

2014

Jan 7 **New Year Fun Run** - This year 40 runners took part, two up on the number for last year. Brothers John and Graham Goodall came home first and third respectively, being split by Andy Reid. The first lady home was, second Beverley Lamonte and third Michelle Slater. Between the race and a New Year's firework's display at Findochty, Paul Wojcik was pleased with £380 collected, which will be donated to two charities.

Politics - The front page of the "Advertiser" this week was taken up with blurb about the referendum for Scottish Independence, with Stewart Stevenson MSP speaking for the YES side and Moray Councillor Douglas Ross for the NO side. Stewart Stevenson claiming that a YES vote would "Let Scotland Flourish" while Douglas Ross's manta is that with a NO vote one retains the status quo and "Have the Best of Both Worlds"

Jan 14 **Book launch** - "A Closer Look at Bakers From Portgordon to Cullen 1837-1930" The cover was lifted on one of the Buckie area's once thriving industries last week when a new publication on the history of local bakers was officially unveiled. Thanks to the efforts of retired bakery lecturer David Fowler, a peek into the rise and decline of the bakery industry in the local area is available thanks to 'A Closer Look at Bakers From Portgordon to Cullen 1837-1930' Coming in two volumes - the first covering the period 1837-1930 and the second 1931-1990- the work has been published by Moray Desktop Publishing based in Buckie Town House.

New album of note: A Portgordon musician has launched his third album of traditional Scottish moothie tunes. Eighty-seven year old Sandy Kerr has released "Mair Moothie Meanderings," which features 14 tracks, including sets. This latest release follows in the footsteps of his other albums "Moothie Magic" and "Mair Moothie Magic"

Sandy began playing the moothie at the age of five. He had polio and was paralysed from the neck down for a year so to keep him amused his mother went to Woolies and bought his first moothie. The recordings were for sale by contacting Sandy on a phone number given. (Sadly Sandy died later in the year)

Honoured for extra long service -Gillian Findlay, Headteacher at Botriphnie Primary School, Drummuir, who hails from Buckie, was among the employees who received awards for dedication and hard work over a long period of time, in Gillian's case this was 40 years. Prior to moving to Botriphnie in 2000 as Acting Headteacher, being officially appointed Headteacher the following year, she served for 27 years as a class teacher at Cluny Primary School, in Buckie.

Jan 21 **New S. A.** Officer Buckie Salvation Army has welcomed a new Officer into their ranks; Taking up the reins at the New Street Salvation Army Hall is Territorial Envoy Colin Harrower, who officially assumed the post last October. He succeeds Cadet Louise Brown, who was in Buckie for a period of three months, and Captain Caroline Buchannan.

Rotary Club cash hand out - Buckie Rotary recently handed out thousands of pounds to good causes, both locals and national. When they divided up the £21,500 raised at the 2013 six harbour Walk.

A total of £4000 was given to the Aila Coull Foundation, which seeks to raise awareness of and support research into childhood acute myeloid leukemia with a

further £3000 going to Victim Support Moray. Also receiving £3000 were the Royal Blind School in Edinburgh and the Limbless Organisation of North East Scotland who support pre and post amputees. The final cheque was for £4218 and is destined for the Rotary Clean Water and Sanitation in Nepal project.

Funds for this cheque were a joint effort, with £1218 of the final total being raised by 120 pupils from Cullen, Portknockie, Findochty, Millbank, Cluny, St Peter's and Portgordon Primary Schools who worked together to hold a fundraising 'Children of the World' concert in Buckie Community High School.

Jan 28 **Oil plans offer jobs boost** - Buckie could become home to Scotland's only oil lubricant manufacturing plant, according to radical new proposals unveiled this week. Lintmill-based Northern Oils announced they have lodged plans with Moray Council to build a state-of-the-art facility on the site of the derelict Jones Shipyard to the rear of Buckie Harbour in Ianstown.

Boating School for Cullen - Bold plans to create a boating school in Cullen made a major step forward last week when a Community Asset Transfer was given the green light.

Probus Club Burns Lunch - The annual Burns lunch was held in the Marine Hotel last Thursday when a part of around 60 were present being welcomed by President John Smith. Stewart McMillan piped the haggis in. Members, Bob Jamieson, Alex Bruce, Bill Cecil, Arnold Pirie, John Rennie and Allan Fraser, provided the entertainment for the day. Due to ill health the guiding light in past such event, Jim Pirrie was unable to be present he did provide a DVD filmed of himself reciting 'Holy Wullie's Prayer' filmed in a mock up of a bedroom. George McKenzie gave the vote of thanks.

What did they gain by that? - The vandals who uprooted the goal posts on the football field at Portknockie last week and left them lying on the ground were rightly condemned by Fraser Weir, chairman of Portknockie Community council and local Moray Councillors Ron Shepherd and Stewart Cree. They described them as mindless morons. Co. Shepherd said how there was a price to pay for vandalism, in that what was damaged had to be repaired and put things back as they were. Cost money which could be better used elsewhere.

Feb 4 **Bi-election victory for Cowie** - Only 24% of the electorate chose to vote in the bi-election caused by the resignation of Anne Mackay, which was won by Gordon Cowie standing under the Independent banner. Others who stood were - Margaret Gambles (Conservative); Marc Macrae (Independent); Linda McDonald (S.N. P.) Mr Cowie, an employee of Moray Council in the Road's Department for the past 30 years has also been secretary of Buckie Community Council for a number of years. He commenced work as a councillor immediately, resigning from both other posts.

