

Snippets from the Banffshire Advertiser of 2012

Jan 3

Well Oiled - There was a massive boost for Buckie harbour last week after the arrival of the what is believed to be the first ever cargo of lubricating oil. Receiving the historic cargo was local firm Northern Oils and it has been heralded as the dawn of a new trade for the port as well as an exciting new venture for the company. The oil has arrived from the port of Felixstowe onboard the MV 'Scot Explorer', with the product originally sourced from the Persian Gulf. Northern Oils owner and Managing Director David Wood was on hand as the cargo arrived and was keen to explain the significance of this first consignment and the benefits it represents for the local economy.

"I have personally been working on this project for almost three years and I am delighted to have been able to bring it to fruition", he told the 'Advertiser'. "It is great to see it actually arrive and I am particularly pleased that we have been able to bring it home to Buckie rather than using the larger, more conventional shipping ports.

Thumbs up for new Portgordon Hall - The New Year began in the best possible way for Portgordon Village hall Committee when Moray Council granted planning permission for a bold new initiative.

It proved to be plain sailing for the group's ambitious plans to build a brand new community hall in the village on ground to the south of the harbour. One of those left delighted by the news was Committee chairman Alan Scott. "We are delighted to have cleared this major hurdle in building a new Village Hall for Portgordon~", he said. "It is a long road ahead but we have already made a very important step forward by securing planning approval."

Tributes paid to Portgordon 'Legend' He was a man who loved people and loved helping them- that was the simple yet moving epitaph to well-known Portgordon man Jimmy Gunn who passed away recently.

Best known to many as one of the first driving instructors in the Buckie area, Jimmy died peacefully on December 23 12 aged 87.

Paying tribute to Jimmy was son Kenny, who talked warmly of his father as someone who had a passion for helping people, alongside a love of cars, cycling and music.

Born on December 2, 1924, in Portgordon, Jimmy went straight from school to the former Herd and Mackenzie shipyard where he served his time as a carpenter. As his trade was one of those considered essential war work during WWII he was not called up.

After the war Jimmy went to work on the Hydro Electric Scheme at Cannich near Beauly before joining a tram extending the runway at RAF Lossiemouth. From there he was to return to shipyard work, this time at Jones.

His passion for cars and driving led him to life as a driving instructor, with his lessons initially costing the princely sum of five shillings if taken in the customer's car and seven and sixpence if conducted in his own car - the first a Morris Minor

Jan 10

Firefighters Required - You can help save lives in your community - that was the message going out loud and clear as a campaign got underway to recruit retained firefighters Station was the local focal point for the campaign launch last Wednesday, which will see men and women from all walks of life encouraged to consider signing up to

the band of retained firefighters who are an essential part of Grampian Fire and Rescue Service

The Buckie area is served primarily by three stations- Buckie itself, Cullen and Fochabers – all of which are staffed by retained firefighters.

Drink driving rap for Baxter's Boss – Baxter's Food Group boss Audrey Baxter was banned from getting behind a wheel for a year after being convicted of driving while under the influence of drink.

The 50 year old who appeared at Elgin Sheriff Court last Thursday lost her license for a year and was fined £600 after being found guilty of being over the limit when she drove her partner to Dr Gray's Hospital in Elgin. She was found to have 58 milligrams of alcohol in 100 milligrams of breath, exceeding the legal limit of 35 micrograms.

Ms Baxter had been drinking wine whilst cooking on the evening of December 24 when she discovered her partner to be unwell. Unable to secure a taxi, as it was Christmas Eve, Ms Baxter decided to put her partner into her Range Rover Sport and drive him to hospital, leaving the vehicle in the ambulance bay. A staff member at the hospital who spoke to her detected a strong smell of alcohol, while another believed Ms Baxter was under the influence of alcohol and the police were informed.

Diamond Duo Honoured - The New Year started in diamond fashion for a Portgordon couple when they celebrated 60 years of marriage. A surprise party courtesy of their family was the order of the day last Tuesday for Jim and Maggie Reid of Station Road, Portgordon to honour their major milestone.

Jim first met the girl to be his wife in Kings Lynn, Norfolk when he was doing his National Service and she was working in service for a Major and his family. As the couple's daughter Janice explained – "Dad went to the cinema with a chum to see a film and it was very busy there were only two seats left so Mum and Dad landed up sitting together, whereupon their relationship together began." The couple received gifts from Councillor Anne McKay on behalf of ~Moray Council and from Vice Lord Lieutenant of Banffshire Roger Goodyear.

Christmas dinner was served - The Buckie Corps of the Salvation Army once again provided a Christmas meal together with entertainment for a good crowd of people who would otherwise have been on their own on Christmas day. Christmas day also saw the Riverside Church hold a Life Challenge Outreach event aimed at anyone regardless of age or circumstances that would otherwise have been alone on the day. A total of 60 people were served a four course Christmas lunch with all those attending also receiving a gift.

The sum of £400 was donated towards staging the event with help also coming from a number of businesses including – Tesco, Asda, the Factory Shop, Aurora, Annie's Tearoom, MMS Graphics in Elgin and some private individuals.

Jan 17

Fochabers – is the land contaminated or not? A housing development in Fochabers is to be tested for possible ground contamination it has been revealed. Work is to be undertaken at the site of the former gasworks at Burnbank to establish whether there is a legacy of contamination as a result of activities carried out when the plant was in operation. The site made way for the housing development in the 1950's. Moray Council's Environmental Services Department has written to affected residents and will be meeting with them individually to discuss the proposed investigations, which it is hoped will begin at the end of January.

Soil and water samples will be taken for analysis from six gardens in the Burnbank area.

Portgordon Beach Clean- Portgordon Primary School pupils recently armed themselves with litter-picks and bin bags and took part in a Beach Clean. The whole school took part and a total of 22 bags of rubbish was collected. The event linked into a sustainable living theme and also current class projects. The P1-2 pupils are concentrating on looking after the environment and P6-7 are learning more about the sea and its industries.

Portsoy Boat-building Centre Plans - Bold plans are afoot to create a boat-building and restoration centre at Portsoy.

The Portsoy Organisation for Restoration and Training are to renovate a set of currently derelict buildings in the harbour area of the village, which will serve as a base for teaching practical skills to young and old alike.

Community Council A.G.M. At their recent AGM, Cullen and Deskford Community Council took time out to reflect on a year of community collaboration, tinged with a few disappointments.

Chairman Prof. Ashley Mowat hailed the efforts of the wide variety of voluntary groups who operated in the village

He said: "The small community of Cullen boasts a large number of community groups who work hard- both collectively and individually- to arrange events, deliver services for local residents and visitors, and raise significant sums for charity. Some have been in existence for many years - like the Christmas Lights Group and the Pensioners Club - and others are relatively new. To them all we owe a debt of gratitude."

Dedicated members call time - Tribute has been paid to two loyal Buckie Thistle F.C. fans who between them have amassed over 80 years service to the club.

Joe (91) and Annie (81) Jappy, of Yuill Avenue, Buckie, received gifts and best wish from Buckie Thistle last weekend following their retirement from the committee at last year's Annual General Meeting. Corrina Reid presented the couple with a beautiful clock, as committee members looked on. Jags President Mark Duncan said: "This presentation is well deserved and is our way of saying thanks to Joe and Annie for all the support they have given over the years. Joe and Annie have a long association with the club and it is thanks to the likes of them that the club keeps going. They have raised thousands of pounds over the years, over £30,000. There wouldn't be a club without them. Years ago it was thanks to their sales of pies and teas that would pay the referee costs. They did a fantastic job and put in a lot of hard work, which was all done voluntarily. I am pleased that they can finish on a high having seen the Jags clinch two league championships in a row."

Jan 24

Local Euro Funds - Local community groups and organisations are being invited to apply to a new fund totaling almost £400,000 the Scottish Government has announced.

An area stretching from Cullen to Lossiemouth is set to benefit from the money, which is part of a wider national pot totaling £7.6 million shared amongst 13 local authorities. Of this sum £4.2 million has been made available through the European Fisheries Fund Axis 4, with the councils involved required to co-finance in order to access the money.

New horizons for Mary - Buckie Lloyds TSB paid tribute to one of their long-serving staff last Friday as she prepared to head for pastures new.

Assistant branch manager Mary Lawrence, who has been with the branch for 32 years, said farewell to the banking sector to join her husband Dave in running Joe Dawson Funeral Directors.

Colleagues at the branch wished her well in no little style, with the bank decorated with banners, tinsel and balloons.

Customers were invited to pop in and say goodbye to her and a great many took the opportunity to do just that, with piles of gifts joining those presented by her colleagues.

A tasty treat for Lunch Club - Four community groups in Cullen have benefitted from Cullen Common Good Fund.

The Cullen Lunch Club was presented with a cheque for £500 last week, which will be used to

Purchase new kitchen and dining equipment and also go towards the club's annual outing. Cullen Lunch Club organiser Mary Brown said: "The Lunch Club has been running for 16

years and we need to replace a lot of the equipment, We only meet once a fortnight now so our funds are not as they used to be. That is why we are delighted to have gained a share of the Common Good Fund.

Another group benefitting from the Fund was the Cullen Christmas Lights Committee, who received £3000 towards new festive lights display. The Cullen Dirt Cycle Track Group received £2000 from the Common Good Fund and Cullen Community Council welcomed a cheque for £750.

Jan 31

He can wear his gong wi pride –Last Saturday was a proud moment indeed for a local music stalwart when he was presented with a Royal honour. James Alexander of Auchenthalrig was presented with his MBE at his home by the Lord Lieutenant of Moray Grenville Johnston in recognition of his services to Scottish traditional music over the last 33 years. Known to many for his music tuition, Mr Alexander was the driving force behind Speyfest and the Fochabers Fiddlers. **See full report on page 1 and page 6**

An unusual visitor likes it here – Anyone who has had the occasion to look over the parapet of the bridge over the Buckie burn may have been surprised to see an unusual bird which seems to have made a new home for itself there. The Scottish SPCA is regularly monitoring the area, as they are keen to catch the Muscovy duck to ensure it is safely looked after.

A spokesperson said: We received a number of calls to inform us about the duck and although we have tried to catch it we have not been unsuccessful. The duck is not injured and is not going to come to any harm where it is but the Muscovy duck is usually kept as a pet so we are keen to catch it and safely re-home it. . We continue to monitor the duck regularly and would advise people not to feed it.”

Probarians toast the Bard - The Buckie and District Probus Club enjoyed a traditional feast of haggis neeps and tatties at their Burns supper held in the Marine Hotel last Thursday. . The haggis was piped in by Stewart MacMillan and carried in by Paul Hall, head chef. Alex Bruce addressed the haggis, and Hugh Patience gave the Selkirk Grace. Bob Jamieson gave the toast ‘To The Lassies while his wife Elsie replied. Reciting poems were Allan Fraser with ‘Tae a Mouse’ and James Findlay with ‘A Man’s A Man For All That’ and Arnold Pirie. Musical entertainment was provided by guest musician James Alexander on the violin and by club member John Rennie. Main organizer Jim Pirrie brought the event to a close with a vote of thanks.

Other Burns’ Suppers - At Findochty Primary School with the following pupils being actively engaged - Callum Higgins carried in the haggis behind piper Toby Geddes and then gave the Address to the Haggis. Caera Farren and Kyle McNally said the Selkirk Grace. Traditional toasts followed, with Blair Miller giving the Toast to the Lassies and Elise Eckersley replied with the Toast to the Laddies. Haggis neeps and tatties were served up with oatcakes At Portgordon the annual Burns Suppers was organized by the Friends of Portgordon Primary School with a large crowd being present. The evening began with a welcome address and the Selkirk Grace from Chairperson Adelle Farley. The haggis was piped in by young piper Blair Duncan and carried by Loraine Sutcliffe from J&A Catering. John Sievwright from Keith gave an animated Address to the Haggis. Councillor Douglas Ross gave the Immortal Memory; Andy Logan gave the Toast to the Lassies to which Kay Griffin replied. A traditional ceilidh with music provided by The Nae Reel Ceilidh Band. The evening being brought to an end with the singing of Auld Lang Syne.

The members of Buckie 41 club (all former members of the local Round Table) enjoyed their Burns Supper in the Highlander Hotel where Les Forman gave the Address to the Haggis

Cullen School Kids entertain - The Rotary club of Buckie were recently treated to an evening of Scottish entertainment provided by pupils from Cullen Primary School at a Scots Night to commemorate the birthday of Scotland’s national bard Robert Burns. The

school's P5-P7 choir group sang a selection of traditional Scottish songs while Chloe Nevill and Anastasia Davidson sang a duet of 'Ca the Yowes Tae the Knowes', Anna Campbell following this up with a beautiful rendering of 'Ye Banks and Brae O' Bonnie Doon'. Dancers Chloe and Sophie Henderson gave a display of Highland dancing when they performed the Highland Fling. The Violin Group played a selection of well known traditional Scottish airs and brought the evening to a close with 'Auld Lang Syne'.

