the work of the 150 Steering Group is now complete and they have now formally disbanded.

Beat that The beat of the drum produced an even bigger spring in the step for Buckie and District Pipe Band as they played in Portsoy last Sunday thanks to a huge Lottery boost.

There were celebrations for this group as they showed off brand new drums and associated equipment bought with a grant of £7759 from the Creative Scotland section of Awards for all, which is backed by the National Lottery.

Bought with money according to Pipe Major Robbie Innes of Fochabers were – six snare drums, one mini-snare drum, six tenor drums, one bass drum and other items required by drummers such as drumsticks and slings.

A Mammoth Climb for Charity - A Buckie woman has helped raise over £5000 to help support a new cancer hospice in Aberdeen.

Tracey Cormack, who works in HR for a drilling company in Aberdeen, recently undertook no less a challenge than scaling Mt Kilimanjaro in aid of CLAN'S (Cancer in Aberdeen and North) new facility under construction at Westburn Drive in the city. Thanks to her six-day efforts a total of £5530 was added to the total raised to date "I was part of a group of 11, some of whom were doing the ascent for charity, while others were doing it for the personal challenge," she told the 'Advertiser'. "It took us a total of four and a half days to get to the top and another one and a half days to get back down again. The most challenging part of the ascent for me was the summit night. This started at midnight and involved walking for seven hours to the top. It was -20degrees Centigrade and at high altitude, which made it difficult to breathe. It was easily the most unpleasant part of the whole trip. However, it was all worthwhile when we got to the top, which was a really emotional moment; it felt quite an achievement."

Thumbs up for New Hall Portgordon Village Hall Committee have been given the green light by the local community to press ahead with efforts to build a new hall.

A recent survey of every household in Portgordon has returned an overwhelming majority in favour of creating a brand new facility, most likely on a plot of ground near the harbour. Young people who live in the village were also consulted on their views. –

Portgordon Gala was a great success - Thanks to brilliant weather Portgordon Community Harbour Group annual Raft Race and Gala Day was declared to be the best yet.

From 12 noon to 5.00pm the harbour and surrounding area was a sea of activity as the local community came together to have a good time. In addition to raising awareness of the PCHG's long term plans to regenerate the harbour the event was also an opportunity for local groups and good causes to boost their own coffers. This year saw record crowds attending with around 2000 people estimated to have turned up.

July 26

Takeovers herald beginning of new era - The future of seafood production in Buckie was given a massive boost last week when it was announced that WA announced that Lossie Seafoods with their factory on March Road and Moray Seafoods, on Low Street have been bought over.

Taking over both firms are Associated Seafoods Ltd., with the deals marking their first acquisitions in the market. Funding for the Lossie Seafoods purchase was sourced from Scottish Seafoods Investments, a joint venture recently established by The Scottish Salmon Co. and its major shareholder Northern Link to invest in companies engaged in value-added processing of salmon and other seafood.

Victor West, who himself hails from the fishing port of Fraserburgh, has been appointed as the new Managing Director of Lossie Seafoods, a role he will combine with heading up Moray Seafoods. From the previous posts he has held, Mr West has considerable knowledge and experience of the seafood industry.

Grant Eckersley son of the late Charles Eckersley, who first established Moray Seafoods is Commercial Director on Moray Seafoods, said how he could anticipate a bright future under Associated Seafoods ownership.

Harbour log – Last week nine fishing boats called into Cluny Harbour to land their catches. They were Vision II, Carisma, Radiance, Moray Endeavour, Scotia, Shalimar, Deeside, Isabelle and Transcend. The total landing amounted to 425 boxes of white fish, prawns and squid.

Two cargo boats paid a call. The first to arrive was the British-registered MV Sea Mithril that came in 'light' from Boston, Lincolnshire. After taking on board 210.200 tonnes of mixed beach pebbles she set sail again two days bound for Goole.

The Victress, registered in Barbados, came in from Teesport with a cargo of rock salt weighing 2184.680 tonnes on board. She left the following day 'light' to return to Teesport.

Aug 2

TV Fame for Cluny Auctions - It was light, camera, action at Cluny Auctions in Buckie last week when a popular TV antiques show came to town.

Extra spice was added to the ever-popular antiques and collectables auction last Tuesday afternoon when BBC 2's 'Antiques Road Trip' turned up for a spot of filming at the firm's Commercial Road base.

Presenters Charlie Ross and James Braxton and their colleagues were a huge hit with the large crowd who turned out for the event in what was a very busy day for Cluny Auctions owner John Ferguson and his staff.

To add further interest to the occasion Buckie resident Wendy McLean and her husband Roy owned the Alpine sports car used by the two presenters to tour around their filming venues in Scotland for 30 years after being bought new in Elgin.

Aug 9 **Lennox Community Council** has secured a grant of almost £2000 from the Big Lottery Fund 2014 Communities Awards to allow a new football league for youngsters to get off the ground. The scheme will follow the basic pattern of the successful Midnight League initiative with sessions being run later in the evening. Community chairman Colin Murray and secretary Arthur Fearnley were naturally delighted to be given the news.

Record Higher passes - Exam excellence continued to be the order of the day for Buckie Community High School as eagerly awaited exam results dropped through letterboxes across the nation last Thursday. With last year's diet of exams producing the best ever set of Higher results in the school history this year got off to an encouraging start when two S5 students, David Chappell and Rebecca Taylor, were left celebrating five straight A grades each. Rebecca's subjects were English, Maths, Chemistry, Biology and Physics while David's were Maths, Physics, Computing, English and Graphic Communication.

He was Depute Rector - The death took place on Thursday July 28 of Eddie Jagger who served as Depute Rector at Buckie Community High School from 1975 until 1999.

Eddie was a native of Greenock and an Honours graduate in Modern Languages of Glasgow University.

He is survived by his wife Joan and their two children Ross and Fiona also Allan and Gavin from a previous marriage. **See page 7**

Aug 16 **Kitchen caddies a waste of money**- a local councillor has accused Moray Council of wasting taxpayer's money by providing householders with new kitchen caddies to assist in waste food recycling.

Fochabers – Lhanbryde Conservative Councillor Douglas Ross has hit out at the local authority for spending almost £50,000 on the 40,000 caddies which were delivered to Moray homes recently, which are designed to store waste food before it is placed in the brown wheelie bin for collection. Moray Council would argue that the food saved using the caddies will lead to a reduction in landfill tax.

New book by Heritage Group – Cullen, Deskford and Portknockie Heritage Group reckon they have hit on the recipe for success with the launch of their latest book.