Death at former pork factory. Police were investigating a death of a man at the former pork factory. The dead man was identified as 43-year-old Stuart Thomson from the Lancashire area who was employed by a Lancashire firm who were awarded the contract to demolish the former factory starting in October 2013.

Another industrial accident - A local man, 22-year-old Jodie Cormack, was seriously injured in an industrial accident at Baxter's, Food Processing Plant,

Fochabers, on Thursday January 30. He was taken by air ambulance to Raigmore Hospital, Inverness.

Feb 1 **Long serving doctor retires** - Dr Gordon Pringle who had served as a G.P. in Buckie for 33 years, retired on Friday January 31.

New start at Baptist Church - On Saturday last the congregation of Buckie Baptist Church welcomed their new minister, Rev. Gavin Hunter, who hails from Edinburgh, joins the church in Buckie from Westray in Orkney. He replaces Rev. Vincent MacDougal who retired last year. He arrives in Buckie with his new wife Claire.

Feb 18 **New name and new role for Clydeville Centre** - The house at the south end of Queen Street which some may remember as being a Children's Home, later having a different purpose has been relaunched as the Phoenix Centre. As such it will provide a mental health resource based in Buckie delivered by Moray Council. Part of the Social Services the staff in the Phoenix Centre will be caring for people of 16 years and over who suffer from a slight mental condition.

"The best one yet " - This was the universal comment heard from members of the audience as they left the Fishermen's Hall last week after having sat, thoroughly enthralled, by Buckie Lyric Theatre Group's latest production 'Jack in the Beanstalk'. Despite being postponed from December due to a leading cast member suffering ill health, the delay did nothing to dampen what were quite spectacular performances by all those involved both on and off the stage.

Feb 25 **Buckie makes Broadband History** - Buckie was the centre of digital history last week when it became the first location in Scotland to become superfast broadband as part of a £410 million publicly funded project. Deputy First Minister of Scotland, Nicola Sturgeon MSP announced that the first cable cabinet to go live with superfast broadband in rural Scotland would be in the town, on Harbour Street, near the Buckie exchange.

Library opens door to computer novices- Buckie Library last week helped open the door to the realm of computing for people of all ages. Tuesday and Wednesday saw sessions for complete beginners held, with the Tuesday events aptly running alongside the unveiling of Buckie as the first rural town to benefit from connection to the new superfast broadband. Senior Library and Information Assistant Pam Wells said: Thanks to funding from Citizens Online and HIE (Highland s and Islands Enterprise) we're offering three-week long courses for complete beginners, run by Gail Imlach from the Learning Centre.

Local teacher dies - Gloria McWhirter, a native of Buckie who was a teacher at Portknockie Primary School for the past eight years died on February 6, aged 58, following a long battle against cancer.

Gloria was for many years both an elder and organist in the North Church.

Foundation makes first grant - The Aila Coull Foundation, which is based in Moray, has funded a £45,860 research study into Childhood Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML). The research, the first study to be funded by the charity will take place at Glasgow University.

Sine and Fraser Coull established the foundation in 2012 after their 16-month daughter Aila lost her battle with AML in September 2012. They have since then raised more than £120,000 through independent fund-raising, which will help

back important research studies into newer and better treatment for this rare and aggressive form of cancer.

Honour for local Coastguard - Local woman Karen Wood was presented with a medal and a certificate to commemorate her milestone of 20 years service as a Coastguard; both were handed over by Moray Sector Manager Kevin Doherty.

Mar 4 **Buckie man goes missing** - A massive hunt got underway last week to try to trace a 73-year-old man reported missing from his home address in Buckie. Ian Bramald was last seen at around 9.00am on Wednesday February 26 in the Archibald Court area of the town. (Later the search would move to the Drybridge area and further south, where he had been seen later in the day, with the police, a large party of volunteers and a helicopter from Lossiemouth involved in the search over an extended a number of days, into weeks, but in the last week of April, when this was written no trace of Mr Bramald had been found.)

An immigrant's tale - A local businessman has unveiled his impressions of the country he has come to call home in a new book. Nemat Ali, who runs the Buckie Furniture and Carpet Centre in Buckie, has contributed to 'Scottish Memories: Immigrant Stories,' which was recently released by the Hanover Trust and Bield Housing Association in association with the Lottery Fund.

Born in Pakistan, Mr Ali came to Scotland in 1959 at the age of 15, and from Lossiemouth where he was originally based he began in business going from door to door selling items, such as handkerchiefs from a suitcase. He was later to move to Buckie where he and his family have become pillars of the local community for over 50 years. He admitted that the early years were hard and difficult. He was homesick and felt the cold after his homeland. Councillor Joe Mackay handed over a copy of the book to Mr Ali

Mar 11 **Photographic success for High School girls** A trio of Buckie Community High School students scooped the three top places in a national photography competition. It was a top three-podium finish for the school when S5 Shaya Anderson, and S3 Amy Shepherd and Gaby Rennie landed the winner, Highly Commended and Commended spots respectively in the Scottish Civic Trust My Place Photography competition. This was the first year BCHS has submitted entries.

Book written to mark successful decade Ten of the most successful years in Buckie Thistle's modern history are set to come under the spotlight this week thanks to a new book. Thursday evening in the Victoria Park Function Hall will see the unveiling of 'Champions Again: How We Brought Success Back to Buckie Thistle,' a first hand account by former Jag's President Mark Duncan of his decade-long tenure in charge of the club.