7 Feb. **Big day at Fochabers as bypass is opened** It was an historic day that many people believed they would never see, but 30 years of striving came to fruition last Tuesday afternoon when the Fochabers-Mosstodloch bypass was officially declared open. Transport Minister Keith Brown was on hand to cut the ribbon declaring the new £312.5 million road officially open ahead of schedule. He was joined by Moray council Convener Councillor George McIntyre, representatives from the construction contractors Morrison's, designers URS, elected members from the areas, pupils from Milne's and Mosstodloch Primary Schools and members of the local community in cutting the ribbon on the stretch of the bypass loop to the north behind Fochabers. Rev. Alison Mehigan from Bellie Church of Scotland also said a blessing prior to the opening of the bypass.

Local Burns Celebrations – The residents of Wakefield House in Cullen and Netherha Nursing Home in Buckie enjoyed some traditional fare of haggis neeps and tatties to mark the birthday of Robert Burns, Scotland's national bard. Margaret Shepherd addressing the haggis in spirited style. At Wakefield House Margaret Bruce gave the Address to the Haggis.

A large crowd turned out for an evening of quality, traditional Scottish entertainment as Cullen Golf Club held their successful Burns Supper. The company were welcomed by Club Captain Ricky McKay before the haggis was carried in preceded by piper Calumn ~Newlands. Jim Cowie gave the Address to the Haggis and Ian Findlay said the Selkirk Grace. George Clark gave the Immortal Memory, which was both factual and humorous. Ricky McKay toasted the lassies, which proved to be very humorous and his wife Lesley replied, with a wonderful rhyming strong and humorous reply, captivating the audience. The entertainment continued with a short bagpipe recital by Calumn Newlands followed by some fiddle music from Anya McRae. Two local girls, Madison Strachan and Alison Donn, entertained with some Burns songs. The evening continued with a dance to the music of Joe Mowat and Bill Findlay, which was well received by all.

Buckie suffer from a plague of doos- A plea for urgent action to be taken to tackle a plague of pigeons in Buckie has been made. Their presence in great number in different parts of the town, as on East Cathcart Street adjacent to the South and West Church and also the surroundings of the North Church has been made a mess by their droppings. A derelict building on the north end of Garden Lane and also the burnt out shell of the former Haldane's supermarket are favourite roosting places with householders nearby made to suffer by the mess they leave behind. Workmen from Moray Council came and cleaned the pavement on the south side of East Cathcart Street but it was said that this was a one off and that they wouldn't be doing it on a regular basis. A picture in the 'Advertiser' shows Mrs. Elizabeth Munro who lives at 15 A East Cathcart Street sweeping the mess from her doorway which she says she has to do twice a day to save the mess being carried into her house.

Feb 14 **Down by the Riverside** - Saving lives from the clutches of drug or a Buckie church at the core of a bold new project launches drink abuse. The Riverside Christian Church who are based on East Church Street in what was once a bank then later Town Council offices, have begun fundraising to purchase an outreach bus, which will be used to hold out a helping hand to those struggling with substance abuse. A target figure of £15,000 has been set to buy a 17-25 seater bus, which would then be

refitted to include a space for confidential consultations, a coffee bar and various multi-media outlets.

Long service honoured - Staff gathered to pay tribute to Mrs. Isabella ‘Tibby’ Broadley who has served for 35 years as a factory operative at Moray Seafoods, joining the firm on February 1977. Managing Director Victor West was on hand to present Tibby with a bouquet of flowers and gifts and he hailed her long service as a ‘staggering achievement.’

Erin’s design is a winner - The artistic talents of a young pupil at Cluny Primary School have been recognised in a design competition. The competition to design a logo came about as the Cluny support Association was renamed as Friends of Cluny. The group set pupils the task of designing a logo that would advertise the new name and represent the work of the group. At a recent parents’ evening, parents and pupils were invited to vote for their favourite design and the overall winner was P7 pupil Erin Slater. In a photograph in the ‘Advertiser’ on page 9 Erin is seen receiving a certificate from Angela Thomson, Chairperson of the Friends of Cluny, as she hold her winning poster. Looking on is Erin’s mum Leigh Slater, and Headteacher Claire Wood.

Tak a sma’er hoose, it’ll pey ye - Council house tenants in Moray whose homes are under – occupied are to be given a financial incentive to downsize. The move will help Moray Council make better use of its housing stock by encouraging tenants with more bedrooms than they need to move to a smaller property.

Last week saw the Council’s Communities Committee agree that tenants who volunteered to downsize would receive a £1500 payment plus £400 for each bedroom they relinquish. This would mean that a tenant downsizing from three bedrooms to one bedroom would be entitled to a payment of £2,300. Practical assistance will also be made available to help tenants move to a smaller house.

Feb 21 **Fa’s breeding monster cats?** Large cats the size of Labrador dogs could be on the prowl in the Buckie area after two reported sightings last week. The most recent sighting was in Portgordon where householder Sandy Kerr of Stewart Street was adamant that what he saw was not a domestic cat but was a cat-like animal something akin to the size of a Rottweiler or Labrador.

Jackdaws by the hunners - An extraordinary scene, not before witnessed, took place on the property at the junction of Sutherland Street with Anton Street on the afternoon of February 9th when around 200 jackdaws took up temporary residence on the rooftops, chimneys and TV aerials. They would have remained there for around half an hour before once again taking flight. One of those who saw and looked on with amazement was Allan Fraser who reported the spectacular event. And said how he was reminded of the film ‘The Birds’ by Alfred Hitchcock

Memorial Project – An innovative project is seeking photos and other information about local members of the Armed Services who fell during both WW1 And WW2. With the 100th anniversary of the Great War due in 2014 Buckie and District Heritage Centre’s Family History Group are seeking to gain as much information as possible about those who were lost in action and also servicemen who served overseas and are buried locally in commonwealth War Graves.

Behind the project are Heritage Centre Volunteers David Fowler and John Crawford, the latter forming the Family History Group in 2009 as part of the Year of Homecoming celebrations. (A photograph of the two men together with Valerie O’Connor Desktop Publishing trainee at work on the project is to be found on the front page of this edition.)

Feb 28 **Top athletic award for teacher** - Dedication to coaching athletics to local kids has brought a Buckie Community High School teacher a second prestigious award.

Last November BCHS PT RE. at the school, Ray Aitken received the sportMoray SALSC (Scottish Association of Local Sports Councils) Local Service for Sport Award for his 20 years of commitment to the after-school running club. Last Wednesday, however, saw him scoop the sportscotland Coaching Award trophy for Moray. This netted Mr Aitken a trophy, a certificate and a cheque for £100.

Mar 6 **new boss takes over at Buckie High** - There was a new face at the top for Buckie Community High School when they laid out the welcome mat for their new Rector. Taking over the reins at the school recently was Neil Johnston, who was announced as the successor to David Barnett who left for Elgin Academy after the summer vacation last year with BCHS being led by Acting Rector David Strachan in the intervening period.

Look Back to the Past - A good reproduction of a photograph on this page shows Miss Violet Wilson's class at Findochty Primary School in 1928. The names of most pupils are given and can be clearly identified by those who know.

Olympic Honour for Portgordon School - Portgordon Primary School got in amongst the Olympic honours last week, well ahead of the commencement of the games in London. Pupils and staff alike were celebrating after they were officially welcomed into London's 2012's Get Set network, in recognition of their commitment to the Olympic and Paralympic values.

The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games awarded Portgordon a plaque and certificate to acknowledge their involvement in the London 2012 education programme. On hand to present the plaque to the school was local Councillor Douglas Ross.

Portgordon now join schools and colleges across the UK as members of the special London 2012 community and will receive access to exclusive competitions and 2012 Games related opportunities over the coming year. (A fuller report is given on page 1 and 6 of this edition.)

New harbour brochure unveiled - Be part of Buckie's potential- that was the message sent out loud and clear last week to offshore renewables firms with the launch of a new brochure promoting the town's harbour.

The publication, entitled 'Buckie Harbour: Opportunities for Offshore Renewables' lays particular emphasis on the harbour area's potential as an Operations and Maintenance base for offshore windfarm developments.

There are proposals to build around 400 wind turbines in the Moray Firth and Buckie is widely considered to be ideally placed as an onshore support base.

Mar 13 **Spey Bay Project** - The first steps in a bold heritage project got underway last week spanning the generations. Milne's High school and Learning Centre in Fochabers was the focus last Tuesday and Wednesday for information gathering sessions, which will ultimately lead to the production of a guidebook outlining the history of the Spey Bay area. Originally conceived by the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society Wildlife Centre at Spey Bay, the initiative is being run in partnership with Milne's High School and Primary schools. In addition to the guidebook, High School students working under the direction of Portknockie artist Geoff Roberts will create a mosaic sculpture for the Centre. Last week saw local residents of all ages invited along to the Learning Centre to share their memories of the area as information gathering sessions got underway.

Harbour Log - Three fishing boats called into Cluny harbour, Buckie, last week to land their catches. This was one more than has been the norm over recent weeks. The boats were Deeside, Shalimar and Georgia Dawn. Together they landed 176 boxes of white fish/prawns and squid also 166 bags of scallops.

No cargo vessels called although there had been three the week previously.

Cullen Musician Debut Release - A Cullen fiddle player has released his exciting debut album with award-winning band RURA.

Jack Smedley, a former Buckie Community High School pupil and member of the Fochabers Fiddlers, is a founding member of the group that released the album 'Break It Up' at the beginning of March.

RURA burst onto the Scottish Folk music scene in 2010 and is made up of: Jack Smedley, fiddle; Steven Blake, bagpipes and whistle; Chris Waite, guitar; David Foley, bodrum and flute; Adam Holmes, guitar and vocals.

Portknockie Stalwart Steps out of the Spotlight - There was the most special of farewells recently in Portknockie as a community stalwart stepped out of the spotlight.

For nearly thirty years Pearl Murray has been one of the pillars of Portknockie Community Council and it was this commitment and dedication, which was, recognised at a special dinner held in the Victoria Hotel in the village.

Community councillors and three local elected members, Councillors, Ron Shepherd, Gary Coull and Stewart Cree, were all on hand to pay tribute to her massive contribution over the years.

A gift of money was presented to Mrs. Murray from the Community Council with flowers being handed over by Councillor Ron Shepherd on behalf of his fellow councillors.

Alan Beresford former chairman of Portknockie Community Council who served on the council with Mrs. Murray for seven years described what Mrs. Murray had given to Portknockie was 'irreplacable'. He said: "To say Pearl has been a community stalwart or a committed fighter for Portknockie is probably a bit of an understatement; her contribution more properly ranks in the irreplaceable category. There are not too many like Pearl and we were lucky enough to have her going full steam ahead for 30 years." The three councillors added their own tributes to Mrs. Murray (For a fuller report, see page 5 of this edition.)

Peter Fair why it is so called - - In a letter to the 'Advertiser' the previous week someone who preferred to be anonymous asked why Peter Fair should be so called. In this edition Allan Fraser gave the answer in a letter entitled 'Peter Fair Origins'.

Mar 20

Duncan's Jags exit shock - Buckie Thistle fans have been left stunned after the Duncan brothers announced they are to leave the club at the end of the season. The announcement will bring to an end a ten-year spell for club President Mark Duncan and brother Murray who is a director. During their tenure they have overseen the club's resurrection from the doldrums to back-to-back Highland League championships, ending a title drought of over 50 years. However, the brothers have decided that, with the decade mark coming up it was time to move on. Mark Duncan said: Running Buckie Thistle is a big responsibility and one that takes an enormous amount of personal time, Murray and myself have decided that we will be standing down from our posts at the end of the season - we want to take a break away from running the football club. We have left the club in good shape for the future and Buckie Thistle is certainly in a far, far better - condition than when we were asked to take over 10 years ago. It has been a privilege working with the fans and the Committee; they are fantastic people."

Heritage's latest project - A project that aims to honour the local war fallen teamed up with Buckie Library last week in a bid to seek more material. The War Memorials Project, which is being run by the Buckie and District Heritage Centre Ltd's Family History Group is gathering details of servicemen from both World Wars who were lost in action and are either buried locally or overseas where they fell.

It is hoped that that by next year, the target date for the initiative's completion, a chart will be in place at the Heritage Centre which visitor's can consult to discover where their relatives who were killed in action are buried. A book may also be produced and it is hoped that information from the project will be placed onto the Centre's website.

Taking up station in Buckie Library last week to scan photographs and gather information from the public was David Fowler, one of the team behind the project. His stint followed hard on the heels of a number of similar sessions at the Lampie Hoose in Portgordon. **A photograph in this edition** shows David receiving some material from Neil Smith containing details of his uncle George Smith, a member of the crew of a Lancaster that crashed during a bomber raid over Germany.

Mar 27 **Big cheque for local RNLI** – Last Thursday evening saw the life-saving charity handed a cheque for £1000 which had been raised by the crew of the Janice platform operated by Maersk.

Behind the donation was local man Bruce Costello, who works on the platform, and on hand to present the cheque to Buckie RNLI lifeboat coxswain was his daughter Iona. Welcoming the cash boost, Mr Robertson said: “This is a very generous donation and on behalf of Buckie RNLI I would like to thank Bruce and his colleagues on the Janice platform for thinking of us. The money will remain with the local RNLI branch and be used for crew training. “

The Buckie crew has two set training sessions a week, on Thursday evening and Sunday morning. On average it costs around £1266 a year to train an individual crewmember. With only 10% of volunteers crewmembers nationwide coming to the RNLI with any maritime experience, training has become even more vital than it has been in the past.