Last week saw the volunteer-run group launch 'Traditional Recipes' which was the brainchild of Sandra Addison, who served as Vice President until her sad and untimely death earlier this year.

Four ladies – Heather Hill, Eleanor Cowie, Rita Findlay and Brenda Wood, moved her project forward.

Also adding their vital ingredients to the book were group members John Rennie whose technical skills proved invaluable in ensuring that the text was ready for the printers, and local artist John G.G. Wilson, the creator of the illustrations, which adorn the book from cover to cover.

Much of the funding for the book came from cash donated at the funeral of another Heritage Group member, David Mair, who passed away last year. The collection amounted to £565 and was passed on to the group by his family.

President James Findlay said that the book stood as a fitting memorial to both Mrs Addison and Mr Mair who he described as two of the group's 'best loved members'.

Copies of the book, priced at £3.50, can be purchased from local shops.

Aug 23 **Lifeboat crewmen honoured** – Coxswain Alan Robertson, Second Coxswain and Mechanic Gordon Lawtie and crewmember Kevin Herd of Buckie RNLI lifeboat were all the proud recipients of 20 year service badges, which were presented by Acting Divisional Inspector for Scotland Paul Jennings last Wednesday evening. Deputy Divisional Engineer Jerry Stone joined Mr Jennings in Buckie over the course of three days last week. Paying tribute to the trio's dedication to saving lives at sea, Mr Jennings said: "These awards represent the recipients giving up vast amounts of their free time to save lives at sea. Their dedication is commendable."

Green light for cycle track - Youngsters who hope to bring a dirt cycle track to Cullen are celebrating after being granted planning permission for their project by Moray Council.

There was a further bonus in store for Cullen Dirt Cycle Track Group – originally called Kids of Cullen – when they received a boost to their coffers to the tune of £15000 from the Welfare Committee of the Alba North oil platform.

The seven youngsters who instigated this idea are to be commended - Jake Addison, Callum Bowie, Ewen Bowie, Cameron Bruce, Robbie Bruce, and Calvin Phimister Edward Putman.

Chairman of the group John Wilson who works on the Alba North platform said that the boys may be two years older since they came up with the idea but the critical thing is that this track will be there for a long time and will benefit not only them but lots of youngsters growing up in Cullen and the surrounding area. The place where they hoped to have the cycle track constructed is Logie Park. It is hope to raise the sum of £10,000 of which £6000-£7000 will go towards the construction of the track itself and the rest put aside for maintenance.

RNLI Gala Day - Buckie RNLI threw open the doors to the lifeboat station last Saturday as they held their annual open day and were blessed with a bonny day.

The annual event though now in a much-reduced scale from what it once was due to safety precautions, was nevertheless well supported by local people as well as visitors to the area.

The Coastguard was also represented with Rachel Grant, Kevin Docherty, Fiona McKechnie and Karen Wood ready to show and explain to visitors various aspects of HM Coastguard's work.

Knockers enjoy their Gala Day - Portknockie enjoyed a grand gala day last Saturday with plenty to keep young and old alike entertained.

Doing the honours to declare the event open was Councillor Gary Coull, who was left impressed by the hard work put in by the gala organisers Portknockie Community Association. "It is good to see community spirit alive and well through events such as these," he said. "They are very important parts of life of small places and have to be kept going. A lot of thanks and credit must go to the PCA and everyone who has a stall here, not to mention those who have turned up to support it. The gala is also a chance for local groups and organisations to fundraise and highlight what they have to offer."

Aug 30

Peter Anson Paintings - Sunday saw a warm welcome back for paintings many not seen in Buckie for many a year when the Peter Anson exhibition was formally unveiled in the upstairs hall of the Town House.

A total of 150 out of more than 500 Peter Anson works currently held by Moray Council are now on display and will be open for the public to view until Saturday September 10.

Royal visit - Buckie is getting ready to roll out the red carpet at two venues next week to welcome a very special visitor.

Monday September 5 will see HRH Prince Andrew the Duke of York pay a visit to Buckie Community High School, the highlight of which will see him unveil a special plaque in the new performance area- Highfield Hall. The Lord Lieutenant of Banffshire Clare Russell opened the facility earlier this year.

Following this Prince Andrew will head for Lossie Seafoods to see for himself the prime quality salmon products exported by the firm to some of the finest tables in the world.

Rotary Club – The Rotary Club of Buckie recently welcomed new office bearers into their positions.

Outgoing President Leigh Brown handed over the chain of office to his successor, Alex Smith, with Heather Pirie taking over as the new Vice President. Taking on the role of Treasurer is Ali Simpson with Jo Farquhar being appointed Secretary.

New teaching staff at BCHS - Roddy Hall, PE and PT Guidance; Craig Melia joins the Modern Studies Department; Sali Massey, a newly qualified teacher joins the Geography Department; Alan Grieve takes up a position in the Business Department; Helen Steven joins the English Department. The Maths Department welcome two newcomers in Katie Grant and Anna Gowanlock. Marie Aston a former member of the Royal Air Force with 20 years service joins as a new Support for Learning Auxiliary.

Sept 6

BBC Gardeners at Spey Bay - It was time for the cameras to roll last week as the final touches were put to an ambitious Community Garden Project.

The last few weeks have seen a dedicated team of staff and volunteers at the Spey Bay Scottish Wildlife Centre, which is run by the Whale and Dolphin Society, strain every sinew as part of BBC TV's Beechgrove Garden' Community Garden Project. This was all to come to fruition for everyone involved when last Wednesday, Thursday and Friday saw the programme's presenters, led by Jim McColl, come along and help put the final touches to the imitative.

Lesley Watson joined him. George Anderson, Carole Baxter and Carolyn Spry.

Jean Gets Justice – The widower of a Buckie woman who died after medics misdiagnosed her lung cancer broke down in tears last week after NHS Grampian confessed to failures in her care.

Jean Cross who died on April 5 aged 60, was told during the course of 39 appointments stretching over a three year period that the pain she was suffering came from a frozen shoulder, for which painkillers were prescribed and physiotherapy was later undertaken. However, the results of a scan revealed, on the day she was to die, alone and in pain on the floor of her room in Dr Gray's Hospital, Elgin, that there was a huge tumour present in her lung which was pressing on her arm and causing pain.

Sine her death Mrs. Cross's husband Colin, daughter Amanda Bush and son, also Colin, have fought a determined campaign to force NHS Grampian to admit to failures in her care and for a public apology to be made.