Mar 18 Found little of significance to take note of in this edition

Mar 25 **Boat School Project** The final pieces in the jigsaw which will make the dream of a local boat school a reality fell into place last week. There was plenty to smile about for the Three Harbours Association, which encompasses Cullen, Portknockie and Findochty - last week when they revealed that the major chunk of funding required had now been approved by the Coastal Communities Fund to the tune of £408,375. Attention now turns to converting the disused boat store on Cullen's

Port Long Road into a multi-faceted Small Boat Sailing Project, which is designed to reach out to all ages as well as locals and tourists alike.

Windfarms may lead to jobs - Buckie could be set for a long-term jobs boost following the approval of two ambitious offshore windfarm projects in the Moray Firth. Last Wednesday saw Energy Minister Fergus Ewing MSP give formal planning consent for the projects – submitted by Moray Offshore Renewables Ltd and Beatrice Offshore Wind Ltd. In what is believed to be the third largest windfarm of its kind in the world. Sited off the Caithness coast, up to 326 turbines capable of generating a maximum of 1866MW of electricity, enough to power over a million homes, have been given the nod. The move spells a potential job bonanza for Buckie, as the town's harbour bids to become an Operations and Maintenance base for the burgeoning wind industry in the Moray Firth. According to some estimates, around 100 permanent jobs could be created in Buckie, signaling a massive regeneration of the harbour and surrounding area, as well as triggering inward investment in Moray as a whole.

All go for boatyard and café - Plans to build a new boatyard and café on the in and near Portgordon were passed last Friday at a special Planning Hearing of Moray Council. Councillors on the Planning Committee gave proposals by developer Gemma Campbell to create a new boatyard at the eastern edge of the harbour green light while also approving her plans for a new café near the old Ice House, The Ice House itself would be revamped and reopened to the public.

Tennis boost for Fochabers - Plans to breathe new life into Fochabers tennis courts were served up a huge boost last week. Fochabers Village Association was left with plenty to celebrate when the Moray Landfill Communities Fund backed their renovation scheme to the tune of £25,181. Said FVA Chairman Gordon Christie: "We're looking to undertake a total refurbishment of the two tennis courts. This will involve a new tar base and also installing a proper substantial fence surrounding them. We also want to put in new nets."

Apr 1 **High School Scoop Global Citizenship Honour** - Exemplary citizenship on an international scale has won a group of Buckie Community High School senior students and staff a prestigious award. As it turns out, the timing of the honour could not have been any better, coming as it does as BCHS prepare to celebrate the 25th anniversary of their record-breaking link with Mawenzi High School, which sits within sight of Mount Kilimanjaro. Teachers Janice Simpson and Jean Reid, along with six students, represented BCHS at the event. A picture in the "Advertiser" shows the Tanzanian team celebrating their Moray Young Citizen Award.

Many thanks - The family of missing Buckie pensioner Ian Bramald last week thanked the local community and members of the emergency services for their efforts in trying to trace him. Four weeks to the day when 73-year-old Mr Bramald was last seen, his son James said they were overwhelmed by the huge amount of work and support that had gone into looking for him.

Apr 8 **Clochach Hall gets face-lift** - Refurbishment work at Clochach Community Centre, formerly Enzie Public School, continues apace thanks to the support from the local community. Work on reversing decades of neglect have been forging ahead since the Centre Committee took over the running of the facility from Moray council. Revamping

work in the main hall and coffee room has been completed, with new curtains and blinds being kindly donated by the Clochan Dance Group and Clochan Art Group. More refurbishment plans are set to be unveiled at the Centre's AGM

Undertaker takes top prize A Buckie funeral director has been voted Funeral Planner of the year for the Scotland (North) region in the annual awards run by leading funeral plan provider Golden Charter.

Frank McLean & Son Ltd., who were established in 1900 and have recently welcomed the third generation of the family into the fold, have been named the best, small-sized firm in the prestigious awards, which were open to Golden Charter's network of more than 3000 independent funeral directors. The team at Frank McLean & Son Ltd. won the award in recognition of their dedication and commitment in providing an outstanding service to the local community.

Phillip McLean received the award on behalf of the company from Ronnie Wayte, Chief executive of Golden Charter.

Apr 15 **Buckie Thistle row erupts** Controversy has erupted over the future of the Victoria Park Function Hall following a statement posted on Buckie Thistle's official website. Entitled 'The Way Ahead' Snubbed by the Function Hall, the article, posted on April 7 has accused former Jags' President - Mark Duncan and his brother Murray - also a former club Director - who built and own the Function Hall, of turning their backs on working with the club. It was to prove the spark that ignited a war of words that grew in intensity as the week progressed, ending with the SFA being contacted. (See page one and six of this edition of the "Advertiser")

War memories to help modern heroes - The memory of those from Cullen who made the ultimate sacrifice in two World Wars is to help raise much needed cash for modern day heroes. Local man James George Addison last week formally unveiled a special DVD entitled 'Lest We Forget' in which he tries to bring a sense of individuality to the dozens of names which are sadly, but nevertheless proudly inscribed on Cullen war memorial. All the proceeds from the DVD are set to go to Help For Heroes.

Concern voiced over Portgordon notices - The owner of the land east of the Portgordon harbour to the Gollachy burn whose plans for the area split the population of the village down the middle has again upset a number of people because of his lack of sensitivity. People with garages and sheds on Gemma Campbell's land have all received a notice, believed to be from her solicitor. The notices were attached to the doors of the sheds/garages and in part read: 'I would request that you now remove from the land any buildings erected by yourself or previous occupants along with items placed by you on the property. I kindly request that the removal be carried out within six weeks, no later than Monday May 19, 2014.' Ms Campbell, in speaking to the "Advertiser" said that she was more than happy to communicate with every one affected on a one to one basis, hopefully to reach a beneficial outcome for both parties.