Explosive found on Buckie shore - a local man called a bomb disposal unit to Buckie last week following an unusual discovery made.

George Wood, of the Yardie, discovered what he believed to be an explosive device while collecting whelks last Wednesday afternoon. The find occurred in the Hythe area.

He informed the police who cordoned off the area before notifying the Bomb Disposal Unit. With the tide in it was Thursday afternoon before they could get to it. It was approximately two feet long, three inches in diameter and came to a cone shape at one end. Said Mr Wood: “To me it looked like a rocket, the type used in aircraft. I have never seen anything like this before but knew it to be an explosive device.”

Lunch Club folds – Last week saw the end of an era as Cullen Lunch Club called it a day.

The members treated themselves to lunch at the Aurora Restaurant at Strathlene last Wednesday as they brought the curtain down on 16 successful years.

It was both a sad and proud moment for the group’s Chairperson, Mary Brown, who this week bids a fond farewell to Cullen before moving to her new home in Edinburgh. “In many ways it is sad that the club is closing but it is better to finish like this than for it to die a death”, she told the ‘Advertiser’. Both the members and helpers are not getting any younger and numbers have been dwindling. As I am going to live in Edinburgh I stood down as Chair and with no one wanting to take over we decided to call it a day.”

April 3 **Important news fae Clochan** - Last Wednesday saw a brave new chapter opened in the history of Clochan’s community hall (built as Enzie J. S. School) as the drive to create a 21st century facility strode ahead.

A well attended EGM in the hall saw unanimous support for two motions: the first calling for the Clochan Community Hall Association to be dissolved and their assets and liabilities transferred to a new body, Clochan Community Centre SCIO (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation); the second asking that all the officers and committee members of the former Association be adopted en bloc as the Trustees of the Community Centre

The creation of the new group is the latest step in a remarkable journey that has seen the hall pull back from the abyss of closure and face the future with confidence. (A full report is given on page 1 and page 6)

The ayne o the road - Last Wednesday evening saw the curtain come down for the final time on a hugely popular song and poetry group.

The Fishermen's Hall played host to the Ga'an About Folk's last regular performance, bringing to a close a five-year spell that has seen the group entertain young and old alike. Taking their final bow last week were: Anne Stewart (vocal/guitar); Helen Sandison (vocals); John Sandison (bass guitar/recitations); Hazel Stewart (accordion); Alison Skinner (melodeon/bodhran/percussion/mouth organ); Jim Petrie (accordion)

In addition to entertaining members of Buckie Pensioners' Group, the sextet handed over a total of £2000 to the following charities – Buckie RNLI, Buckie and District Cancer Group, the Oaks Palliative Day Care Centre and Buckie Teddy Bear Group, who cater for children with special needs. The money, as with other donations made over the last five years, came from their gigs and CD sales.

Speaking for the group Anne Stewart said the reason for stopping was that after over 200 performances they decided that it was time to take life a bit easier as none of them were getting any younger. She did say, however, that although they wouldn't be on the performing circuit any longer they would still be looking to doing some one-off performances at fund-raisers.

The herber wis teem - For the last two weeks no fish landings of any kind was made at Cluny harbour with only one cargo vessel being in port during this time. This came in empty and left for Bruges in Belgium with a cargo of animal feeding pellets, a by-product of the whisky industry.

Apr 10

BB's team in National Finals – A team of local Boy's Brigade footballers have scored a first for Buckie by reaching the national finals of a five-a-side tournament.

Saturday March 31 saw a seven-strong team from 1st Buckie Company BB's, accompanied by coach Malcolm Smith, humble a series of strong Central Belt teams on their way to claiming a place in the national finals in the Edmonton Green Leisure Centre, London.

The seven boys are - Justin Murray, Liam Wood, Eoin Gordon, Scott Innes, Greg Hay, Callum Reid and Ross Gillies.

The finals are due to be played on May 5 when the boys will face challenges from 15th South Shield, 1st Barnett, 5th Portadown and 1st Knocknamuckily.

Benjy aims to win National Schools Journalism contest - A Buckie Community High School student is urging local people to rally behind his bid to win a national schools journalism contest. Fifteen-year-old Benjy Palmer has been making his own news of late by reaching the final of the Schools Journalist of the Year competition and has only a certain time left to gather the votes that could see him crowned as the winner.

He is one of four finalists from across Scotland vying for the title, which is being run by the 'Daily What News' an online news service provided by Education Scotland for schools to help deliver literacy and language.

The piece he hopes will propel him and BCHS to glory covers the recent sightings of large black cats in the local area recently and is entitled 'Evening Mews'

End of an era for family firm - Last week saw the end of an era when a local family firm of butchers called it a day. John Stewart, the Butcher, brought to a close over half a century of presence in Buckie on April 2 when they handed over their shop at 29 West Church Street to Darren Anderson. The shop will continue as a butcher's under Mr Anderson's ownership. Mr Stewart said "We have been in Buckie for over 50 years, starting with my father Jock who took over the butcher business at 29 previously held by John Taylor and Sons. My brother Alex further developed the business and I took it on from 2004."

Winter blasts back - winter proved that it is not finished yet last week as an Arctic blast gripped both Moray and the whole of Scotland as a whole.

Coming a mere week after temperatures exceeding those often found on a summer's day, 23 degrees plus being experienced on Deeside and 20 common elsewhere, the mercury

plummeted last Monday evening to well below freezing, bringing with it snow and bitterly cold temperatures.

Apr 17

A New Inspector Calls - There was a new face at Buckie Police Station last week when Inspector Louise Blakelock was welcomed to town. (Not only does Buckie have a new Inspector but also it could be that this is the first time that the person has been a female.) Inspector Blakelock officially took over from her predecessor, Inspector Derek Spark on Sunday April 8 and was enjoying getting used to the new challenges that lie ahead. Louise who was brought up in Banff has been an Inspector for three years.

Cemeteries are no place for dogs - Ban dog walking in local cemeteries – that was the clarion call last week from an angry Buckpool resident in response to what he described as an epidemic of dog fouling at the area's West Cemetery.

William Lyon, who lives on Netherha Road, has been left enraged by the extent of dog fouling in the area, with dog faeces being found in the local cemetery, on the graves and including on gravestones themselves. Local Policing Team Constable Mairi Page stressed that there was “no excuse “ for dog fouling, condemning such actions in a cemetery as “wholly inappropriate and disrespectful”. Doggie bags are available free of charge from every library and primary school in the area so that there is no excuse whatsoever for people failing to clean up the mess left behind by their animals,” she said.

Probus Club AGM - Buckie and District Probus Club held their annual general meeting in the Marine Hotel, Buckie on Thursday April 12. Those present, numbering 36, were welcomed by retiring President Steve Liley. The Minute of the previous AGM was noted and approved before Bob Jamieson, Secretary, gave his report on the year past. In this he mentioned that club membership at present stood at 512 with an average number of 31 attending the weekly coffee mornings and 26 at the monthly lunch meetings. At the lunch meetings members were privileged to hear nine different speakers talk on a wide range of subjects. In addition the club had enjoyed two outings, a Christmas meal and a Burns Supper, at the latter wives and partners had been present for the first time. He was glad to report that they had lost no members through death during the year but had welcomed three new members, two of those being brothers, which he described as being a ‘rare occurrence’.

Probus Treasurer, John Smith reported that the club's financial status was sound and was of the opinion that there was no need to increase the membership fees for the coming year.

The spot light then fell on Mr Liley who proceeded to give his valedictory address as President. He spoke of the honour and privilege it had been for him to be President of the club, where he had felt well at ease on all occasions indeed had found greater companionship than perhaps in any other company with which he had been involved. He told members how he had learned much from listening to fellow members, who came from all walks of and had been intrigued by the tales they had to tell. . Before ending his discourse, Mr Liley took time to thank the club office members committee members and others who had contributed in different ways to make what it had been a most successful year. He also thanked Fiona and other members of the hotel staff for looking after the club members so well.

He rounded off by wishing the new President and Committee every success in the coming year.

The new office bearers are: President- Bill Cecil; Vice President - John Smith (1); Secretary- Bob Jamieson; Treasurer- John Smith (2) (both who are continuing in office) Committee members are – Duncan Woodham, George Farquhar, James Reid and Steve Liley. Auditor – Alex Hay.

The customary exchange of badges between the new President and retiring President was the last piece of business done.

DVD Creates Charity Cash Bonanza - A DVD featuring a slice of Cullen's history has raised thousands of pounds for charity. The double disc feature film entitled "Cullen Claik Up-the Toon Shops ETC" is the follow up to the hugely successful first DVD "Cullen Claik, Seatown Shops". It has already generated a stunning £3000 for two charities.

Local heritage enthusiasts James George Addison and Sandra Taylor created the DVD's as part of a project. Narrated in the Doric by Mrs. Taylor, the DVD compliments Cullen by taking a nostalgic look at the many shops that used to be present in the upper half of the town whilst detailing the changes in ownership over the years. There are also snippets of local history such as the old Council Chamber, Council and the destruction of Cullen Town Hall by fire in 1942.

Mrs. Taylor described Mr Addison as having "infectious enthusiasm" for the project. She said, "He did all the editing, at 82, its amazing for a man of his age."

A photograph of Mr Addison and Mrs. Taylor appears on page 7 of the 'Advertiser' of this date and shows Pam Clark of Macmillan Cancer Support Group and Margaret Woodward Guide Dog for the Blind puppy walker as they each hold cheques given by the twosome, the money being raised from the sale of the DVD's "

Apr 24

Are they jist cats suffering fae obesity? Further sightings of an animal resembling a large black cat have been made in the Buckie area. Last Monday saw Portessie resident, Billy Paterson (64) receive the surprise of his life whilst walking with his dog in the wooded area adjacent to the Rathven burn and near Burnside Cemetery. He described how he saw a big black cat-like animal, the size of a Rottweiler or Labrador wandering in and out among the bushes. Mr Paterson's sighting comes just two months after similar ones in the Buckpool and Portgordon areas.

Air Raid Memorial Unveiled - The decades rolled back poignantly last week when a memorial was unveiled in Portknockie to three residents killed in a World War II bombing raid on the village.

Friday April 20 saw a special service get underway at the Millennium Garden to commemorate James Mair, 51, Margaret Ann Mair, 16, both of 8 Seafeld Street and Annie Mair McKay, 47, who lived at 9 Admiralty Street.

Officially unveiling the white granite domed seat bearing the names of the three who perished was Kathleen McKay the sister of Margaret Ann and daughter of James Mair.

Behind the drive to have a memorial put in place was Portknockie man CY Pirie, who is President of Cullen, Deskford and Portknockie Heritage Group. **A full account of the ceremony together with a photograph is to be found on page 1 and 6 of 'Advertiser' of this date.**

Duck Race in the Rathven burn - Two groups from Portessie joined forces when they staged a recent successful fund-raising event. Portessie Public Hall and Portessie Playgroup cleared a total of £206.25 after expenses when they staged a Duck Race in the Rathven burn.

The ducks were released into the burn near to the former railway bridge over the burn with the winner being the first to reach the road bridge at Rathburn Street.

The first three ducks to reach the bridge were numbers 39, 319 and 234 owned by Anne McKay, Ianstown, Laura Campbell, Findochty and John Wilson C/o of the Craigenroan Bar respectively.

Colin gets a helping hand - Colin Forbes, Buckie, who went on to run the London Marathon and was sponsored to raise funds for VICTA, a charity for visually impaired children, received a major boost for his efforts before setting out for London when he received the sum of £215 from the owner and staff of the Grand Central Sports Bar. Opened in February the Bar occupies what was the former Buckie Thistle Social Club and prior to that the Terriers Drill Hall on West Church Street.

Doctor calls it a day - Dr Jim Tuckerman who has served the local community as a GP for over 30 years retired last Friday. Jim a native of Kirkcaldy and a graduate of Aberdeen

University began his medical career as a surgeon this taking him Leicester before returning to Aberdeen Royal Infirmary where he was cardio-thoracic and orthopedic surgeon. He later decided that he was perhaps more suited to General Practice. He did a year in Aberdeen later in Edinburgh to gain more experience before an opportunity arose in Buckie 1981 when he and his wife came north. He worked in the group practice in Buckie before moving to his own practice beside Seafield Hospital, which merged with Cullen Medical Centre last year. To mark his retirement Jim enjoyed a meal with colleagues and some friends in the Marine Hotel.

Flowers for two ladies – Anne Duthie and Irene Blake were all smiles recently when they received bouquets of flowers and a cheque as a thank you for long service with Moray Seafoods. The gifts were handed over by Grant Eckersley, Sales Director. Isobel has been with the Buckie firm for 27 years with Anne 25.

The Lawtie Trust - Moray Council have been given the right to give sums of money from The Lawtie Trust to any person who lives in Cullen or Lintmill or has substantial connection with the two places. To qualify for a cash hand out one has to fit one of four categories one of which is – Do you find it a struggle to afford essentials such as food and heating? An advertisement to this effect appears in this edition of the 'Advertiser'

Where has a fish geen? It hisna been a busy hairber. No fish of any kind has been landed at Cluny harbour, Buckie, for the past three weeks while the number of cargo boats during this time have been few in number.