Fears for Rovers' Future - After another thumping defeat (the Rovers had still to win a game this season) this time by Sunnybank, an Aberdeen club, Dave Roberts who has been not only secretary but an extremely hard worker on their half expressed fears for the future of the Rovers, which has been in existence in one shape or form since just after World War I, at least as a junior club.

The problem has largely arisen after a team called Portgordon Victoria achieved their ambition to move up from the Welfare to the juniors, at the same time there was a management change at the Rovers and several players decided to join the Vics,

Mr Roberts who has had long experience in local football is of the opinion that there are an insufficient number of players in the local area with the necessary skills to allow two teams to be relatively successful to their detriment. History could repeat itself as a team calling itself Portgordon playing in the junior league was forced to fold some years back because of the problems outlined by Dave Roberts.

Buckie Community Council – Moray Council have announced arrangements for forthcoming election to reform Buckie Community Council.

Following two resignations at their August meeting BCC now have a complement of five - one below their minimum of six – which has necessitated the group's dissolution.

Community councils are allowed to co-opt members to fill vacancies provided they do not account for more than one third of the membership. However, that was not an option for Buckie Community Council since two of the remaining five members were already co-opted.

The full membership complement of Buckie Community Council is 12 and an election will take place in the event of there being more candidates than seats.

Sept 13

Platinum Wedding – A Cullen couple recently celebrated their Platinum wedding anniversary. Jim and Phyllis Austin, residents of Wakefield House, marked 70 years of marriage on September 6 with family and friends.

Jim is originally from Huntly and Phyllis from Gamrie but it was in Edinburgh that the pair first met. Work commitments with British Rail saw Jim in Edinburgh and Phyllis was in service at the time.

The couple later married in the city and went on to have a family of three, Bruce, Phyllis and Dori, all of whom were present at the celebration. They now have three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Jim will be 96 on his birthday in November and Phyllis will be 93 next months. They have fond memories of Wakefield House as they used to stay there on holiday when it was a hotel.

They were so fond of Cullen that they moved to live in the town 23 years ago.

Fishing news- Last week eleven fishing boats called into Cluny harbour to land their catches. In total this comprised 573 boxes of white fish, prawns and squid together with 38 bags of scallops. The boats were Shaulora, Blue Sky, Scotia, Deeside, Transcend, Pegasus, Moray Endeavour, Isabella, Our Heritage, Shalimar and Conquest.

Flower Show the inclement weather conditions throughout the growing season when we had more than our share of rain and conversely a shortage of sun had a measured effect on vegetable entries and also cut flowers, roses and sweet

Fishing news- Last week eleven fishing boats called into Cluny harbour to land their catches. In total this comprised 573 boxes of white fish, prawns and squid together with 38 bags of scallops. The boats were Shaulora, Blue Sky, Scotia, Deeside, Transcend, Pegasus, Moray Endeavour, Isabella, Our Heritage, Shalimar and Conquest.

Flower Show The inclement weather conditions throughout the growing season when we had more than our share of rain and conversely a shortage of sun had a measured effect on vegetable entries and also cut flowers, roses and sweet peas. On the other hand the handicraft section was as good as it had ever been with a large number of entries and of first class quality. The baking and confectionery sections were also good. A recent

innovation a section for school children was up on last year with some good exhibits on show from a number of schools. Millbank Primary won the prize of £30 for the Best Exhibit in the Show with their box of vegetables. Three of the top exhibitors were Bill Copland, Portsoy, Gladys Smith, Drybridge and Keith Smith who all won prizes and trophies in a number of sections. Morag Mair, Cullen took the prizes in the Floral Art section and also won prizes in the Handicraft section

Sept 20 -----

Sept 27 **Arradoul W.R.I. Cancer Cheques** - Arradoul WRI recently handed over cheques of #800 each to Marie Curie and Macmillan Cancer Support. The money was raised at a special fund-raising afternoon tea held in memory of Liz a very special member of Arradoul W.R. I.

Probus Learn of Auld Kirk's History – Members of Buckie Probus Club recently visited the Auld Kirk at Cullen to receive a guided tour by fellow member James Findlay. Mr Findlay gave a fascinating account of the Auld Kirk with its considerable history spanning almost 800 years of unbroken worship.

Before entering the church yard, members were reminded that this was the centre of the one-street town of old Cullen where the market Cross once stood, the same cross that now stands in the centre of the new town. The Earl of Seafield moved the town between 1820 and 1830.

New K'Nocker Launched - The first issue of the resurrected K'Nocker (The newsletter of the village of Portknockie) has been launched, with a second edition due in December. Portknockie Community Council encouraged a new team to come forward to produce the K'nocker after around two years in abeyance. The paper team is – Damien Connell, Clare Lock, Katherine Connell and Peter Evans.

A Big Portgordon Welcome - Pupils and staff at Portgordon Primary School were given a nice surprise as they arrived at the school last week. A colourful new sign, created by John Brady, now provides a big friendly welcome to everyone who enters the school. Principal Teacher Dawn Thomson said: "Last year's P7 pupils who were involved in the Health and Wellbeing Group had come up with the idea of a new sign to improve the look of the school grounds."

John Brady the husband of our nursery nurse Lorna, made the sign following the designs of the pupils. The sign was put up over the weekend and when we came in on Monday morning we got a lovely surprise. We thank John for all his efforts and for giving up his spare time to make the beautiful sign." The sign, which reads – Welcome to Portgordon Primary is picked out in a variety of colours and features starfish, seagulls, and dolphins and a boat, which represents the school logo. A photograph that appears with the report in the 'Advertiser' shows some pupils and staff admiring the new sign they are - Lorna Brady, Nursery nurse, Megan Scourgie, John Wilson, Sarah McCormack, Aiden Powers, Nicola Paton, Jamie Linfoot and Principal teacher Dawn Thomson

Oct 4 **Transport Minister Opens First Section of Bypass**- Scottish Transport Minister Keith Brown officially opened the first completed stretch of the A96 Fochabers and Mosstodloch bypass last week, hailing it as an important milestone. On Tuesday, September 27, Mr Brown cut a ribbon and said a few words to mark the official opening of the stretch of road which bypasses Mosstodloch, linking the roundabouts to the west of the village and near Baxter's.

Following the ribbon cutting ceremony the traffic blockades were removed at either end of the road and the first vehicles began to filter through, marking a moment of history in the making.

Record Jags Signing - Buckie Thistle last week welcomed top goal-scoring midfielder Mark Chisholm to Victoria Park when he signed a four-year deal with the club.