Death of former MP - The death took place at his home in Richmond Place, Portgordon, on Saturday April 12 of former local SNP MSP Hamish Watt. He was 89. He was a son of William and Caroline Watt, Birkenburn Farm, near Keith. He farmed at Netherton Farm, Keith before moving to Mill of Buckie where he also had the adjoining farm of Mains of Buckie. He was involved in dairy and sheep farming and had other interests. A fuller report is given on page 5 of this edition of the "Advertiser."

Apr 22 **New twist for Function Hall saga** - Tensions between the Victoria Park Function Hall and Buckie Thistle F.C. Appeared to take a new twist when it emerged the former had closed its doors. A sign at the Function Hall, which appeared in the second half of last week, declared "Following recent events the Function Hall will remain closed until further notice." Mr Duncan informed the "Advertiser" that the matter was in the hands of a solicitor and as such neither he nor his brother could comment further.

Tributes pour in for Hamish Watt - This edition carried a number of tributes that were paid to the late Hamish Watt by former political colleagues

Churches mark Easter Week - Christians of various denominations in the local area drew together in worship last week to celebrate Holy Week. Communion Breakfasts were held on each weekday morning from 8.00am in the North Church Hall, with reading being given by a number of Ministers, active and Evening services each day from Monday to Friday took place in churches and Salvation Army halls from Portgordon to Cullen with different speakers on each occasion. Friday lunchtime saw the traditional Walk of witness held in Buckie. Beginning outside St Peter's R.C. Church around 12.45pm the procession, bearing a large wooden cross, made their way round the main churches in Buckie, finishing at All Saints Scottish Episcopal Church where refreshments were served in the hall.

Cricket Club holds Fun Day - There was fun to be had with bat and ball this Easter holiday when Buckie Cricket Club held a pre-season Fun Day. Linzee Gordon Park, the cricket club's home ground, played host to the event on Saturday afternoon, with proceedings getting underway around 1.00pm. Young and old alike flocked to the park to not only learn more about the sport but also take the opportunity to try their hand at some of the basic skills involved in the game. The aim of the day of course was to try to encourage some to come to training and hopefully one day becomes a member of the cricket team.

Apr 29 **Future Development in Buckie.** The details for Buckie and the surrounding area in the proposed Moray Local Development Plan were on show last week for all to see in a special roadshow session held in the Town House Hall. Four main objectives have been identified for Buckie – new industrial land at March Road to encourage new employment opportunities; promote Buckie harbour as a base for offshore windfarm operations and maintenance; identify more land for development without encouraging a spread along the coastline; soften the edge of the built up area. A housing allocation of 968 has been awarded to the town at a variety of locations including Barhill Road, High Street and Parklands.

History goes to plan - A unique piece of the local area's maritime history came home to Buckie last week. Thursday saw Buckie and District Fishing Heritage Centre Ltd take proud possession of a number of original plans prepared by Messrs Stevenson dated 1853-59 for proposed Harbours of Refuge in an area stretching from Portgordon through to Portessie. Handing over the maps, which are printed on linen and in remarkably good condition for their age was former Buckie man Robert Taylor, now domiciled in Dunfermline. He came across the maps in the course of his work with the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries in Edinburgh. The maps were deemed

surplus and were to be disposed of and he was given the opportunity to take them, which he did. (Story is on the front page.)

May 6 **Methodist minister says farewell** - Rev. Martin Keenan, who was the Methodist minister for Buckie, Portessie, Findochty, Cullen and Banff has come to the end of his four-year stint and is to undertake a sabbatical before heading down to the south west of England to take up the reins at his new charge. He will be joining the Bude and Holsworthy Circuit on the Devon and Cornwall border.

Book of poems aid charity A kid's charity received a four-figure boost thanks to a local poet. Cullen man Edward Mitchell handed over £1000 recently to the Aila Coull Foundation, which seeks to raise funds for and the profile of childhood Acute Myeloid Leukaemia. He said: "The money was raised through a collection of my poems in Doric and English, which I had printed, called "the Hert Has Its Reasons." I'd already written the poems so I thought it would be a good idea to put them together for a good cause."

May 13 **New Dental practice opens** The property -number 30 and 32 West Church Street which in recent years was a T.V and Retail Electrical shop owned by R.S. Cruickshank and Co. Ltd, which had undergone large scale renovations over the past months opened on May 6, as a N.H.S. Dental practice owned by husband and wife team Hiranya Fadia and Dorothy Sinclair. The new practice, entitled 8 to 8 Dental NHS has two surgeries. Former Buckie dentist Ronald Sim opened surgery 1 while Councillor Gordon McDonald did the honours for surgery 2.

Gas pipes being replaced - Motorists and pedestrians alike had to learn to contend with one-way traffic, barricades and blocked up pavements as work went ahead to replace gas piping. The work, which is being undertaken by Scottish Gas, is part of a £45.000 project to replace metal pipes with plastic ones, which come with a maximum lifespan of 80 years. Expected to last ten weeks in all the scheme has been split into three phases involving tracks from North High Street over the Square to Cluny Lane; through the Square and then from the Square to Cluny Place.

Seafield Arm Hotel, Cullen. The former hotel is to go under the hammer this week. With a reduced price of £250.000 it is hoped that a buyer can be found for the property when it is auctioned on Thursday May 15, by Eddison's auctioneers, London. The hotel was originally put on the market with a price tag of £900.000 but it has lain empty for the past three years and is now boarded -up, causing something of an eyesore on Cullen Square. (It was sold to a local man.)