Doon the ledder - Buckie Rovers lost on Saturday and although they still have a game to play their total number of points is such that they are bottom of the league and will drop down a league and next season will be playing in Division 2

May 1

Dig for Victory the wartime slogan came to mind as I read the following report. The sun shone last Tuesday morning on the successful culmination of many years work when Cullen allotments were officially declared open.

It was a proud moment for Cullen Community Allotments Association chairman Jim Mackay and other members when the site off the Lintmill road was unveiled. Doing the honours was Brian Adam MSP, the Minister for Parliamentary Business and Chief Whip in the Scottish Government.

After a tour of the two-acre site, which contains 34 plots, Mr Adam then planted an apple tree to commemorate what is an historic event for the local community. (A fuller report is given on page one of this edition.)

Young local journalist has them all beaten - For one young man at Buckie Community High School last week was the chance to write his own headlines after triumphing in a national journalism competition.

Benjy Palmer, 15, proved that his pen was indeed mighty when he was unveiled as the winner of the Scotland-wide Schools Journalist of the Year competition, fending off challenges from schools across the nation. Organising the challenge was the 'Daily What News', an online news service provided by Education Scotland to help deliver literacy and language.

ANZAC DAY Honoured at Dallachy – The sacrifice paid by military personnel from Australia and New Zealand was honoured last week when ANZAC DAY was commemorated locally.

Dallachy Strike Wing Memorial, at Bogmoor, near Dallachy the former wartime air base was the scene of a wreath-laying ceremony in remembrance of the men of the Royal Australian Air Force and New Zealand Air Force who gave of their lives in action whilst operating from the base during World War II. Despite the foul weather a good number of people turned out to pay their respects.

Wreaths were laid on behalf of the Lord Lieutenant of Moray, Moray Council, the RAF, the Royal British Legion, the RAF Association, Spey Bay Hall and Amenities Association and Lennox Community Council

RAF donate football strip - The senior football team at Buckie Community High School next season will wear a strip emblazoned with the letters Royal Air Force and roundel. The RAF kindly donated a team strip, which will be used primarily by the seniors but will be available for other teams to use on occasion. The RAF also donated strips to Elgin Academy and Speyside High School.

Football Link –up heralds new dawn for Buckie Rovers - A new era is set to dawn for local junior football team Buckie Rovers thanks to a bold link up with Buckie Thistle Youth Development. (The link is not with Buckie Thistle as was reported in the Press, as a rule states that no junior club can have a direct link with a senior club, i.e. act as a reserve side.) The link up will provide a benefit both ways, for the Rovers they will have access to a number of promising players while it gives players of a certain age an opportunity to play competitive football where none exists at present for them.

May 8

Six Harbour Walk - People from near and far once again turned out in force to support the annual Six Harbour Walk and Cycle last Sunday.

The weather was kind so the charity fundraising event – which is run by Buckie and District Rotary Club – got underway at Portsoy harbour. Over 500 turned out to either walk or cycle the 15-mile route, with those marking their first time being joined by veterans

Six Harbour Walk Convener Bill Greig hailed yet another successful event. The primary charities to benefit from this year's event are Cancer Research UK, the Samaritans and the John Muir Trust...Last year over £25,000 was distributed to selected charities from the proceeds of the event.

Clochan stalwart passes on - A well-known personality was lost to the Enzie and especially Clochan with the passing of Miss Mable Thain who died in Dr Gray's Hospital, Elgin, on Friday April 20, after a short illness. She was 84. Mabel was very much involved in the local community, especially with the Community Hall (the former school building) which took on this function after the school was closed in the 1960's, She became a member of the committee and was booking secretary for many years a position that saw her become known to people over a wide area through events such as the car boot sales.

Charity Book Shop closes - After four years in Buckie, the Blythswood Bookmark secondhand bookshop is to cease trading next week. The doors will close for the final time at the end of the day on Friday May 11.

A spokesperson from Blythswood said, "We are sorry to close our Blythswood Bookmark shop in Buckie, The level of sales did not justify renewing the lease which is about to expire."

The closure of the shop meant that shop manager; Easton Thain was unfortunately out of a job. He said, "I have thoroughly enjoyed working here and I would like to thank all the volunteers who have supported the shop and me. I couldn't have done without them. I would also like to thank all of the customers from Buckie and well beyond."

May 15

Buckie Thistle is Cup Winners - Twenty-five years of waiting came to an end last Saturday when Buckie Thistle claimed the League Cup. Having last won the trophy in season 1986-87, the Jags got their hands on the silverware again at Princess Royal Park, Banff, on Saturday after defeating Cove Rangers by two goals to nil.

Fun Day boost for Theatre Group - There was a four-figure boost in store for the coffers of a local theatre group after a hugely successful Family Fun Day last week.

Bank holiday Monday saw the grounds of the Aurora Restaurant at Strathlene buzzing as an all-day fundraiser got underway for Buckie Lyric Theatre Group.

Behind the Family Fun Day, which brought in a stunning £1150, was Aurora owner and Theatre Group cast member Glen Campbell.

"It was a really wonderful day and exceeded my expectations", he said, "The place was buzzing from 9.30am right through the day and the car parks were full. I must have sold hundreds of burgers and all the amusements were very busy,"

Veteran Car Show - Buckie classic car show returned to the town on Sunday and proved to be considerably bigger and better than the one held last year. The Linzee Gordon Park played host to the second annual shows since being resurrected last year and saw cars, buses, bikes and tractors of all shapes, sizes and vintages make their way to Buckie.

Last October, the first show since its rebirth saw a total of 116 vehicles on show this time round this had increased to 300. With more time at hand to organise and publicise the event those behind the show were hopeful of attracting even more exhibitors and visitors along, a wish that was definitely fulfilled.

Buckie launch for tartan army march - The Tartan Army were on the march in force from Buckie last Sunday as the very first fund-raising Speyside Kiltwalk got underway in windy, but dry conditions.

Many local people helped swell the ranks numbering hundreds who were setting out on the 26 mile hike to Aberlour in order to raise funds for the Tartan Army Children's Charity; Children's Hospice Association Scotland and Aberlour Child Care Trust and CLIC Sargent.

They were joined on their trek in Fochabers by a second group of walkers who chose to undertake the shorter version of the event, which measured 16 miles. Together the groups comprised over 500 determined walkers most of whom were proudly wearing either kilts or tartan-patterned items.

BBs hailed for epic finals achievement - In the finals of the BB National Five-a-side Football (Junior) Finals in Edmonton, London the seven lads that represented the 1st Company Buckie Boys Brigade were narrowly beaten in the final game by Gourock who won by two goals to one. It was a tremendous achievement by any standard to come second considering the number of teams who took part in the competition Malcolm Smith, coach, was naturally more than proud of his team and said, "To get to the stage we did was nothing short of magnificent. We were delighted when we won the runner-up spot in Scotland, so to become the second team in the UK is wonderful. To be honest we never thought we would get as far as we did in the Scottish Qualifier, let alone reach the last two of the UK finals." The Buckie team was - Greg Hay, Scott Innes, Ross Gillies, Justin Murray, Callum Reid, Liam Wood, and Eoin Gordon. **(A photograph of the lads with coach Malcolm Smith and BB Vice President Matthew Smith is to be found on page 11 of this edition.)**

May 22

New restaurant opens - Akash Tandoori Restaurant and Takeaway opened this week at 31 West Church Street, which was formerly occupied by another restaurant 'Food for Thought' before closing a few months ago. Lunchtime special - 3 courses from £6.95

Cara's design comes out on top - Cara Coull, age 8, from Blantyre Street, Ianstown, is seen in a photograph in this edition with Jackie Johnston as she is presented with a goodie bag from the new 'Top Model' range of stationery and gifts which have just arrived at Johnston of Buckie. Cara's picture was chosen from the many wonderful entries received in the free colouring competition.

Shop and customers come up trumps - The generous staff and customers at The Original Factory Shop, Buckie, recently raised hundreds of pounds for a local charity group.

A cheque for £892 was presented to the Buckie and District Cancer Support Group following five months of fund-raising at the store.

Rotary boost BCHS Tanzania Links - Buckie Community High School recently received a generous donation from the Buckie Rotary Club following a successful fundraising concert. The concert, which was held in the school's Highfield Hall, featured the talents of pupils from Buckie Community High School and Inverurie Rotary Glee Club.

The school's long-standing partnership with Mawenzi Secondary School in Tanzania and the Rotary's Shelter Box charity benefitted from the proceeds.

Rotarians decided to provide additional funding to the school and Neil Johnson, BCHS Rector, visited the club recently to accept a cheque for £1000 on behalf of the school.

Gordon Castle Highland Games and Country Fair - Crowds of people flocked to Fochabers as the sun shone on the Gordon Castle Highland Games and Country Fair held on Sunday last,

The spectacular extravaganza featured over 30 attractions within and outwith the arena to keep people entertained throughout the day and there was something for all the family.

Last year saw the inaugural revival of the games at Gordon Castle, the first to have been held for 74 years.

On Sunday, the gates were opened at 11 am and the official opening by Angus Gordon Lennox took place at noon. Legendary heavy eventer Hamish Davidson compered the day. The main attraction this year was the Starduster II Aerobic display by the VC 10 Company, which amazed the crowds,

New for this year's event was the Gordon Castle 10K Race, organized by Spey Runners. The challenging race started at 12 noon in the arena and took runners on a route through the castle grounds and into the woodland trails closeby.

Cullen Community Centre has plenty to offer - Cullen Community Centre recently opened its doors for a fun-packed, entertaining open day.

Various groups who use the centre on a regular basis showed off their talents, with a hope of attracting new blood.

Community Centre Administrator Anne Morrison said, "The Open Day was held to give everyone the chance to see what goes on at the centre.

Craft groups showed off a variety of beautifully crafted items, including fabric boxes, and machine embroidery and the patchwork group had some impressive quilts on display. Also on show were knitting, cross-stitch and embroidery. An art display was laid on by the art group, which meets at the Community Centre. Centre and there were some beautiful pieces on show.

May 29

Buckie basks in May heatwave - After an unseasonably cold spell of weather the mercury jumped dramatically last week. The cold and wet scenes of the week before last were replaced with sun and short-sleeve weather across the country. Those who chose last week to visit the area came up trumps as temperatures moved into the high teens and beyond with in excess of 20degrees being recoded in certain areas.

Harbour Log - Last week a solitary fishing boat called into Cluny harbour to land its catch. The boat was the Helenus that sent ashore eight boxes of white fish, prawns and squid.

Two cargo vessels paid a visit. The MV Clarity, registered in St Vincent, came in from Rotterdam with a cargo of soya weighing 1146.800 tonnes on board. She sailed again empty, for Inverkeithing. The second vessel, the Bahamas-registered MV Swedica Hav arrived light from Lerwick. When she left again, bound for Goole she was carrying 2101.060 tonnes of decorative beach pebbles.

Jubilee Celebrations - This edition carried a number of items concerned with how the local area would be involved in different ways all to mark a historic occasion – when the Queen celebrates 60 years on the throne. The front page shows a picture of the small wooden fishing boat, the Obair-Na-Ghaol, built by the Aberdeen Asset Scottish Traditional Boat Festival at Portsoy. She was about to set on her journey to London where she will be part of a flotilla of 1000 vessels on the Thames. The picture also shows the Lord Lieutenant of Banffshire Clare Russell as she hands over the county's flag, which the vessel will fly in the Thames Diamond Jubilee Pageant.

At Buckie Community High School On June 4 a Jubilee Fete will take place on the afternoon while in the morning the school will turn back in time and experience a typical 1952 lesson. Teachers to be dressed in period dress from 1952, All the ladies and girls will be asked to wear skirts as girls did not wear trousers at Buckie High until 1986. According to Jean Wilson PT English teacher, "Pupils will get a taste of how lessons were carried out in 1952, We will be chanting times tables, practicing dictation and learning some Latin."

June 5

Royal Diamond Jubilee - A special commemorative tree was planted last Thursday afternoon. Leading the event was Buckie Community Council, joined by representatives from the town's four primary schools. Under the direction of the community council chairman James Smith, the tree was planted in a spot off West Church Street adjacent to Buckie Victoria Bowling Green. A plaque was also unveiled at the site to mark the occasion. In addition to Mr Smith council members, Moira Stickle, Ian McPherson, Heather Innes, Gordon Cowie and Allan Fraser were present to witness the ceremony.

Representing the schools were: Cluny- Sam Murray and Leia Breen, P1; Millbank- Jodie Burgess and Keiran Wightman, the oldest and youngest pupils in P1; Portessie- Amy Imlach and Joe Murray, P1; St Peter's – twins Archie and Esme McGuire and Jayke Brien, P1. In the morning James Smith, accompanied by Allan Fraser and Heather Innes, members of the community council paid a visit to each of the four primary schools where they handed out special commemorative medals to all Primary 1 pupils.

Buckie Thistle Manager Steps Down - It came as a shock to many to learn that Gregg Carrol, the Buckie Thistle manager had announced his retirement from football.