Oct 11 **Car Show a Classic** – Gleaming ambassadors from a bygone age in motoring drew the crowds to Linzee Gordon Park on Sunday when the first Buckie Classic Car Show was held. (It later transpired that a Classic Car Show was held in the same park a number of years ago though the turn out was much smaller.) Four local vintage car enthusiasts, backed by Buckie Area Forum's Buckie Economic Regeneration Steering Group, came together to organise the free event, which ran from 11.00am-4.00pm.

Ian Ross, Brian Reid, Charlie McIntosh and John Ferguson not only brought along their own cherished classic motors but were also joined by over 100 other classic vehicles. Amongst the vehicles on show during the afternoon were a Rolls Royce and a Bugatti racing car. The organisers were more than delighted with the success of the venture both in the number of vintage vehicle owners that chose to come to Buckie, also the size of the crowd of spectators. The lovely sunny day obviously played a part in this. The outcome was that already plans are being made for another show next year, hopefully bigger and better, with more stalls and entertainment.

Harbour Log – Six boats landed at Buckie last week, taking in 387 boxes of white fish, prawns and squid combined. The boats were transcend, Discovery, Transcend, Carona, Pegasus and Deeside. One cargo vessel paid a call. This was the MV Sea Kestrel, registered in the Cayman Islands that arrived from Ipswich carrying 1855.260 tonnes of sugar beet. She sailed, light, for Invergordon two days later.

Move up Speyside for Depute Rector – The end of the school term saw pastures new beckon for Buckie community High School Depute Rector as he prepared to take over as Rector at Speyside High School. Mr Engstrand is due to take over the reins at the Aberlour-based secondary after the October holidays. It brings to an end a six-year tenure at BCHS, where he arrived as Depute Rector after having previously served as PT English at Lochgelly High School in Fife.

Oct 18

Ambitious hall plans launched – The ambitious project to bring a brand new village hall to Portgordon took another significant step recently when plans were lodged with Moray Council. Should the proposals get the nod from Councillors on the Planning and Regulatory Services committee, the stage will be set for a brand new community facility to be constructed near the green to the south of the harbour. This would replace the existing hall near Gordon Square, which would be sold, the process being ploughed back into the new build project.

Alan Scott, chairman of the Portgordon Village Hall Committee, explained some of the many benefits planned to accrue from the building. “ One of the main things that came across from our public consultation on the new hall was the fact that it must be flexible in terms of use and it must be designed with this in mind,” he told the ‘Advertiser’. “ The main hall will be able to be used either as one big hall or divided up into a bigger one and a smaller one, depending on what events are being held. Included in the building will be a designated area for the youth of Portgordon, kitchen and kitchen storage facilities, disabled toilets, perhaps a shower and an office-cum- meeting room.” A full report on the proposed new hall is found on page one.

Heritage stalwart honoured- Tribute was paid last weekend to a James Findlay honoured for his last 12 year’s work as President of the Cullen, Deskford and Portknockie Heritage Group after passing on the baton to Cy Pirie, from Portknockie, at the group’s recent AGM. He was presented with a bottle of 20 year-old malt whisky by long- standing Heritage Group member and friend Sandy Henderson as a token of respect for his time at the helm Mr Findlay was also handed a CD featuring images of his time with the group, of Cullen Auld Kirk and its minister, Rev. Guthrie. A bouquet of flowers was presented to his wife, Rita, by Brenda Wood, the ~Heritage Group’s Vice Chairman.

Rotary Club hand out cheques - Over £15,000 was handed out to good causes last week following this year’s Six Harbour Walk and Cycle. A total of eight organisations benefitted from their share of the £15.090 pot from the event, which is run by Buckie and District Rotary Club and was held on May 1. Priority charity beneficiary for the 2011 even was CLAN (Cancer Link Aberdeen and North), who provide support for those with cancer living in the north and northeast, with their coffers receiving a boost to the tune of £10.000. Social care charity Quarriers were handed a £2.000 fillip, with Shelter Box, a Rotary project which aims to provide basic equipment for people in disaster areas, being handed £590. Also benefitting from the cash raised by the Six harbour Walk participants were local groups – the Quines’ Club, 1st Cullen Guides, Spey Runners, Portessie Playgroup and 1st Buckie Company Boys’ Brigade, all of which received cheques to the value of £500.

Probus Club - Greenland, the landscape and its people was the subject of the talk given by guest speaker Chris Sugden at the recent lunch meeting of Buckie and District Probus Club. A country which few, if any, of present had ever visited was brought very much alive not only through dialogue but also by superb photography – shown by slides and film – made all the more pleasant to view by the soft background music played.

Oct 25

Buckie Teen's Memory Honoured - Play with courage and determination – that was the inspirational message for life as well as sport when the memory of a young and talented Buckie footballer was honoured last week.

Andrew and Christine Geddes – the parents of Zoe Geddes, who was only 13 when she lost her battle with leukemia at Glasgow's Yorkhill Children's Hospital on May 25 this year – were presented with a framed strip by the Head of Buckie Thistle Youth Development Dave 'Parro' Findlay at Victoria Park last Friday afternoon as a mark of respect for her memory. Also present were her sisters Amy and Leah.

A keen footballer, Zoe was a promising and popular player BTYD'S Under 13 Girl's team and her loss was deeply felt by both her teammates and coaches. The new strip incorporates Zoe's name in the fabric and at the family's behest, the badge is encircled with a motto that very much summed up Zoe's attitude to life itself: 'Play with courage and determination.' The move left Mr and Mrs. Geddes deeply moved. A fuller report together with a photograph is to be found on the front page of this edition.

Community Council Revived - Sufficient nominations have been received to enable Buckie community Council to be re-established. Eight people had put their names forward by the time nominations closed. They are Janet Cowie, William G. Cowie, John C. Cowie, Allan A. Fraser, Stephen Grant, Heather T. Innes, Ian D. MacPherson and James A.S. Smith.

The previous council was dissolved when membership fell below the required minimum number following three resignations at different times. A minimum of six nominations was required to re-establish the 123-seat Council. The first meeting of the new Community Council is scheduled to take place on Tuesday November 1 in Room 1 of the Town House at 7.00pm.