May 20 **End of an era for "Advertiser"** The end of an era and the dawning of a new one was marked recently when "The Banffshire Advertiser," one of Scotland's few remaining family run newspapers, passed into new ownership. Since 1881, when it was founded by William Forsyth (WF) Johnston, the "Advertiser" has been owned and run by five generations of the Johnston family, with one common goal-to honour the mission statement set out by WF "To serve the Community" by giving local news its rightful place.

While much has changed over the years, the commitment to this mission statement has stood the test of time. Outgoing Editor Jack Johnston, along with Heather O'Mahoney (Office Manager) and Alvina McNair (Company Secretary) reflected that, for each generation, running the "Advertiser" was, "not just a job, but a way of life."

The new owners of "The Banffshire Advertiser" and her sister papers "The Banffshire Herald" and the "The Huntly Express" are the Scottish Provincial Press who have a successful stable of 13 titles across the north and nor teas, including the "The Northern Scot" and "The Banffshire Journal".

St Peter's Celebrate 150 years - Last Thursday St Peter's School officially celebrated 150 years since its opening. Today the school caters for Primary-age children and also nursery but for many years catered for all ages. It was a proud moment, not only for the school itself but the community of Buckpool, which it has served for a century and a half when they welcomed the Bishop of Aberdeen, Right Rev. Hugh Gilbert.

Bishop Hugh conducted a special Mass, including the Sacrament of Confirmation of four youngsters into the church, and from there it was into the church hall for a buffet lunch.

The celebrations were rounded off when pupils released yellow balloons with a rousing cheer.

Bishop Hugh said: "While St Peter's is a Catholic school, only a minority of the pupils here are indeed Catholic. I'm very happy that non-Catholic parents choose to send their children to be educated at St Peter's" ` ` "The school is doing very well, and congratulations must go to the staff and pupils for all their great work."

May 27 **Boys' Brigade Royal Approval** - The ongoing success of the 1st Buckie Company Boys' Brigade, one of the largest units in the organisation in Britain, was acknowledged and celebrated last week when the boys welcomed a visit from TRH the Earl and Countess of Wessex. On Wednesday, May 21, the Company of around 200 officers, helpers and boys were thrilled to welcome and entertain the Royal couple as they stopped in Buckie during a tour of Scotland. A picture on the front page shows a group of thirteen members of the Company who have completed the Queen's Badge, the highest award in the Boy's Brigade.

Radio Buckie Broadcasts - Radio Buckie recently teamed up with Keith Community Radio to give their first on-air broadcast. Last Tuesday the Radio Buckie team presented a show giving coverage of the recent Six Harbour Walk, on KCR's Eddie Stuart 's show.

Cullen Quiz Winners - Cullen Primary School pupils were celebrating recently when they came top of the class in a book quiz organised by Moray Council's libraries services. Cullen was the winners of the Buckie area competition and will compete in the final in Elgin. The members of the team were Joanna Walker, Hannah Alexander and Erin Sutherland.

ENABLE Celebrate their Diamond Anniversary - The Buckie branch of ENABLE Scotland held a tartan ceilidh to celebrate the charity's 60th anniversary. A large number of people turned out for the event, which was held in the Buckie Royal British Legion.

ENABLE provides support to anyone with learning difficulties, it was in 1954 that five sets of parents met in Glasgow to discuss the possibility of setting up a Scottish organisation to help parents such as themselves, and to get better services for their children who had learning difficulties. Following a number of other meetings people in general were invited to attend a meeting in Glasgow Corporation's Education Offices when there was an attendance of 300 and an organisation was born - the Scottish Association of Parents of Handicapped Children. In 2014 the organisation is known as ENABLE.

New Head of Geography - Buckie Community High School have welcomed Kate Wragg as the new Principal Teacher of Geography. She has moved to Buckie from Teeside where she was previously Head of Geography at All Saints Academy in Teeside. Kate's husband is based at RAF Lossiemouth and the couple moved to Elgin last month.

June 3 **Fishing Heritage Centre** The latest chapter in the success story that is the Buckie and District Fishing Heritage Centre Ltd was revealed last week when their new amenity area was declared open by the Lord Lieutenant of Banffshire Clare Russell. I played a small part in the project when I wrote the piece describing Buckie found on one of the two information plaques shown on the front page of this edition.

Cullen Quiz Queens Reign Supreme - Cullen Primary's quiz quartet showed their star quality last Tuesday when they triumphed in a Moray-wide contest. There were four teams taking part in the final, with Applegrove, Forres coming second, West End, Elgin, third and Keith fourth. A total of 29 schools entered 47 teams to the competition as a whole. Cullen Headteacher Moyra Hendry praised the coolness and dedication of the team in the face of a "very tricky" quiz. She said: "It was a very, very close run and tricky quiz, but they were the winners in the end. We're absolutely delighted with the girls and very proud of them." The prize for winning the competition included a book for the school and a goody bag and a book each.

Local Choir makes their Debut - A new local choir was being hailed after staging a virtuoso debut performance. Last Friday saw Buckie Community High School's Highfield Hall packed to hear the inaugural airing of Buckie Community Choir's repertoire.

A total of 36 men and women took to the stage out of the Choir's current total membership of 60. Choir leader Jane Murray was left delighted by the outstanding success of the evening.

Spring Craft Fair - Buckie's annual Spring Craft Fair once again drew the crowds from far and wide when it opened last Saturday morning. The Fishermen's Hall played host to the event, which was packed out with visitors from near and far. Run by the Buckie Art and Crafts Group, the event boasted stalls from new exhibitors, as well as stalwarts offering a wide selection of hand-made goods for sale.