Last Saturday saw the 40-year-old, who has won every Highland League honour there is with Buckie Thistle and Deveronvale.

Assistant Gary Hake will take over the job of running the team, as the Jags get ready for their pre-season preparations.

Mr Carrol, spoke of the reasons for his resignation, one being that it was an ideal time now that he had won every honour there was to win in the Highland League but a second reason, and an important one, his wish to spend more time with his family.

Heritage Comes Alive at Cullen - The past and the present met for their three month summer event in Cullen last weekend when the village's annual heritage exhibition threw open its doors.

Run by the Cullen, Deskford and Portknockie Heritage Group, the Summer Exhibition will run over June, July and August in the Memorial Hall, with visitors welcome between 10.00am and 4.00pm on Wednesdays through to and including Sundays. Doing the honours was long-standing Group member Arnold Pirie.

Heritage Group President Cy Pirie, speaking after the opening ceremony spoke of what they were trying to do at the exhibition before paying tribute to former members of the Group who sadly had moved on but had played a most important part in the success of the Heritage Group. One member, Duncan Woodham had only died suddenly the previous week and it was decided to dedicate this exhibition in his name.

Final Voyage - A local man has launched a moving book presenting the Gospel based on his father's life as a fisherman.

Graham Mair, who is originally from Portknockie but now lives in Cullen, has unveiled his second written work 'A Fisherman's Last Voyage', which has as its focus his father William

He has also brought to bear not only his own firm belief but also his 15-year's experience of working as a fisherman.

Fochabers Speaks of the Way Forward - Community ownership was identified as the way forward for the under-threat Fochabers Institute last week following a public meeting in the hall. The evening of May 28 saw the second of three consultative meetings held to determine the local community's response to the three broad options for the future of the Institute, which due to its deteriorating structure faces an uncertain future. Overwhelmingly the public meeting supported some form of Community Asset Transfer, which would seek to transfer ownership of the building and land around it to a group formed from the local community. At present a Management Committee operating under a full repair lease runs the hall, although Moray Council still retains ownership of the building.

June 12 **THIS EDITION OF THE 'BANFFSHIRE ADVERTISER' CONTAINS MANY PICTURES TAKEN AT VARIOUS EVENTS AROUND THE AREA HELD TO MARK THE DIAMOND JUBILEE OF THE QUEEN. There are more to be found in the June 19 edition.**

Torch Relay The Olympic spirit burned brightly in Buckie at the weekend when the Moray Torch Relay came to town.

With the official torch relay only due to pass through a thin sliver of Moray on its journey round the country, the organisation -Walk-Jog-Run Moray decided that the rest of the region should not be left out and duly set about organising their very own.

Determined to make it a community-based effort the group, chaired by Lintmill-based Dr Nick Brown, who also runs the Buckie branch of Jog Scotland, unveiled the target of attracting 2012 participants – one in 40 of the region's population- to take an alternative torch around Moray.

Around 200 of the 2500, aged from one year old to 92, who signed up for the event helped take the torch through the area from Portgordon to Deskford.

Portgordon pupils bury a time capsule - Pupils at Portgordon Primary School preserved a snapshot of life at the time of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee for posterity when they buried a time capsule last week. The time capsule was buried by the eldest and youngest in the Nursery and school in the Nursery Garden and is marked with a special plaque. Every pupil in the school and Nursery made their own contribution to the time capsule and every child in the school received a commemorative Jubilee coin.

Cullen Quiz Kids Just Champions - There was two-in-a-row glory for a quartet of Cullen Primary School quiz kids when they claimed the top spot in a Moray-wide schools contest.

The recent final of the Get Moray Reading inter-school book quiz took place at Elgin Library and after a closely contested battle the youngsters from Cullen held on to the trophy the school scooped last year.

The team – comprising Captain Anna Campbell, Iain Fraser, Ewan McKelvie and Jennifer Walker pitted their knowledge and wit against teams from East End, Hopeman, Knockando and Kinloss. Forty-five teams from across Moray took part in the annual event with Cullen earning a place in the final after winning the Buckie area heat, facing down Millbank and Cluny in the play-off.

June 19 **A Depressing scene** - The following comment was not found in this edition of the 'Advertiser' but is something that has been noticed by the compiler of these notes, the number of shops in the town that are presently up for sale or have closed down. Those for sale include – R. Cruickshank and Co. at 30-32 West Church Street, Electricians, T.V and Electrical Goods retailer; Ms Eckersley, Ladies Outfitter, 12 West Church Street; Hang Hing Chinese Take away, 59 West Church Street; Trading Post, Ironmonger etc, etc at 26 East

Church Street; Ice Cream Cabin, 19 East Church Street; Teenagers Fashion Shop at 25 West Church Street. Blythwood Second Hand Bookshop at 47 West Church Street closed down at the end of May, as did Woman in Mind at 20 East Church Street.

Plans for New Buckie Police Station Unveiled - Moves to create a Police Station in Buckie fit for the 21st century were unveiled last week.

The Grampian Joint Police Board gave the thumbs up for plans on June 8 to acquire the former Her Majesty's Customs and Revenue building on East Cathcart, which is currently lying vacant. Should this move be successful, refurbishment work would be carried out to create a modern environment in which officers could work, with the existing Police Station on South West Street, built in the early 1950's being sold.

Spey Bay Project Showcases Heritage – History is as much about the future as it is a record of the past – that was the message from an innovative Spey Bay project last week.

Thursday June 14th saw a new guide book to the area plus a mosaic sundial unveiled at the Tugnet Ice House as the finale to the Spey Bay Heritage Project. Conceived by the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society's Scottish Dolphin Centre and co-ordinated by Fiona Struth, the project sought to produce a record of the area within living memory

Pupils at Milne's High School, Fochabers, gathered information for the guidebook through interviews of Spey Bay residents. Youngsters also worked with Portknockie artist Geoff Roberts to create the mosaic, which incorporates various aspects of Spey Bay and its history over the last few decades.

Concert bid boost - Buckie man Wayne Cameron has unveiled plans to bring a Country and Western music extravaganza to Peter Fair this year. Mr Cameron revealed exclusively to the 'Advertiser' last week that he has applied for a license for the event and has approached three Country and Westerns with Union Avenue (a Johnny Cash tribute act) lined up to headline the first event. He went on to hail the music event, which would see a giant marquee tent erected hosting multiple Country and Western acts on the closing Friday, as giving a huge shot in the arm to the traditional Rathven Market.

It was Mr Cameron's view that Peter Fair was dying, having shrunk dramatically since he was a child and needs something to restore some life. hence his idea for the major.

"I need support from the people of Buckie and the surrounding areas to make this happen, so I ask the public to send me letters of support and suggestions to make the event what the public wants."

Buckie High School Lennox House Football team - A photograph appeared in the Look Back to the Past Page with the name of the loons being given- D. Allan, A. Slater, A. Fraser, A. Lyon, J. Robertson, W. Ogg, J. Fowlie, G. Thain. I. Gauld, R. Bain, C. Geddes. One face was unknown.

Harbour log - Four fishing boats came into Cluny harbour last week to land their catches. They were Georgia Dawn, Helenus, Transcend and Orion. Between them they sent ashore 154 boxes of white fish, prawns and squid also 308 bags of scallops.

Two cargo boats paid a visit. The MV Sea Ruby, registered in the Cayman Islands arrived from Mistley with 1644.380 tonnes of malt on board. When she left two days later bound for New Ross she was carrying 1464.520 tonnes of animal feeding pellets, a by product of the whisky industry. The MV Elektron II, registered in Norway arrived light from Drammen in Norway. She took on board steelwork, weight not given, which she was to take to Peterhead.

June 26 **Buckie Honours Armed Forces** - Local people turned out in force to honour the Brave men and women of the Armed Forces last Saturday when Buckie hosted Moray Armed Forces Day for the first time.

The wet weather did nothing to deter local people paying homage to the courage and sacrifice of those serving in the Royal Navy, the Army and the Royal Air Force, and a warm welcome was in store for the personnel representing the Armed Forces.

This year's event, which has previously been held in Elgin, Lossiemouth, Forres and Keith, was held a week before National Armed Forces Day to help reduce the demands placed upon the Armed Forces based in Moray.

Billed as the largest celebration of Armed Forces Day to date in the region, the event kicked off just after 3.00pm in no little style as the parade made its way down High Street from the headquarters of the local branch of the Royal British Legion. Led by the pipe band from 2622 (Highland Squadron Royal Auxiliary Air Force Regiment, the parade boasted a mixture of serving Armed Forces personnel, Territorials, veterans and members of the A.C.F. Taking the salute as the parade reached the war memorial in the town centre was the Lord Lieutenant of Banffshire Clare Russell. **(A fuller report, together with photographs may be found on page 1 and page 13.)**

Death of former Buckie G.P - A former Buckie G.P, Dr William Lawrence – widely known as Bill- died at his home in Stirling on June 19. He was 87. He was in practice in Buckie for 12 years. A graduate of Aberdeen University he returned where he gained a DPH, leading him to take up the post of Consultant in Public Health with Forth Valley Health

A tree was planted - May 31 saw the members of Buckie Community Council plant a rowan tree at a spot near Buckie Victoria Bowling Green to mark the Queen's 60 year reign. A commemorative stone was also unveiled. This had been gifted by the Elgin building firm of Darroch and Allan. The chairman of the community council, with the help of some youngsters from the town's primary schools had the honour of putting the tree in place.

The Lord Lieutenant of Banffshire, Clare Russell, invited Buckie Community Council, along with others in the area, to consider celebrating the Diamond Jubilee by planting a tree.

High School Dux – The dux of Buckie Community High School in 2012 was Bryony Macaulay-Donn Guest speaker and former pupil of the school, Kenneth Boyle presented her with the Miller Dux Medal, while Councillor Joe handed her the Joe Mackay Award for Achievement.

July 3

Established Buckie firm hits the rocks – Twelve local jobs hang in the balance following the slide into liquidation of Buckie firm No1, that had interests in building, plumbing and electrical, Monday June 25 saw Michael Reid of Meston Reid and Co., Aberdeen, appointed as provisional liquidator at Elgin Sheriff Court. A petition had been presented to the court on May 31 asking for leave to wind up the firm.

No1 were left under severe financial strain due to the liquidation of a major client, leaving the firm with unpaid bills to the tune of £550,000. This has been further exacerbated by difficulties with two large contracts where payment obligations were not met in favour of No1.

Despite efforts by the No1 Group Limited Board, led by Graham Cormack and Murray Thain, to undertake various restructuring exercises over the last year in an attempt to combat competitive pressures resulting from the economic downturn, the recent cash flow crisis proved to be an insurmountable obstacle.

A dozen jobs are at risk in Buckie where No1 have their administration base, a kitchen and bathroom showroom, a team of tradesmen and a large storage facility.

No1 Group, which had been in existence for over 30 years grew from small beginnings into the large multi-faceted organisation it became. with branches in Shetland. Aberdeen and Elgin.

100 Not Out - Mrs. Ena Paterson, Cullen, celebrated her 100th birthday on June 25 with friends and family. Her mother died when she was born and she was adopted and declared that she had a wonderful life with her adoptive parents. She worked in

housework all her life and came to Cullen 80 years before when she took up employment with Lady Seafield at Cullen House. When in Cullen she met and married Alex Paterson who also worked on the estate as a gardener. He died twenty years ago. They had one son George, who lives in Livingstone. Ena has two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Councillor Roy Shepherd on behalf of Moray Council presented her with a decorative glass bowl; while she also received a gift and card from the Lord Lieutenant of Banffshire, Mrs. Clare Russell and a card from the Queen.

Dux at Fochabers - The dux of Milne's High School, Fochabers in 2012 was Duncan Steven who is seen in a photograph on page 2 receiving the Sir Ashley Mackintosh Medal from the Rector Mrs. Carol Stuart while other principal prizewinners – Ewan Mackenzie, Emma Evans, Siobhan Kingham and David Greenock show off their trophies.

Knockout Fun at Buckie The fun was definitely of the knockout variety at Linzee Gordon Park last Saturday when a huge fund-raiser for the RNLI got underway. Young and old alike came along to see the second 'It's a Knockout' event to be held in Buckie with teams battling it out through a number of crazy- and often foam-filled - tasks to be crowned the champions.

Totals of 15 teams took part, with the morning seeing six teams of youngsters from local schools trying their hand followed by nine adult teams doing likewise around mid-day.

There was junior joy for Whoosh Bang Tidy whilst reigning champions Bravehearts again took the bragging rights for the seniors.

No beef -Bob is for retirement- It was the end of an era as a Buckpool butcher closed his doors for the last time last Saturday.

Bob Sutherland has shut up shop and now looks forward to a long, well-earned retirement. Arriving as manager of the butcher shop on St Peter's Road in 1983, Bob later bought the shop from the late Cammie Hendry in 1986.

July 10

Buckie girl's trip to the 'Big Apple' Sarah Harvey, 27, a former pupil of St Peter's Primary School and Buckie Community High School, has just been crowned Clinique's Regional Business Manager of the year 2012, winning the company's 'Stars To New York' Programme.