Hallowe'en Nicht - A poem written in 1921 by 'Rob Roy' the nom-de plume of the late Alexander Robb and published in the 'Banffshire Advertiser' then received a second airing this week when it was handed in by Buckie man David Fowler who has a large collection of Mr Robb's work

Buckie Classic Car Show - Following the recent success of this event at Linzee Gordon Park a Buckie resident, Alistair Carter kindly handed into the offices of the 'Banffshire Advertiser' a number of photos he had taken the last time a vintage car show was held in the same venue, The date was 1962. Though the photographs clearly show a number of older cars lined up the numbers were not as large on the more recent occasion.

Harbour Log – Three fishing boats called into Cluny harbour last week to put ashore their catches. In total this comprised – 212 boxes of white fish, prawns and squid combined. The boats were Discovery, Carona and Transcend.

Two cargo boats paid a call. The MV Scot Ranger, registered in Britain, arrived light from Inverness. After taking on board 2203.000 tonnes of pulpwood logs destined for the paper industry she set sail again bound for Tofte in Norway.

The Norwegian registered MV Elektron II also came in light from Mandal in Norway. She left again for Newcastle carrying five large steel reels for the oil industry weighing in total 235.000 tonnes.

Clochach School (Formerly Enzie Public School for past pupils). The people of Clochach turned out in force last week to back ambitious plans to secure a bright future for their Community Hall. Clochach Community Hall Association 's AGM last Wednesday evening, which saw a large turnout, was in stark contrast to last year's rather gloomy meeting with local residents brimming with confidence that the facility would enjoy a revitalised existence thanks to ambitious refurbishment plans.

The meeting was to heart from Paul Robinson, the Chairman of the special sub-committee created to drive forward development of the hall were progressing, and he began by outlining the stark contrast in circumstances between this year and last year. Last October, he said, the community were faced with the prospect, due, to 'structural issue' with the building, of Moray Council closing and selling the hall and at best offering the community part of the site to build a new hall at their own expense. It was later discovered that root of this decision was a misunderstanding between a Council officer and the local authority's Policy and Resources Committee. Since then the Council have offered Community Hall Association a new 25 year lease on a full repairing basis and agreed to repair the kitchen gable wall, which will allow it to be used again. A full report on the meeting may be read on page one and page 6 of this edition of the B.A.

Harbour Log - Last week at Cluny harbour things were busier than they have been for some time with eleven fishing boats calling in to land their catches and no less than four cargo vessels paying a call. The total landing comprised 265 boxes of white fish, prawns and squid and also 210 bags of scallops. The boats were – Calisha, Reward, Blue Sky, Carona, Discovery, Provider II, Georgia Dawn, Jenna Maree, Heather Sprig, Carisma and Just Reward.

The MV Fingal, registered in the Dutch Antilles, arrived from Rotterdam carrying a cargo of soya weighing 1007.520 tonnes. She left empty bound for Perth. The British-registered MV Sea Mithril came in from Ipswich with 1891.680 tonnes of sugar beet on board. She left; empty, bound for the North Sea to await orders. The MV Noest (Dutch) imported 1632.360 tonnes of malt from Kings Lynn. She left again, empty, for Blyth. The last of the week the British-registered MV Falcon arrived from Mistley carrying 1650.000 tonnes of malt. In going to print it was not known when she would leave or whether she would have a cargo.

Cullen Church Honours Elder - Cullen and Deskford Church of Scotland honoured one of their number last week who has given nearly 50 years of service as an Elder.

At a special ceremony prior to the Kirk session meeting in the Hall Church last Thursday evening g Senior Elder Willie Taylor, 80, was presented with a beautiful wooden walking stick as a token of appreciation for his 48 years of service. His wife, Jean, was presented with a bouquet of flowers. Mr Taylor was ordained as an Elder in 1963 in Deskford Parish Church.

Taking over, as Senior Elder was James Findlay, who during the Kirk Session gave potted history of Mr Taylor's numerous contributions to the church over the years. During his time as an Elder, Mr Taylor served under no fewer than six different permanent ministers, including the present incumbent, Rev. Douglas Stevenson.

Tributes for local Doric legend - The memory of widely respected local Doric poet and Scottish traditional music enthusiast Ian Middleton was honoured in style last Saturday when a special tribute dinner was held. Club and featured a whole host of special guests including Robbie Shepherd, Robert Lovie, Alex and Madeline Green, Pat Fraser and James Alexander and the Fochabers Fiddlers. In addition to some fine music, the evening also saw renditions of some of Mr Middleton's poems by Mr Lovie and Ms Fraser.

Ahead of the event an open Doric poetry competition was held, with the adult section being claimed by Edward Mitchell for his poem 'Buckie', reminiscence on what the town was like when he was a child. Mr Mitchell was presented with a specially commissioned trophy by Mr Shepherd and enjoyed hearing his poem recited.

Winning the children's section was Crossroads Primary School pupil Scott MacKinnon.

A special competition within Buckie-based Doric group the Buckie Blethers was also run, with the task set entrants being that of creating a grace. Taking the day was Buckie woman Caroline Fowler with 'Mince 'n' Tatties, which was felt to be most appropriate for the menu at the tribute dinner. Behind the Ian Middleton Tribute Dinner was local man Charles McKay, a member of the Rotary Club and himself no stranger to the north Scottish traditional music scene as a singer.

Nov 8

St Peter's Welcome Fr. Tad Faith it is said, recognises no borders and this principle was warmly embraced at St Peter's RC Church last Friday when Fr Tad Turski was inducted as Parish Priest. It was a proud moment indeed for the 41-year –old, which hails from Zagan in western Poland and has been working in this part of Scotland for the last four years.

Leading the ceremony was the Bishop for the Diocese of Aberdeen, Hugh Gilbert OSB. FR. Turski now takes over responsibility not only for St Peter's but also St Mary's Fochabers, St Ninian's Tynet and St Gregory's Preshome. He succeeds the previous Parish Priest, Fr. Gerry Livingstone. Read a full report of the event on page 5 of this edition of the B.A.

Buckie Community Council Revived - Buckie Community Council were reconstituted last week at a special meeting in the Town House. The 12-seat group was dissolved earlier in the year after resignations pushed them below the minimum level of members required.

Taking the role of Chairman again is James Smith, with a new face Ian MacPherson, being elected as Vice Chairman. Gordon Cowie remains as secretary with Heather Innes – another new member – agreeing to take on the task of Minute Secretary. Completing the complement of office bearers was John Cowie, who is now BCC Treasurer.

Joining them on the community council are Stephen Grant and Allan Fraser, who both served on the previous group and new member Janet Cowie. Allan Fraser first joined Buckie Community Council in 1984.