June 10 **Buckpool stabbing shock** - An area of Buckie was left in shock last week after a man was subjected, by another, to multiple stab wounds. The early hours of Friday morning at Alba Road, Buckpool, (an area of new housing to the west of Barhill Road) saw a 48-year-old man, father of six children, named locally as Kevin Docherty, rushed to Gray's Hospital in Elgin. After emergency treatment it was thought that Mr. Docherty was recovering. A 43-year-old man, a neighbour was detained.

Meeting to see "Buckie Drifter" plans unveiled. Exciting proposals for revitalising the "Buckie Drifter" are set to be unveiled at a public meeting next week arranged by the Buckie Area Forum. The meeting is scheduled to take place in the hall of the Town House.

“Jags Review” scoops top Scottish Title - The football magazine entitled “Jags Review” which has been edited by Easton Thain for the past 20 years, or so, was unveiled recently as the latest winner of the prestigious Best Scottish Non-League Programme Award run by “Programme Monthly”, the renowned collectors magazine for the UK. There was stiff competition indeed for the “Review,” with 58 programmes from across the nation all-vying for the right to call themselves the best.

June 17 **Court for stabbing accused** - A Buckie man has been charged with attempted murder following a stabbing incident in Buckie, reported the previous week. Forty-three year-old-man Stuart Murray, of Buckpool, appeared in Elgin Sheriff Court last Monday, where he made no plea or declaration before being remanded in custody until today (Tuesday)

Radio Buckie launch volunteers appeal - The call was made following the group’s recent meeting held in the Lady Cathcart Community Centre, where an update was also given on the progress the community radio has been making. More volunteers are required to sign up and help drive the station forward. Chairman of Radio Buckie Dr Nick Brown said: “ After a long, and at times disheartening period of trying to get ourselves set up in the face of a whole lot of obstacles, we are definitely starting to get there and make noticeable progress.

Buckie Lyric Theatre Group. The popular musical “Our Day Out” was staged in the Fishermen’s Hall, Buckie, on Friday 13 and Saturday 14 June. The musical was chosen on this occasion to showcase a mix of youth and adult performance skills. I the large crowds who attended both performances declared it to be a great success.

Hannah stays ahead - Fochabers schoolgirl Hannah Kingham was the toast of her orienteering group for the third month in succession. Following on from her gold medal at the Moray and Highland Junior Orienteering Championships in May, the Milne’s Primary School P6 pupil triumphed in the Scottish Inter-club Junior Orienteering Championships near Perth at the weekend.

Fatal crash on the Enzie Brae - A crash on the B9016 some two miles north of Aultmore last Tuesday between a Mini Cooper s convertible and a truck, which resulted in a fireball, claimed the life of the driver of the car, Buckie man 29-year-old Iain MacDonald. The truck driver was understood to have escaped unhurt.

June 24 **Diver loses his life off Findochty coast** - A 38 –year-old man got into difficulties on Sunday afternoon whilst diving in shallow water a few hundred yards offshore at Findochty. The dead man had been diving with colleagues when he got into difficulties when despite the efforts of other divers and rescue crews, including the lifeboat, called to the scene, the diver sadly died.

Lifeline for the “Buckie Drifter” A bold new future for the disused “Buckie Drifter” Was laid out to the local community last Wednesday evening at a meeting held in the Town House Hall. What was proposed was that the building be turned into a vibrant Traditional Music and Culture Centre, which would attract students and musicians alike from near and far. Leading the presentation was well-known fiddle player, music teacher and leader of the Fochabers Fiddlers James Alexander, who was accompanied by other, members of the Steering Group, seeking to take

this forward, plus a number of partners and advisors. The meeting was facilitated by Buckie Area Forum's Economic Regeneration Steering Group led by their chairman, Councillor Gordon McDonald.

"It's a Knockout " The annual It's a Knockout fundraising extravaganza **was** held in the Linzee Gordon Park, Buckie on Saturday and proved to be as successful as ever, drawing competing teams at junior and senior levels with a large crowd present to spectate only this was to be the last one as things stand at present. There were mixed emotions for organiser Mrs. Thomson as she saw everything packed away for the last time in Buckie. She said: "As things stand at present this will be the last year in Buckie, although I wouldn't rule out a return if we could get enough people to participate. If we don't get the teams then we can't run the event. That is the bottom line." A team from the local Co-op Superstore was the winners this year of the senior event

Third volume on the history of fishing boats unveiled -The final piece in a jigsaw covering the history of local motor fishing boats was formally unveiled last week Tuesday saw Buckie and District Fishing Heritage Centre Ltd, play host to the unveiling of "BF Motor Fishing Boats Vol. 3", the last in the trilogy of books on the subject compiled by the Heritage Vice Chairman John Addison of Cullen. The book is available at a cost of £15, from the Centre, Pozzi's Buckie and Meadowlands in Banff.

July 1 **Fire Station marks 50-year anniversary** Fifty years of firefighting in Buckie were celebrated on Saturday when Buckie Fire Station marked its 50th anniversary with an open day. The bunting was out along with the crowds, to help the town's retained firefighters honour the station's half a century at its current East Cathcart Street location. It was a proud day for Watch Manager Dougie Annand

Diver who died is named The identity of a diver who tragically died off the coast of Findochty has been revealed. Last Friday saw Police Scotland confirm the identity of the dead man as 38-year-old Benjamin Reymer from Lossiemouth. He moved to Lossiemouth from Cheshire, basically to work and enjoyed living in Lossiemouth, as his family said. He loved diving and was proud to have gained his BSAC qualification.