Her reward for her outstanding achievement – which saw her go up against rivals from her region, encompassing the whole of Scotland and stretching down into the Midlands of England. – Is a week-long all expenses paid trip to New York to represent the UK region and join top performing consultants from around the world at Estee Lauder's headquarters where she will get to meet the people behind the products she sells.

Ms Harvey currently leads a team of eight women at Clinique, part of Estee Lauder Corporation, in Boots in the Bon Accord Centre, Aberdeen.

Financial boost for Buckie Fish Firm - Cluny Fish, who are based on Low Street, Buckie, were awarded £13,750 from the European Fisheries Fund AXIS 4 and Moray Council, which will match fund the £27,500 cost of a new ambient seafood production process.

This will not only give products a longer shelf life and utilize all waste trimmings, but is also likely to see the creation of 12 new jobs by the end of 2013.

Cluny Fish owner Louie Paterson explained some of the details as to how the cash would be used and the impact it would have on the firm.

"The EFF money will be used as part funding for the purchase of machinery which will sterilize products before they are packaged. Before food is sealed in tins or jars it has to be sterilised so that it has a longer shelf life while being stored at ambient temperatures," he said.

Death of teacher, music tutor and church organist. A Buckie man well known through the field of music has died. Alexander Davidson Hutchison, known better as Sandy, passed away suddenly at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary on Saturday June 30. He was 79. Sandy was an accomplished pianist and an above average violinist. He trained as an organist in the prestigious Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London and on completing his studies was appointed as a music teacher in Banffshire and began his teaching career at Keith Grammar School and was the church organist at the South Church in Buckie. He was to teach music in a number of schools later as well as playing the organ in a number of churches, the last being the North Church, Keith after he retired from teaching. He taught a great many children and adults to play the piano. He is survived by his wife Loretta, who he married in 1962, and four of a family.

Another sad loss to the music scene. A Findochty-based woman, Wendy de Russet, an artist, storyteller and drama teacher, passed away suddenly at home on June 14 at the age of 67. A stalwart of the traditional music scene in the northeast where she had made her home in recent years, she became as staple at among other events, the Portsoy Scottish Traditional Boat Festival.

Although best known local for her drama and music she was a powerful advocate of storytelling being an art in which everyone could participate. She took tales to the elderly in sheltered housing and day-care centres, sharing reminiscences and encouraging community singing in the Scots language Ms de Russet was also a talented water colourist.

Harbour log – Last week nine fishing boats, a considerable increase on previous weeks, called in to Cluny harbour to land their catches. Combined they landed 420 boxes of white fish, prawns and squid together with 860 bags of scallops. The boats were: Reward, Incentive, Georgia Dawn, Blue Sky, Intrepid, Helenus, Kestral, Caledonia and Kemarvin. One cargo vessel She left paid a visit. This was the Dutch-registered MV Rimini that arrived from Hamburg with a cargo of malt weighing 1801.840 tonnes on board. She left empty bound for Aberdeen.

July 17 **Serious incident in Ianstown** -. Four people have been charged following an alleged assault on an Ianstown pensioner.

Local police officers and colleagues from CID launched an investigation last week after a neighbour critically injured in his flat at Blantyre Terrace found the 67 year old, named Jim Robson. He is currently in a critical but stable condition in Aberdeen Royal Infirmary. The four arrested in connection with the incident – two males, aged 30 and 16 and two women aged 42 and 41 appeared yesterday in Elgin Sheriff Court.

Memorial bench unveiled - A memorial bench in memory of Linda Wyness, a staff nurse at Seafield Hospital, was formally unveiled last week at the hospital. The bench was provided by the Friends of Seafield Hospital from donations given to them following Mrs. Wyness's funeral. Joining Seafield staff were Jim Wyness, husband of the late Mrs. Wyness, the couple's daughter Rachel, Friend President Alistair Robson and members of the Friends, including Betty Gauld a former nurse.

Big boost for local RNLI Buckie's volunteer RNLI lifesavers were last week handed a four-figure boost thanks to a recent daylong fundraiser.

June 30 saw the 'It's a Knockout' event return for a second highly successful year and thanks to the efforts of organiser Denise Thomson, the team and all those who took part the grand sum of over £4000 was raised for the local RNLI

On hand to present the mammoth cheque to Buckie RNLI Lifeboat Operations Manager Joe Herd were two of the youngsters who took part in the junior version of the event- Khara Lovelace from the Buckie Gangsters team and Cameron Maver, who was with the Moray Muppets.

Teacher retires - The end of the term saw Buckie Community High School say farewell to a popular and long serving member of staff. It was time for Gordon Mackie, Principal Teacher of Art and Design to hang up his brushes at BCHS as retirement beckons. Mr Mackie had spent 35 years in the teaching profession 32 of which have been spent in Buckie. For the past 12 years he has held the post of PT in the subject.

July 24

Cullen Skink Contest. Nigel Ross, a native of Cullen but now domiciled in Aberdeen, won what was claimed to be the inaugural Cullen Skink World Championship, on Sunday last. Some years ago a similar competition was held in Cullen. The recent contest was held in the Cullen Bay Hotel in which seven hopefuls tried their utmost to win the title. Each one had an hour in which to produce three 250ml portions of soup for the judges. These were Clare Russell, Lord Lieutenant of Banffshire, Darren Sievwright, Louie Paterson, Diana Baxter and Fraser Baxter.

They got on their bikes - Kids in Cullen were quite literally getting on their bikes to go and celebrate last Saturday when the village's BMX track was formally declared open. Doing the honours was Cullen and Deskford Community Council Chairman Professor Ashley Mowat, the ceremony marking the culmination of almost three year's hard work to transform a section of Logie Drive playing fields into a Mecca for BMX enthusiasts.

Cullen Celebrates - There was certainly no shortage of things to do in Cullen over the weekend as the village celebrated their Summer Festival in no little style.

Starting last Friday evening the following two days were to feature wall to wall entertainment for all the family.

The Heritage Display in the Memorial Hall, run by the Cullen, Deskford and Portknockie Heritage Group, got the weekend off to a fine start with visitors able to view photos from local festivals of yesteryear amongst many other exhibits.

Guided tours of the Auld Kirk were also on offer during the afternoon before a Beetle Drive in the Cullen Bay Hotel rounded the day off.

There were sufficient activities taking place during Saturday and Sunday to keep young and old active and entertained. , Among them being boat trips which proved to be very popular.

Fochabers gala proves to glorious - Fochabers gala returned to the heart of the village last Sunday when it was held in the Square for the first time in many years.

Until the completion of the bypass earlier this year holding events of this nature in the Square had been an impossibility due to the increasingly busy A96 passing through the centre of the village bringing with it the passage of thundering lorries and a constant stream of cars. However, with such traffic banished to the bypass the Fochabers Village Association were able to close the road through the village and bring the gala back to its roots. Sunday's festivities, which were opened by local MP Angus Robertson, were the culmination of a weekend of fun for all ages.

July 31

Peter Fair - The sun joined the Peter Fair fun this year as the rain more or less stayed away. Young and old alike streamed up to the fair on the ground near to the old Rathven Station that has been its site since 1885. The numbers there on the traditional fair day, Friday, were not of the same magnitude that they were in former times but then the fair was only the one day now it is spread over three, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday so it would take a full purse to attend the fair on three days while, too, there were complaints that the prices were steep. One might say these were relative with the majority of people earning far more than their parents and especially grandparents did and they still managed to enjoy themselves on Peter Fair Day.

Probus Club - The guest speaker at the Probus Club's monthly luncheon meeting held in the Marine Hotel on the first Thursday of the month was Findochty's Peter MacDonald,

alias the 'Dolphin Man' The subject of Peter's talk revolved around a video he had made consisting of a selection of stunning photographs which he had taken and which he had titled 'A Journey Along the Coast and Beyond.'

"I'll Jump, I will" - The Victoria Bridge over the Buckie burn was the scene of a dram last Thursday evening when a man threatened to throw himself over the parapet. After considerable persuasion by the Police he decided not to and so, as was likely, did not add to the eight people who are known for sure to have died as a result of falling in the burn either accidentally or on purpose.

It Preyed Off - The recent Fochabers Gala raised over £6000 it was announced. This year saw the three-day event return to the Square only made possible by the bypass, which opened earlier this year.

Aug 7 **Harbour Log** - Fifteen fishing boats called into Cluny harbour last week to land their catches. Together they landed 727 boxes of white fish, prawns and squid combined, with 620 bags of scallops.

The boats were - Blue Sky, Charisa, Georgia Dawn, Orion, Deeside, Calisha, Just Reward, Kemarvin, Kelly, Discovery, Heather Sprig, Conquest, Transcend, Helenus and Fisher Boys.

Aug 14 **Olympic Medallist has Buckie connections** = Luke Patience who took silver along with teammate Stuart Bithell in the Men's 470 sailing competition as part of Team GB in this years Olympics has a relative living in Buckie. Twenty-six year old Luke lives in Portland, Dorset, but regularly keeps in touch with his grandmother Mrs Nan Patience who lives on James Street, Buckpool. His father John Patience, an architect, is a native of Buckie; his father was a partner in the house furniture shop called 'Firth Furnishers'.

The A's have it - No fewer than five students of Buckie Community High School opened their 'Higher' results envelopes to find that they had scored A grades in all five of the Highers they had each sat. . With 19 young people across Moray doing likewise, BCHS's contingent comprises just over a quarter of the total for the whole region.

Producing the stunning results were S5 students - Briony Macaulay-Donn, Sarah Reid, Samantha Bowie, Amy Coull and Jessica Sammon.

Colourful scene at Cullen - Cullen Auld Kirk was awash with colour as Cullen and Deskford hosted their popular flower festival. The general theme running throughout the displays was 'Let's Celebrate' with each representing a different topic. As was to be expected one was 'Let's Celebrate the Olympic Games' another was one interpreting the Titanic.

The festival is held every two years and this was the fifth festival

Keswick in Buckie - The Keswick in Buckie Convention once again lived up to its widely respected reputation as it brought Christians together. It was the 27th Keswick in Buckie Convention and the second to be guided by local Methodist Lay Pastor Willie Aitken and his dedicated team of volunteers.

Launch of book - Buckie and District Fishing Heritage Centre saw the launch of its latest publication last Wednesday, BCK Motorboats Vol. II compiled by Heritage member John Addison who launched his Vol. 1 in December last year. The two books trace the history of all fishing boats to bear the BCK registration, from No 1 right through to No 626.

Aug 21 **Portknockie went gay on Gala Day**- The sun shone brightly on Portknockie 's annual gala last Saturday as crowds of people, young and old alike came along to enjoy the fun. Organised by Portknockie Community Association this year's extravaganza welcomed a new feature in the shape of a large marquee, which was intended to serve, as a refuge should the rain

have made an untimely appearance, instead it served as a sunshade. Funds raised by the Portknockie Community Association team during the gala will go towards the kitchen refurbishment project in the McBoyle Hall.

Oil firm jobs boost - Local businessman David Wood has completed the acquisition of Peterhead based fuel and lubricants distributor Caley Oils, in a deal which is expected to lead to the creation of 15 new jobs.

Mr Wood already owns competitor Northern Oils and his company, David Wood Investments, acquired Caley Oils from Caley Investments Ltd., A Peterhead -based fishing company operating throughout the UK.

Two well-known personalities die. Obituaries for Sandy Sutherland, a former fishing boat skipper, and Isabel Harrison a poet and stalwart of the local Doric language are to be found on **page 5** of this edition.

Aug 28

Oil firm unveil international HQ It was time to put the local area firmly on the map at the end of last week when the international headquarters of an oil distribution was officially unveiled.

It was a proud moment last Friday evening for Northern Oils – owner and managing director David Wood- who were formerly based in Buckie, as their new nerve centre at Idulf House, near Lintmill, Cullen, was formally opened by the Scottish Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment, Richard Lockhead MSP. Over the past six months the 17-acre site has seen massive investment to transform it into a state of the art, storage, administration and production facility.

Speyside Way Race – The 36.5 mile long race from Ballindalloch to Buckie, held for the third consecutive year last Saturday attracted a record total of 125, of who 95 started. An encouraging sign was the fact that 75% of the runners were first time entrants. The vast majority undertaking the gruelling course hailed from the central belt with others coming from the north of England and one from Shetland.

Donnie Campbell from Skye, making his first outing in the Speyside Way Race, was the winner in a time of 4.31.15, with Charlotte Black the first female runner to cross the line, clocking 5,34.36

The race organiser was Sarah Louise Grigor.

Deskford Flower Show - Despite a weat, weat summer with an almost absence of the sun the annual flower show attracted a fantastic number of quality entries, in flowers, fruit and vegetables. The trophy prizewinners were - ~Pot plants, Best Rose, Cut Flowers, and Most Points Overall - Ladies - Margaret Rennie; Sweet Peas – Alan Morrison; Floral Arrangement – Alison Johnston; Fruit = Jack Mitchell; Vegetables, Potatoes and Most Points Overall- Gents – Henry Milne; Honey – W. J. Copland; Dairy – Gladys Smith; Home Baking – Mary Currie; Industrial – Muriel Farquharson; Best Exhibit Industrial – Rachael Horberry; Wines – Bob Chappell; Junior Scholars and Deskford School Reunion Shield – Abbie Wester; Senior Scholars- Mia Farquhar; Jimmy and Jessie Boyd Trophy – Jamie Currie.