International honour for St Peter's School - St Peter's Primary School in Buckie has been honoured with a prestigious international award for their outstanding work in bringing the world into the classroom. Last week saw the announcement that the whole school from Nursery right through to Primary 7, have scooped the British Council's coveted International School Award for a project that has seen them forge close links with schools in six different nations over the last two years or so.

Ongoing work on opening up the world to pupils at the school, including highlighting Fairtrade and international education, saw the school apply for the British Council project, which was to prove successful and came along with funding to allow a number of visits between the schools involved. A full report can be read on the front page of this edition.

A photograph also shows two pupils holding up the Award Certificate. They are P4-5 pupils Callan Taylor and Lily Clarke. In the background is P4-5 teacher Patricia Flude who has been deeply involved with the project also a number of pupils displaying some of the work generated by the project - Stefan Mearns, Emma Charlesworth, Ellis Barron Nina Bakir, Alexander Dougall, Ryan Kerr, and Abel Clarke. The three Moray Councillors Joe Mackay, Gordon McDonald and Anne McKay are also in the picture

War Fallen Honoured - Remembrance Sunday saw the nation bow its head in honour of the war fallen as services took place locally and up and down the land. Communities came together to commemorate those who had made the ultimate sacrifice in conflicts both past and present, with church services and war memorials providing focal points for the day

Traditionally associated with the two World Wars, Remembrance Sunday also provides an opportunity to honour those who have fallen in the myriad conflicts involving British Armed Forces right up to the present ongoing situation in Afghanistan and the battle against the Taliban. At the time of writing, the conflict had already claimed the lives of 383 British service personnel since troops were first deployed in 2001. Countless more have been wounded, many severely and to their permanent disablement.

Pictures throughout this copy of the B.A. Show the scenes at the various war memorials as well as at Buckie the march of ever decreasing number of ex servicemen.

For sale – Two businesses are presently for sale on West Church Street. The property at number 31 opened as a restaurant over three years called 'Food for Thought'. A good deal of money was spent on a complete refurbishment of the building and the installation of the best of fittings. There was a throw back to the whisky industry, with which the past owner had connection, with the seats formed from barrels, with tartan also prominent

The other property to bear the for sale signs is number 56, which for a number of years has been a 'cash and carry' Chinese 'Take Away' ran by Hang Hing, who has been in business in Buckie for a long time opening first on St Paul's Street. Both men had to retire on account of ill health. The property at 31 is relatively new dating from around mid 1960's but has seen a variety of enterprises occupying the property since that time. Number 56 on the other hand dates from around the beginning of the twenty-century and up until Mr Hing opened his 'Take Away' had always been a garage beginning with Miller, other firms some may remember are Webster, Simpson and Robertson, while Nellie Miller also came back to Buckie to run it for a while with her son Raymond Scorgie.

Nov 15

Honour to War Fallen - As Buckie and the local area, along with communities up and down the land honoured the war fallen on Remembrance Sunday, a poem appears in this week's edition of the B.A. Harks back to a time when the memorials taken for granted today were something relatively new. The poem that first received its first airing in 1921 and written by Alexander Robb, who used the nom de plume of Rob Roy and entitled 'Buckie War Memorial calls on the then Town Council to stir itself to erect a memorial, to those who marched away to the Great War never to return. He also lambasts them for being the last in the area to construct a memorial, adding that if they felt not equal to the task that they should step aside. (The Buckie War Memorial was not unveiled until 1925 as the Town Council were of a mind to purchase the Cluny Hotel as a memorial to the fallen with rooms inside, such as a snooker hall, being set aside for those servicemen who returned. They eventually had to drop the idea when public opinion, at the time, was all for erecting memorials such as that which was eventually built.)

National award for top notch Louise - Excellence brought its own reward for a former Buckie Community High? School student when she was honoured for scoring the top mark in a national exam.

Louise Mair, from Portknockie, who only turned 18 at the weekend, left S6 at BCHS in the summer, but not before she had scored 75 marks out of a possible 80 in her Advanced Higher Graphic Communication, and took full marks in two folio presentations, a feat which saw her invited to attend the Technical Teacher's

Association conference in Edinburgh to receive a special certificate and cheque to honour her achievement. If that were not enough Ms Mair, who is currently working with Forsyth's in Buckie as an Engineering Assistant, was also one of only three students across Scotland to score 100% in her Higher Photography- one of her photos, that of the Bow Fiddle rock at Portknockie taken at dawn, was later presented to Prince Andrew during his recent visit to the school as a memento of the day -and gaining A grades in her Advanced Higher Maths and Physics.

Nov 22

Clochach Hall secures Lottery Grant. Generous funding has been awarded by the National Lottery's Awards for All grants scheme to help fund ambitious refurbishment plans at Clochach Community Hall. A grant of £10,000 was welcomed by the Clochach Community Hall Association who plans to put the money towards the cost of renewing the flat roof over the entrance to the hall.

Following a complete survey of the hall, it is estimated full repairs will reach around £60,000 over the next four years. The works have been divided into three sections- urgent, essential and desirable. The committee intends to try and access funding from other sources.

Baxter's add new brand to portfolio - Baxter's Food Group, Fochabers, has announced the acquisition of the Fray Bentos business and brand for an undisclosed sum. Fray Bentos originally set up in 1899 is best known for its classic range of canned pies including Steak and Kidney and Minced Beef and Onion. Baxter's planned to invest and develop the brand to extend its reach into the ambient meat market.

Audrey Baxter, Chairman, Baxter's Food Group, commented, "Like Baxter's, Fray Bentos is a heritage brand and is known the length and breadth of the country holding a special place in the hearts of British consumers both young and old. We have many exciting ideas to revitalise the brand as we aim to secure a strong foothold in the canned meat market.

Buckie Blethers to launch DVD - The local group whose specialty is verse, songs and sketches are to launch their DVD entitled 'Nithin Like a Blether' when they host an evening of entertainment in the Royal British Legion Hall on November 25.

Christmas 'Kracker' Goes with a Bang - It was a weekend to remember for the area when the Buckie Christmas Kracker exploded on to the scene. Last Saturday saw the first major Christmas event in the tradition of the former festive carnivals to hit the town in many a year, and there was something special for everyone.

Nov 29

Christmas Kracker - Cluny Square was the focus of the entire Yuletide goings on under the banner of Buckie Christmas Kracker. With the sun shining brightly people, old and young flooded into the streets, which had been closed to traffic for the occasion to make the most of the extravaganza.