Stop fly tipping - A large-scale act of fly tipping in a local wooded area has sparked a public appeal to help trace those responsible. Buckie community warden Andrew Mackie is turning to the public in a bid to bring to book those responsible for leaving a sizeable quantity of asbestos sheeting at a site in the Carnoch Woods between Rathven and the A98. Said Mr. Mackie: "The area, which is quite secluded is a hot spot for the dumping of litter of all kinds, however the 20 sheets appear to have come off a roof somewhere. This of course costs the taxpayer to dispose of, especially as special means are required to do this safely due to the nature of the material concerned. Some people may think that fly-tipping is a victimless crime, which of course it is not since every penny the Council have to spend clearing away the rubbish cannot be spent elsewhere." He added;" People should be aware that a fine of £200 can be imposed on anyone caught in the act of fly-tipping."

July 8 **From helicopter to the lifeboat** - The Queen's Commonwealth Baton Relay has been received across Scotland by communities and arrived on land at Buckie, carried first by a RAF Sea King search and rescue helicopter, winch man Flt. Mark

Lean dropping down on to the deck of the Buckie R.N.L.I. lifeboat "William Blannin" at a point off Buckie harbour where it was collected by Probationary Mechanic Carl Cowie, as a large number of crew members looked on. Once the lifeboat returned to the station the baton was taken on its journey from Cullen through Buckie and Fochabers before heading for Elgin.

Canada Day honoured at Bogmoor - Canada on July 1 saw a service take place at the Dallachy Strike wing memorial, Bogmoor, to commemorate all those who from that country who gave their lives over the course of two World Wars. The former RAF base at Dallachy played host to Canadians as well as many others from the Commonwealth, during World War II. Leading the service was RAF Lossiemouth-based Rev (Squadron Leader) Sheila Munro. While the Canadian flag proudly waved from the flagpole piper Anne Nicholson played the lament "The Flowers of the Forest" while bugler Hazel Gray sounded the Last Post. Both women are members of the RAF Voluntary Band at Lossiemouth.

After 58 years Buckie Community High School senior football team won the Senior North of Scotland Cup for the first time in fifty-seven years when they beat Nicholson Institute, Stornoway, by three goals to one. The match was played at Dingwall. The cup final squad was Kristofer Taylor, Ethan Murray, Robert Scott, Callum Murray, Aaron Sherman, Jack Newlands, Liam Gordon, Nathan Goodall, Steven McLennan, Ross Gillies, Ethan Cowie, Greg Hay, Keir McIntosh, Marcus Flett, and Robbie Bruce. The senior coach of the team was English teacher Grant Smith with retired Language teacher, Charlie Beresford as assistant.

July 15 **Gold Award for Laura** Young Portknockie woman Laura Lewis (20) joined hundreds of young achievers from across Scotland on July 3 at Hollyrood Palace where she was presented with her gold Duke of Edinburgh Award by the duke of Edinburgh. Ms. Lewis earned her award through her work with 1st eastern Ranger Guides, where she worked through the five sections of the programme to achieve her award; her diverse activities included volunteering within the Girl Guide Movement developing skills and physical tasks.

The Anderson Garden is opened - Portknockie Primary School hosted a very special garden party recently to mark the opening of a new feature at the school. Parents, staff, pupils and other members of the community were in attendance to witness the opening of the Anderson Garden, which has been created thanks to a generous bequest from the late Helen Anderson, who made her home in the village until her death at the age of 100 three years ago.

Mrs. Paddy Newman, one of Mrs. Anderson's nieces had the honour of cutting the ribbon to declare the garden open. Ms Murray, school Headteacher, said a few words.

TSB on the ball Buckie Community High School's Senior Football team ended their record-breaking season with an extra high thanks to a local bank. TSB Buckie were up at BCHS recently to hand over a number of quality match footballs, complete with transportation bag, to the school's Senior team coach Grant Smith. The bank's football giveaway, which rewards schools affiliated to the Scottish Schools FA, will see over 300 secondary and primary schools receive five FIFA-approved match balls. The balls were handed over by Buckie TSB manager Alan Milne to Depute Rector Moira Taylor, while Grant Smith and some of the team look on. Mr. Smith was keen to thank the bank for their generosity.

July 22 **Buckpool Harbour Rescue Drama** - Buckie's volunteer lifeboat crew and Coastguards were called into action last week to pluck a man from the waters of

the Moray Firth just off the local coast. Monday afternoon saw them mobilized after reports of a man in the water off Buckpool harbour.

On being taken ashore the casualty was checked over by paramedics. . After being assessed by the ambulance crew, it is understood the man was detained by police officers and taken to Dr Gray's Hospital in Elgin.

It has been reported locally that the man had been attempting to take his own life before the timely intervention of the emergency services.

July 29 **Flooding nightmare strikes** - Flash flooding brought misery to families in Cullen at the weekend. Streets and pavements were turned into raging torrents as frantic householders fought desperately to stem the relentless flow of water. People were using anything they could get their hands on to protect their homes. For many it was to no avail and they had to admit defeat and watch, as their homes were flooded.

A torrential downpour just after teatime on Saturday night brought chaos to many villagers. Homes in the Seatown, York Place and Castle Terrace belonging to Mrs. Pat Sellar, Helen and John Gillibrand and Peter and Helen Rainbird, respectfully appeared to be among those most badly affected.