Sept 4

Buckie Lyric Theatre Group - are looking forward to a bright new future following a restructuring of the company. The group have also sought out a new partnership with a professional lighting, sound and special effects firm ahead of their production of 'Aladdin and his Magic Lamp' in November.

Amongst the wide-ran ging changes, which have been put in place, is a series of weekly theatre workshops focussing on various aspects of stage work for young people, which is already bearing considerable fruit in encouraging talent and building up confidence.

Scone Off - The first ever Scone Off competition was held in the Cullen Bay Hotel on Saturday last. when a large number of entrants came forward in an effort to claim first

prize – a an impressive trophy made by Lazy Daisy Glass. In the Under 12 section the prize for the winner was a chocolate hamper courtesy of Cocoa Ooze of Aberdeen. Each entrant was required to submit six scones of their own creation in the morning of the competition.

The winner of the senior prize was Valerie Ackroyd of Fordyce while 12 year-old Alana Slater was the winner in her section.

Designed for handicap golfers - Former Buckpool lad, 72 year-old Bill Lawson, has just launched 'The Fixed Apex Swing' as an e-book through award-winning company Digilogit.com and, in the process, would quite possibly bring golfing salvation to long-suffering high handicap golfers.

Sept 11 **Fochabers Institute** - The drive to bring the Public Institute in Fochabers into community ownership moved a step closer last week after being give unanimous backing from Moray Councillors. **(A full report is given on page 1 of this edition)**

New teachers at Buckie High. Two new Principal Teachers took up their posts at Buckie Community High School at the start of the autumn term. Sarah Matthews is now Principal Teacher of Art and Design taking over from Gordon Mackie who retired at the start of the summer. She has taught in the Art Department at Buckie for some time. John Cassie is the new Principal Teacher of RME filling the post previously held by Ray Aitken who has also retired. Mr Cassie, a native of Fraserburgh, was at Oban High School for the past eight years.

The school also has a new Depute Rector in the shape of Jackie Stevenson who was previously at Keith Grammar where she was a PT of Guidance and latterly Acting D.H. T.

Sept 18 **strange light in the sky** - A Portgordon man was left bewildered following an unusual sighting in the local areas. Bob Watt, of East Street, is keen to know if anyone else spotted an unusual light in the sky on Saturday September 8. Bob was in his garden at 7.40pm when he saw a large bright light in the sky coming from the south. His wife came as he called but neither knew what it was. He said, "It wasn't an aeroplane or helicopter as there was no noise and the light was too big for that. I went inside to get my binoculars and then saw that the light was on the bottom of a large sphere shape. It wasn't moving fast but it came towards Buckpool and then the light went out."

Back to Church - Local churches are set to play their part in a national initiative to encourage people back through their doors. September 30 will see Back to Church Sunday take place across the country, with church members issuing invitations to people to renew their acquaintance with their local place of worship.

One of the churches taking part will be Buckie Baptist Church. Their minister, Rev. Vincent MacDougall, highlighted that previous Back to Church Sunday events had proved very encouraging.

Buckie 10k The 13th annual Buckie 10k proved to be a major success with 99 runners taking part. Eric Kinyanjui, a member of the Forres Harriers, with a time of 34.13, won the race. He was awarded the handsome Emil Wojcik Memorial Trophy with a cash prize of £50. The first lady home and winner of the Louis Janetta Trophy was Lindsay Bray. She completed the race in a time of 44.01. In addition to the trophy Lindsay also received £50's worth of vouchers.

The first local runner home was John Goodall who was awarded a bottle of malt whisky donated by Roddy Burns, Acting Chief Executive of Moray Council

Former Buckie man on T.V. Eric Simpson, a native of Buckie, whose father was Inspector of the local police has been the Historical Adviser with BBC Scotland series 'Grand Tours of Scotland' made a personal appearance this week as the programme visited Glen Affric.

Eric said, "I am a keen hill walker and know Glen Affric well. I will be talking about access to the mountains and how rights of way have changed through time.

Sept 25 **Success for Alyson-** The taste of success was sweet indeed for the McColl's store on St Andrew's Square, Buckpool when they captured a national award. Manager Alyson Thomson returned from the glittering Martin McColl Annual Gala Awards ceremony in Sandown clutching the Store of the year Award for Confectionery, which was sponsored by Mars. In doing so she became the first manager from a Scottish store to win such an award since 1989.

Buckie lifeboat busiest in northeast - Buckie's RNLI lifeboat has been unveiled as the busiest in the northeast over the summer. The 'William Blannin' and her volunteer crew was launched thirteen times over the months of June, July and August, twelve of which have been officially designated as call-outs, making the vessel the busiest All-weather Lifeboat in north east waters.

Major milestone for Buckie Thistle - Buckie Thistle netted significant off-field success last week when they were granted an Entry Level National Club License by the Scottish Football Association, Hailed as a 'major milestone' by club President, Gary Farquhar Tuesday September 18 saw the SFA Club Licensing Committee consider the Jag's application against the required criteria and judge it suitably compliant. The move is set to propel the Thistle to a whole new level within the game. **(A fuller report is found on pages one and two.)**

Oct. 2 **The local shopping scene** - Things don't look too bright if the situation on West Church Street is anything to go by. The shop at numbers 30-32 which has been occupied by R.S. Cruickshank, T.V and Radio Retailers and Electrical Contractors which has been up for sale for several months is by now quite empty as a clearance sale takes place. Number 25 has been empty for the past two years has the windows whitened as if work may be going on inside which one can only hope is to be the case. The shop next-door 25B closed two months ago and is now up for sale. This opened around three years ago as Motovation a shop dealing in all manner of things for the motorist, then without changing the name became a cycle shop and still later a boutique before closing. What was at one time Millers' Garage at number 55 was a Chinese Take-away for some years until closing about a year ago due to the ill health of the owner is still awaiting a buyer. A shop lies vacant at number 18 East Church Street but the shop at the junction of Harbour Street once occupied by Ritchie's is now a funeral parlour owned by McLean's of Keith. The shop that many people will remember as 'Mealies' on High Street has been vacant now for two years or more. It was last used as bakery retail shop owned by the same people who own Emma' Restaurant at 33 East Church Street. On High Street the premises that formed the shop and bakery of McWilliams's but which were the showrooms of Peter Reid, Plumbers and Heating Engineers up until two years ago and were taken over by No 1 Electrical etc. are to all intents closed with the goods on display all for sale at reduced rates following the firm going down.

Changes proposed at Victoria Park - Buckie Thistle Football Club have made another big announcement with ambitious plans, which will set the club in good stead for the future. Further improvements are to be made at Victoria Park in the shape of an impressive new supporter's stand. A sketch of the proposed new stand is shown on the front page of this edition of the 'Advertiser'.

Guides reach the top - Six Cullen Girl Guides achieved the Baden Powell Challenge Award, the highest honour a Guide can achieve. They are - Iona Sellar, and Karen Burgess,

both of Cullen, Abbie Lawrence, Alana Mair and Victoria Aitken, all of Buckie and Kerri Lewis of Portknockie. The leaders of the Cullen Troop are Sarah Ritchie, Carolyn Mowat and Jane Smith.

The Probus Club - Speyside was the area chosen by members for their annual outing. A party of 43 members, wives and friends went via the Heather Centre at Dulnain Bridge before travelling on to Aviemore. A trip on the steam train to Broomhill was enjoyed especially as a three-course meal was served enroute. On the return journey time was allowed at Ballindalloch Castle where, like earlier in the day, a scone and team went down well. The fitter of the party then went on a tour of the castle where the furnishing, pictures and other features were found to be of great interest. The outing had been organised by the President, Bill Cecil, and his committee.

Oct 9 **Craft Fair** – A large crowd turned out for the Autumn Harvest and Arts and Crafts held in the Town House Hall last weekend. The event, organised by the Buckie Area Arts and Crafts Group, saw 36 stalls offering a wide range of produce. Among the many items on offer were textiles, cards, wood-turned items, portraits, jewellery, jams, chocolate, Christmas and Halloween crafts and more. A number of demonstrations were held throughout the day, including demonstrations on kilt making and woodturning.

Harbour Log - Last week fourteen fishing boats called into Cluny harbour, Buckie, to land their catches. They were Defiance, Conquest, Kestrel, Charisma, Heather Sprig, Rois, Mhairi, Star of Jura, Deeside, Shalimar, Carona, Reward, Jenna Marie, Friendly Isle, and Illustrious.

Two cargo vessels paid a visit. The British-registered MV Scot Carrier came in light from Inverness leaving two days later for Varberg in Sweden carrying a cargo of pulpwood logs weighing in total 2302.000 tonnes.

An Antigua-registered vessel the MV Coronel arrived light from Belfast. After taking on board 4 steel reels with a total weight of 160.000 tonnes she left for Newcastle.

Oct 16 **Land Girls' Memorial**- Great tributes was paid to members of the Women's Land Army when the Duke of Rothesay (Prince Charles), visited Clochan last week to unveil the only memorial in the country to honour their tremendous work.

The memorial is sited at the top of the Station Brae, the steep hill that leads upwards a short distance south of the village of Clochan. The site was partially, at least, chosen for the vista vision of landscape one can see in all directions.

Peter Taylor from Beverley, East Yorkshire, designed the memorial.

Prince Charles took time to speak with the former Land Girls, among them being 90 year old `Jeannie Huldall from Buckie, and 87 year old Jemina Grant from Auchenthalrig, about their experiences and memories. Before unveiling the memorial he paid a personal tribute to the ladies. **A full report can be read on pages 1,8 and 9 of the 'Advertiser'.**

(The memorial has been universally admired by people who have paid a visit to see it with one complaint heard that it was difficult to read what was written on the brass plate as it was fixed to too small a stone while the writing is also very small.)

Award for Tugnet Centre - The local Wildlife Centre at Tugnet, Spey Bay, recently picked up a prestigious award.

October 5 saw the Whale and Dolphin Conservation's Scottish Dolphin Centre pick up the Marketing Campaign of the year at the Highlands and Islands Tourism Awards held at Drumossie Hotel in Inverness.

The silverware was just reward for a bold strategy which saw the Centre's marketing plan boost visitor numbers by an amazing 39% from 54,239 in 2009 to 75,585 in 2011.

In addition to scooping the marketing award, the Dolphin Centre master plan has also played a vital role in achieving a four star Visit Scotland grading by enhancing the visitor

experience through new interactive cameras, interpretation boards, exhibitions and friendly and informative guides.

Oct 23 **If you get run in shortly you will get a fine clean cell Buckie** could have a new police station up and running by Christmas, it was announced last week. Work has now begun on converting the former Tax Office building on East Cathcart Street which has been lying vacant for some time into a Police Station fit for the 21st century, a modern environment for the officers to work in.

Funeral Directors and Monumental Masons - A well-known firm of Funeral Directors have opened a new suite of offices and funeral parlour in Buckie. Frank S. McLean and son, established in 1900 have offices in Keith and Aberlour and in response to demand have developed a beautifully designed suite of rooms in premises on the corner of Harbour Street and West Church Street. For a long time the premises were known as 'Ritchies' when it was a ladies and gents outfitters and general drapery.

Probus Club - The guest speaker at the October lunchtime meeting of Buckie and District Probus Club was Stuart Crowther, Community Editor for local STV in the area. The story he had to tell was how a reluctant scholar had left school with but a minimum of education could in time occupy the position he holds today, which he described as 'an accidental journalist.'

Buckie and District Rotary Club - This year's Six Harbour Walk raised the sum of £27,000 thanks to sponsorship cash collected by more than 500 participants. Five primary charities received sums of money from the sum. Receiving £10,000 was Cancer Research UK with the Samaritans in Elgin being handed £6,000, The John Muir Trust £3,000 and Buckie Christmas Kracker and Buckie Yarns £500 each.

Ye kin sit Doon Peter - A Buckpool, Golf, Sports and Social Club stalwart was honoured last week when he was presented with a special bench. Peter Cowie, affectionately known by colleagues as "Mr Buckpool" was guest of honour as the seat was unveiled last Monday afternoon.

Oct 30 **'Anither Doric Nicht** - Fine Doric poetry and tributes to a local poetry and music stalwart were on the menu at a special event held on Saturday. The local branch of the Royal British Legion was the venue-playing host to 'Anither Doric Nicht' organised by Buckie Rotary Club and Doric Group the Buckie Blethers.

Unveiled on the evening was the winner of a Doric poetry competition, which has been running throughout the summer. It was a glory evening for Caroline Fowler and her poem 'Angel Athoot Wings'. As well as the plaudits, Mrs Fowler took home with her a hand-made wooden trophy specially created by local craftsman George Thow.

The National Memorial Arboretum, What is it and where is it asked Allan Fraser of his fellow Probarians when they met for their weekly coffee/tea morning on Thursday of last week. He was speaking about the National Memorial Arboretum situated near Airewas in Staffordshire. continuing to say that he had been privileged to visit the Arboretum the previous weekend when he had attended the annual Reunion and AGM of 367 S.U. R.A. F. And as part of the weekend's activities members saw a bench dedicated within the Arboretum to all who had served with the unit from 1942 till 1962 when it was disbanded. He went on to describe some of the features found within the park some of which had especially poignant memories for him. mentioning those associated with those who were prisoners of war with the Japanese as was his uncle Charlie Burgess.