The festival is the first of what the organisers, Buckie Business and Retail Association hope will be an annual event to make the town's Christmas lights switch on a major part of the town's festive calendar. Funding for the event has been provided through a mixture of planning gain money from Tesco designed to boost the town centre, sponsorship and cash generated during the course of the Kracker. The day ended with a bang, the switching on of the lights and a fireworks display. A full report of the event can be read on pages 18 and 19 of the B.A. of this date.

New Fochabers Group - Fochabers businesses and community groups have come together with the aim of creating a positive and coherent vision for the future of the village as the bypass nears completion. 'Just Art' on the village's High Street provide the venue for the launch of the Fochabers Future Group, which brings together representatives from the Fochabers Business Folk organisation and those from other groups and associations.

The fledgling organisation will seek to co-ordinate changes in the village which will come about as a result of the bypass, which is due to fully open in February 2012. It is hoped that there will be a significant boost to visitor numbers with people attracted by the eased parking situation and wide range of shops and other businesses.

End of an era as Portgordon Methodist Church closes - Nearly 140 years of history drew to a close last Saturday when Portgordon Methodist Church held its last service. The reasons for its closure basically because of finances and the fact that the congregation is decreasing. Minister Re. Martin Kennan led a final service at 2.00pm last Saturday after noon which focused on all the happy occasions at the church rather than any sadness at its closing. A minister was first called to Portgordon

in 1872 and the church was opened in 1874. Prior to this, and in common with many Methodist congregations up and down the land, services were held in a house until a church could be built. Since about 1920 Portgordon did not have a resident minister and was linked pastorally with Buckie.

Portgordon was one of six Methodist societies on this part of the coast – the others being at Buckie, Portessie, Findochty, Cullen and Banff – and stemmed from a revival of the 1850's led by James Turner a Peterhead cooper.

Turner's ministry is little known outside northeast Scotland and was quite brief, but its consequences have been powerful and long lasting. Following his conversion he preached in many towns and villages along the Moray Firth coast. Vigorous societies sprang up among these fishing communities. In due course Ministers were called and churches were built and in some cases rebuilt to meet demand.

Dec 6

Strike protest sends pension warning - Local public sector workers joined around two million of their colleagues across the UK last Wednesday in strike protests over new pension proposals, It is being cited as the biggest walkout since the General Strike of 1926 and on a par with the Winter of Discontent in 1979. The most visible effect of the industrial action in the Buckie areas was the closure of Buckie Community High School and its eight feeder primary schools from Portgordon through to Cullen. Across Moray only five schools remained open, all in rural areas.

Golden anniversary for Theatre Group - For the dedicated team of volunteers known as Buckie Lyric Theatre Group last week's Panto production of 'Cinderella' was an extra special occasion as they celebrated their 50th anniversary. It was an extra special occasion for the two longest serving members producers Keith Mackay and Liz Imlach. Keith joined the group in 1975 with Liz joining him four years later.

Laying the foundations five decades ago for what has become a stalwart of the area that attracts people in from miles around were the four founder members – Ruby Hughson, Bessie Robertson, Nancy McGregor and Sinclair Cowie. Their version of 'Cinderella' was produced by Nancy. It was to star Ruby in the title role, Bessie as Prince Charming and Sinclair as one of the Ugly Sisters. Some of the others playing lead roles were William Cowie (the Baron), Margaret Dallow, nee Holmes, (Dandini), Jack and Sinclair Longmore (the Broker's men) and the donkey), Karl McQueen (Buttons) and Bill Murray (Ugly Sister).

Special day for Steve – Last Sunday was a special day for the members of Buckie Baptist Church as they witnessed one of their numbers ordained into the Ministry. Stephen Oyarzabal, 48, who had served the church for five years as a community worker, put the word 'Reverend' before his name after the ceremony. He had already successfully completed his studies with the Baptist Union of Scotland.

Rev Oyarzabal, his wife Julie and sons Matthew and Nathan, will be off to pastures new by the end of the year to work on starting a new community church in Forfar, which comes under the banner of the Baptist Union of Scotland.

We werena awfy busy - Two fishing boats called into Cluny harbour last week to land their catches. This comprised 13 boxes of white fish, prawns and squid together with 230 bags of scallops. The boats were the Georgia Dawn and the other Carisma. One cargo vessel paid a visit. This was the MV Mana, registered in Antigua that came in from Ipswich with a cargo of sugar beet weighing 1859.540 tonnes on board. She left again two days later, empty, bound for Invergordon.

Dec 13

Buckie Apprentice Scoops Top Trophy The road to top awards was the route ahead for a local apprentice when he was presented with a prestigious trophy. Glory beckoned for 23-year-old Drybridge-based Light Vehicle Mechanic apprentice Kyelan Smith, known to his friends as Jake – at the SMTA (Scottish Motor Trade Association) annual dinner held in the five-star Marcliffe Hotel, Aberdeen on December 1 when he was presented with the Apprentice of the Year award.

It was a proud evening not only for Mr Smith himself, who has graduated from his course at Aberdeen Technical College, but also for his father George for whom he works at the family garage Motorsmiths at Cunningholes Industrial Estate in Buckie. Said the proud prizewinner – “ I am very pleased to have won it and it took a lot of hard work during my course. It was all a bit of a daze on the night and it did not really sink in that I had won until I was sitting at the table with the trophy. There were some really top-notch people there from the likes of Vauxhall and

Mitsubishi, so it was tough competition. The award judges look at apprentices grades at college – I got distinctions – and their attitude in the workshop.”

A Doric book of poems - A local woman has launched a booklet of Doric poems in a bid to raise cash for a charity.

Caroline Fowler unveiled *The Ramblins o' a Buckie Quine – Fae the Hairt'* last week, which has been written in memory of her late husband Rob, a former teacher at Buckie Community High School, and the proceeds, which will go to the British Heart Foundation's Mending Broken Hearts appeal. The booklet, which runs to 50 pages with 35 pieces, contains six of which were penned by Mr Fowler.

Said Mrs. Fowler – “ Rob died very suddenly and unexpectedly from a coronary artery thrombosis three years and I wanted to do something to commemorate the fact that Rob would have been 60 this year and also raise funds for a research programme in Scotland by the BHF.” **'The Ramblins o' a Buckie Quine – Fae the Hairt'** is available for a recommended donation of £5 per copy by contacting Mrs. Fowler on (01542) 835637.

Fishing Heritage- Book Launch - Buckie and District Fishing Heritage Centre Ltd unveiled the seventh addition to their ongoing publishing collection last week with the launch of a work on motorboats. Last Thursday afternoon members and invited guests met in the Centre to witness the launch of 'BCK Motorboats Vol.1 by John Addison a member of the Board of Directors of group. Tracing the history of motor-powered fishing vessels which have carried the BCK registry tag, the book was officially unveiled by Kathleen MacLeod, the widow of former treasurer and centre stalwart Frank MacLeod.

Poppy Appeal Support Hailed – The local volunteers involved in the Poppy Scotland Appeal have been left celebrating after rising more than £6000. Collecting cans went out towards the end of October ahead of Armistice Brian Turnbull, from the Royal British Legion Buckie Branch, was keen to thank all those who donated.

He said – “On behalf of Poppy Scotland and particularly their beneficiaries, Buckie Branch of Royal British Legion Scotland would like to thank all individuals, groups and businesses from Portgordon though to Cullen who have contributed in any way during the 2011 appeal. Particular thanks are given to members of the Army Cadet Force who, for many years, have given of their time and effort in all sorts of weather. Thanks are also given to Carlton Bingo Group and their members for allowing us the use of their premises. Without exception all the schools from Portgordon through to Cullen have taken part, bringing awareness to children and young people who will be the next generation of adults after we 'old fogies' have gone.”

Dec 20

Buckie Euro Cash Bonanza – Buckie's bid to become a hub for the renewable energy industry in the Moray Firth received a boost worth hundreds of thousands of pounds last week. SNP Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Employment and Sustainable Growth John Swinney used a visit to Moray last Monday to unveil a package from EU's ERDF totaling some £837.000 for the region as a whole. Substantial match funding has also been secured from Moray Council, Highlands and ~Islands Enterprise, Moray College and SUSTRANS. Councillor Joe Mackay said that he was always pleased to see finance in any form coming from European funding but was not, personally, over enthusiastic over such schemes. Having taken an interest in politics for many years and most of what I read in this financial boost is atypical example of healthy political, propaganda i.e., print out and put to the press something that would appear to be good in the eyes of the public. This list of golden opportunities is all to come from £837.000 for the whole of Moray. I live in the real world not this so-called cloud cuckoo land. Other personalities saw things differently. Of course, such as Banffshire and Buchan Coast MSP Stewart Stevenson who hailed the funding as 'great news'? He said: “ This is good news for Buckie and the wider Banffshire economy.”

Christmas Joy at Seafield Hospital - Friends of Seafield Hospital recently spread some festive cheer to patients at the hospital and within Muirton Ward. Over 40 patients received an early Christmas present from the group. Chairman Alistair Robson said: We give gifts to the patients every year and it brings a smile to their faces. The parcels are made of such things that will make their stay more comfortable, such as toiletries and dressing gowns. Our thanks go to everyone who has supported us.” Also aiding the comfort of patients, the Friends recently equipped all rooms and wards with new, top-of-the-range television sets. The televisions were supplied and fitted up by R.S. Cruickshank. Betty Gauld helped Alistair in the distribution of all the gifts vice chair.

Fit a Kracker - The success of the recent Buckie Christmas Kracker has inspired a local Doric poet to pen a short poem. The poem, entitled 'Christmas Kracker' was written by Edward Mitchell, Chairman of Buckie Blethers. It is to be found on page 9 columns 1

New Face at BCHS Unveiled - As the New Year beckons so does a fresh chapter in the history of Buckie Community High School when their new Rector was unveiled last week. Neil Johnson, 40, currently Depute Rector at Keith Grammar School, was announced as the latest to hold the top post at BCHS, taking over from David Barnett who left at the beginning of the school year to assume the reins at Elgin Academy.

The new Buckie High School, who is a Biology teacher by training, will bring to a close a happy three-year association with KGS, which he joined from Mackie Academy, Stonehaven where he served as Acting Depute Rector.

"I am just delighted to get the BCHS post, which will be my first Rectorship" Mr Johnston told the 'Advertiser': "I am awed by it, really"

Mr Johnston will take up his new post on Tuesday February 14, 2012.

School Parties - The Si/S2/S3 and senior parties were some of the very best he has ever played at, according to band leader and master fiddle player Hebbie Gray, Keith, and he should know, because he has now played at Buckie High School Christmas dances for over 40 years.

RYLA Pair Selected - Two pupils from Buckie Community High School have been selected by Buckie Rotary Club to take part in a prestigious leadership programme.

Kieran Mair from Buckie and Kirstie Eunson from Portgordon will take part in the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) in 2012.

Dec 27

Findochty's Diamond Couple – A Findochty couple recently celebrated 60 years of marriage. Peter and Ishbel Flett were married in Buckie West Church on December 19, 1951, and they marked their anniversary with a party at home with family and friends. Peter worked at sea all his days on the fishing boats and in the last few years of his career he worked on board the fishery research vessel the 'Scotia'. Isbel, originally from Buckie was a 'herring quine' and would work at Great Yarmouth and other centres during the summer months. The couple have two sons, Ian and Allan, and four grandchildren. Peter is a member of the Buckie and District Fishing Heritage Centre and both are members of the Findochty Methodist Church.

The couple received a visit from the Lord Lieutenant of Banffshire Clare Russell and Councillor Anne McKay who presented gifts on behalf of the Queen and from Moray Council.

Registrar goes as Buckie office is closed - There were fond farewells both to Buckie's long-serving Registrar and the service the office in Buckie provides in what was a week of changes before Christmas Bringing to an end a 21-year association with Buckie – 14 of them spent as Registrar – was Jill Addison from Fochabers. It also saw the Buckie office now only open to serve prior appointments made through the Registration Service in Elgin.

Ms Addison first set foot in Buckie Registry Office as Registrar's Assistant for only six weeks a year as holiday cover while her son Ben was very young. Upon the retirement of the then Registrar, Joan Mair, in 1997 after 28 years in the job Ms Addison stepped up to become Interim then permanent Registrar in Buckie. Among the many memories of the job Jill said she would retain was having the pleasure of conducting the first civil marriage ceremony in Moray outside a Registrar's office. This took place in the Cullen Bay Hotel in 2002. She had also conducted citizenship and civil partnership ceremonies. Another very enjoyable part of the job, she said, has been helping people conduct family history searches.

Councillor Anne McKay described the closure of the Registrar's office in Buckie as a sad day. But the Policy Committee of Moray Council of which she said she was not a member, made the decision that Buckie no longer needed a Registrar. Ending by saying – "There is going to be inconvenience for many people."