Nov 6 **Trust Views Sought** - A public meeting was to take place on November 8 in the Public Institute Fochabers, which could pave the way forward on delivering projects in the village in the future.

Fochabers Village Association are seeking to lay the foundation for the formation of a Development Trust. In broad terms this would see a more unified and focused approach on a host of issues and projects for the benefit of the local community, the communities they serve wholly run Development Trusts.

Stirring the Dust - A new book has been launched which details the lives of a family in Buckie set in the 19th century. 'Stirring the Dust', by Mary McCabe, is almost impossible to categorise as it features a blend of fiction, personal memoirs and family history. It also has a fascinating record of wider social change.

Cast in this drama is the author's own family. The Gardens on her mother's side were artisans from Banffshire and her father's family, the Morrrows, came to the Central Belt of Scotland from Argyll at the time of the Highland Clearances. They worked in ironstone mining for three generations until early in the 20th century.

The streets and shops of 19th century Buckie are backcloth to many events. Illustrations include a rare picture of the 1896 class of St Peter's School, complete with names and the twin spires of St Peter's Church loom over all. For more information visit www.argyllpublishing.co.uk

Nov 13

Blythwood Christmas Shoebox Appeal - This year a total of 1251 boxes were filled, slightly up on last year around 1200 and will be sent on their way to Albania. A number of organisations became involved including churches and schools, but also many individuals made contributions one of the schools that became involved was Mosstodloch Primary School who filled a total of 80 shoeboxes and also contributed the sum of £200 rose through a Come as You Please Day.

Fochabers - Plans to create a Development Trust in Fochabers received strong backing at a packed public meeting last Thursday evening. Called by Fochabers Village Association the audience in the Public Institute heard from a speaker how Development Trusts could benefit individual communities.

Should a DT. Be formed in Fochabers it is envisaged that it would act as an umbrella group to provide focus and drive to many projects whilst at the same time allowing local groups and organisations to remain operating independently as they do at present.

Feedback sheets were given to everyone who was present and encouraged to fill them in. Said Liz Rennie Chairman of the FVA group, "The responses on these will be collated and analysed, with the results being circulated to everyone who signed in at the meeting."

Remembrance Day - In Buckie as in all other places throughout the British Isles people gathered together to collectively bow their heads in memory of those who gave their lives in time of war. As has been the practice for many years a parade, organised by the Royal British Legion and led by commander Peter Reid, marched down the High Street, with the salute being taken by Legion chairman Charles Staves. Before taking up position at the War Memorial where Rev Martin Keenan conducted a short service before the bugler and piper played their part and a large party of representatives laid wreaths on behalf of the Royal British Legion, Lord Lieutenant, Moray Council, Buckie Community Council, Red Cross, Territorial Army, ACF and Coastguard. -

National Award for Powerful Milne's Film - A powerful video depicting the long term psychological scars which bullying can leave won three Milne's High School Fochabers, student's national recognition.

The previous school year saw then S6 students Amy Steven, Katie Malcolm and Rhona Black take on the mantle of the school's Health and Wellbeing Group, a role that was to lead them to shoot their very own two-minute film clip on the effects of bullying.

Their creativity, hard work and perception have seen them scoop a special commendation award as part of an anti-bullying contest run by Respect Me. They are set to be presented with their award on November 22 at the Scottish Parliament.

The scale of their achievement becomes even clearer when set against the fact that there were a total of 1800 entries from across the country to the competition. Although short in length the clip is long in meaning and message, giving youngsters and adults alike plenty of food for thought.

Nov 20 **Patterned knitted gansey** - The speaker at a recent meeting of Portknockie WRI was Moira Morrison of the Moray Firth Gansey Project and she went on to explain that ganseys were traditionally knitted for and worn by fishermen.

The jumpers were unique in that they were hand-knitted very tightly to keep the men warm and the wind out. There were no seams up to the armhole then stitches were picked up and then knitted down to the cuff. This was handy when the cuffs became worn as they could easily be replaced.

The gansey project was set up three years ago to save the patterns used in the jumpers from being forgotten. To date they have had over 40 original ganseys donated to them, three earliest dating from 1911.

Patterns were interchanged all over the country, with cables, diamonds, and anchors being common motifs. Every fishing town had their own designs and idiosyncrasies, with Wick ladies, for example, knitting an anchor onto the shoulder of their husband's gansey to show girls in other ports that he was a married man

The wool used for the jumpers was typically four or five ply and the garments usually took around two months to knit, the work being conducted mainly by gaslight.

The Gansey Project has been going round Britain and will soon be coming to an end.

Nov 27 **Buckie Christmas Cracker** - Being blessed with a bonny day, these years Christmas Cracker held on Saturday was the success that the organisers had hoped for. Finished off by the switching on of the Christmas lights and a spectacular fireworks display, this year's event was widely hailed as topping the 2011 inaugural Christmas Cracker.

With a stunning total of 418 people involved in making the Cracker become a reality, there were plenty of positive points for Charlie Milne, chairman of the group to reflect upon.

Anyone for tennis - Tennis in former days was a very popular sport in Buckie with courts to be found on Baron Street, adjacent to Buckie Bowling Club and also at Strathlene. Still later in the years following WWII new courts were constructed at Tarbuckie.

If the efforts of Buckie Community Council come to fruition the only remaining tennis court still in existence, albeit in a dilapidated state and in an unplayable state after years of neglect. May be given a new lease of life. For this to happen, however, it will need the community to rally round

There is a successful tennis club in Cullen so it is obvious that there is still an interest but to get the thing of the ground requires a number of committed person to be come involved. To test the water a meeting will be called in the New Year to which the parents of children and others expressing an interest will be invited to attend. From this it may be that a steering committee can be formed. .

Yet another change of use - 25 West Church Street, Buckie has seen many different enterprises occupy the premises. The most recent use was as a branch office of the Highland and Islands Development Board, before that two, perhaps three different people used the shop as an ironmonger and china store, going still further back it was a branch of the grocery firm Carrie and Co. On Saturday November 24 it opened as something, which it had never been used as before, this as a restaurant with a French sounding name as Le Café Coull. The owner Eileen Coull also owns the Crossroads Café 9 West Church Street, meantime closed, but which she intends to reopen at a later date. . The new restaurant will be open seven days a week from 9am till 5 pm Monday through to Thursday and from 9am till 9pm on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Dec 4

Another shop pulls doon the shutters - The flower shop 'Oops a Daisy' that had been open at 5 High Street for three or four years quite suddenly, it seemed, without any warning, closed at the end of November when it was imagined the lease had come to an end. With two other flower shops in the town not to mention the three supermarkets selling flowers perhaps it was difficult to make a living. The owner, of the shop who belongs to Keith, originally had a similar shop there.

Charlie Pits pen tae paper again - A Buckie man, Charles F. Geddes has just had published a selection of poems and short stories entitled 'Within Sicht o' the Bin' Charles has had other pieces of his work published.

Making use of the Doric as well as English in his poetry, he tries to reflect at least part of the rich tapestry of local culture, using secular and sacred themes.

The darker threads of adversity and danger associated with the fishing industry over the years are balanced by the brighter ones of courage and faith. There are a few threads of humour, too, throughout the book.

Any profit from sales of the book will be donated to the RNLI. Although much is made of the RNLI in the book the author points out that it is not a RNLI publication nor should it be inferred that they endorsed views expressed within.

The book is available at a cost of £5,99 from bookshops in Buckie and other outlets along the coast.

Charles has led a chequered life, after serving his time as a mason he became a teacher before becoming a missionary along with his wife in various parts of the West Indies.

Weel worthy of a tune or even twa Buckie and District Pipe Band have been playing a celebratory tune or two lately as they marked their 25th anniversary. A quarter of a century of hard work and excellence has seen the band raise from humble beginnings in 1987 to bein an acclaimed group who have taken their talents across the country and to foreign shores. A picture on the front page of the 'Advertiser' shows 21 members of the band splendidly turned out in tartan kilts and matching blue tunics.

Dec 11

Plenty tae cheer aboot in the 'Paraffin City' Thousands of pounds worth of funding has provided an early Christmas present to a group aiming to build a new village hall in Portgordon.

Portgordon Village Hall Committee were left celebrating when the EU's LEADER Fund announced they're bid for £10,750 had been approved. . This will be matched by funding secured by the Committee themselves making a total pot of £21.500

The cash is earmarked to enable the Committee to engage the services of professionals to produce detailed plans for the approved building, to determine the technical needs of the project and to go out to tender for the building work to be carried out.

Iconic Boat Immortalised - One of the iconic classes of boats, which symbolises the heyday of the fishing industry in the north east of Scotland, has been immortalised in a book launched last week.

The Buckie Fishing Heritage Centre Ltd. Last Friday saw 'The Mighty Zulu' by Joe Reid, formally unveiled ata special ceremony. Covering a total of 804 boats, Mr Reid's book was commissioned by the Heritage Centre, who also paid the publishing costs.

Mr Reid, a native of Buckie, who now lives in Upper Dallachy, was himself a fisherman for 13 years before moving to the Civil Service where he was to enjoy a 33-year career.

'The Mighty Zulu' is the fifth book Mr Reid has produced, with three focussing on the drifters and one on the Scaffie class of vessel.

The book is available at a cost of £15 at the Heritage Centre and through their web site at www.buckieheritage.org. Proceeds from the sale of the book will go to the Heritage Centre.

Special Celebrations for Salvation Army - Buckie Salvation Army had a very special occasion to celebrate last Saturday when they marked their 125th anniversary.

The Corps dedicated their bimonthly supper evening to commemorating the milestone event and was delighted to welcome Lt. Col. Marian Drew from Territorial HQ in London. The Salvation Army in Buckie 125 years ago held their meetings in a small hall, which used to stand on Baron Street at the bottom of Cuthbert's Brae.

Special Honour For Long Serving Mason - A special honour was bestowed upon a Buckie freemason in recognition of his long service and exceptional dedication to Lodge Gordons No. 589.

Right Worshipful Master (RWM) Bill 'Willie' Legge received a 50 Year Diploma from the Immediate Past RWM Kenny Lawtie when the Lodge met last Friday

Dec 18 **Radio BCK Take Crucial Step** - At a meeting held last week within the Town House, chaired for the evening by Dr Nick Brown, Radio BCK took a crucial forward when their inaugural AGM adopted a formal constitution. .

A Board of Trustees was also appointed, with Dr Brown being joined by fellow office bearers Mitchell Bremner, secretary, Sonya Warren, treasurer, Doug Reid, Director of Strategy and Zafar Ali Director of Technology and Operations. Completing the Board are Steven Cowie and Kristofor Wood.

Great Support for Poppy Appeal - The Buckie branch of the Royal British Legion's contribution to the 2012 Poppy Scotland Appeal has come to over £5000. Collection cans put out by the members in local outlets in the weeks around Remembrance Sunday this year gathered in a total of £5682.83.

Buckie Legion Honorary Secretary Brian Turnbull said, " Buckie and District Branch of the Royal British Legion Scotland, on behalf of Poppyscotland, would like to thank all those who have contributed, including individuals, businesses, schools and the Army Cadet Force. Your efforts will help make a real difference to the many beneficiaries."

Dec 25 **Euro Boost for Lossie Seafoods** - Christmas came early last week for a local premium salmon processor when they were awarded over £330.000 of Euro cash.

The latest round of the European Fisheries Fund saw Lossie Seafoods, who are located in Buckie, handed £331.023 to streamline their processing facilities which will make the plant more efficient and help reduce costs. . As a result the business will be able to secure new employment and achieve growth.

This grant was one of seven – totalling £395. 023 awarded in Moray to support business improvement and growth.

Diana Award Honour for Milne's Trio Battling the scourge of bullying has won three former Milne's High School students national recognition, Katie Malcolm, Rhona Black and Amy Stephen have been honoured with the Diana Award for their work as Anti-Bullying Champions.

The trio addressed what is often a sensitive and controversial subject through assemblies and produced a powerful video clip, which saw them scoop a special commendation award as part of an anti-bullying contest run by Respect Me in November.

Although a short film of around two minutes it provides plenty material for the viewer to consider.

Harbour Log - Last week ten fishing boats called into Cluny harbour to send ashore their catches. In total this comprised 326 boxes of white fish, prawns and squid combined, together with 350 bags of scallops. The boats were – Shaulora, Helenus, Freeward, Jenna Maree, Reward, Carona, Deeside, Georgia Dawn, Discovery and Kelly.

Two cargo vessels paid a call. The MV Eems Stream, a Dutch-registered vessel, came in from Cork in Ireland with a cargo of malt weighing 1803.000 tonnes. She left again for the North Sea to await orders.

The British-registered MV Scot Carrier came in from Kilroot in Northern Ireland carrying 2200.000 tonnes of salt. When she left again bound for Varbert in Sweden she had on board 2300.0000 tones of pulpwood logs.