Speyfest number 19. Fochabers was the place to be last weekend when the 19th Speyfest unfolded. The glorious weather only added to the already buoyant popularity of the musical extravaganza as crowds flocked to the picturesque village from Friday through to Sunday. Once again the organisers succeeded in bringing together some of the biggest names from the worlds of traditional and contemporary Celtic music.

Phoebe won an award for her poem - Phoebe Buchan a Primary 6 pupil at Cluny Primary School, Buckie won third place in a poetry competition at the Traditional Music and song and Music Association Festival Ian Middleton Doric Poetry Competition in Keith The poem found on page 12 was written by Phoebe after a seagull, called a gow in Buckie, had made a mess on the window of the room while she was doing her homework. She called the poem "The Gow"

Judge Caroline Fowler told how there were 134 entries to the competition so for Phoebe to be placed third was a remarkable achievement for someone so young.

Peter Fair 2014 - It was show time in the sun last week for Peter Fair as the annual extravaganza basked in glorious sunshine, surely something to be long remembered. The shocking weather suffered in some recent years was but a distant memory as the crowds flocked to the fair.

Aug 5 **Candles of Remembrance** - Britain's entrance entry into the largest global conflict in modern history was marked with solemn and dignified respect in Buckie yesterday evening. Members of the Buckie branch of the Royal British legion, along with the general public, gathered at the town's war memorial between 10.30pm and 11.00pm to commemorate the country's declaration of war on Germany, a move that was to claim almost 1 million British lives. Candles ringed York memorial, with members attending invited to light a candle of their own. creating a poignant picture as the world-changing event of another summer's night 100 years ago were respectfully remembered.

New face at the "Advertiser" Chris Saunderson has joined "The Banffshire Advertiser" as Grampian Group Editor after 20 years at the "Northern Scot" based in Elgin. He also has responsibility for sister papers "The Banffshire Herald" in

Keith, "The Banffshire Journal" in Banff and "The Huntly Express," which are now all part of the Scottish Provincial Press family of newspapers.

Further to the flooding in Cullen - Cullen's GPs found that the recent flash flooding to hit the area had not spared the village medical centre. Saturday July 26 saw a downpour unleashed from thundery skies, which inflicted a short-lived, though merciless battering. Properties were flooded, walls flattened, as the drainage system was unable to cope. One of the properties to suffer in the wake of the deluge was Cullen Medical Centre, with patients finding the facility closed after water swept through it. The Centre has been flooded four times in the last six weeks, though this recent one was the worst by far. Care for patients was provided at Seafield Medical Centre until further notice, which could be as much as a month

Aug 12 **The tail end of Hurricane Bertha is felt in Buckie and area.** A Buckie nursing home was on the verge of being evacuated after torrential rain brought flooding chaos. Parklands staff and residents were desperately hoping for floodwaters to subside as the "Advertiser" went to press on Monday. The tail end of Hurricane Bertha left its mark as householders in Buckie, the surrounding communities and indeed throughout Moray were left counting the cost of flooding and widespread travel disruption as roads were made impassable. (A fuller story and graphic pictures of the flooding are found on the front page and throughout the paper.)

Aug 19 **Council under fire over Drybridge flooding** - A Drybridge resident, Mrs. Moray Stewart who lives in Linnburn House adjacent to the Linn Burn, was left counting the cost after the burn overflowed its banks under the strain of the torrential rain that fell late on Sunday August 10 and early Monday 11. Water, contaminated by effluent from the house's septic tank, surged through her house to a depth of 15 inches before eventually receding. Mrs Stewart who was also a victim of flooding five years ago believes it could have been a different story if Moray Council had carried through a major alleviation project as had been planned.

Jags Rent Row Erupts - Page 7 of this edition of the "Advertiser" carries in detail the row that has been taking place between the owners of the Victoria Park Function Hall, Mark and Murray Duncan, and members of the Thain Victoria Park Trust. In the latest epistle the board of the Thistle through the President Gary Farquhar claim that the Duncan's had charged the club thousands of pounds in rent through the Function Hall which they own. This is strongly denied by former Jags President Mark Duncan who claims that in fact the Function Hall with the support of members and fans had donated £66,000 plus to the club. A letter from the Board and members of the Trust was handed out to fans attending a recent football game.

Aug 26 **OAP Ambulance Outrage** - A Buckpool pensioner waited hours in vain for an ambulance it has emerged. Eighty-one year old retired baker James Miller, of Merson Street, who is crippled as a result of childhood polio recently had to rely on family to transport him to hospital for treatment after sustaining a head wound following an accident in his home. Mrs Miller called for an ambulance at 5.15pm which had not arrived by 7.15 pm when she again rang to be told they would come when they could but there were more important emergencies. She called her niece in Elgin who came to Buckie and took James through to Dr Gray's. where he was seen almost immediately

Buckie's First Fallen Remembered - Thursday August 27 1914 saw the Great War become a harsh reality for the people of the town when death, with no warning whatsoever, took the lives of three local fishermen. The drifter "Barley Rig" was fishing 35 miles off Blyth when she hit a German mine. Among the five killed were 35-year-old skipper William Smith "Jeem" of Ianstown, his son and boat's cook of the same name who was only 15, and Samuel Smith "Bodie" also of Ianstown. Also lost was Fraserburgh man Charles Urquhart, engineer, and stoker James Gray of Aberdeen. Four Ianstown brothers, the Clarks Alex, John, Peter and David all survived.

Clochachan artists Art is not just for exhibitions- that is the successful message a local group have been sending out. Clochachan Art Group have put a selection of members' pieces on permanent display in the village's community centre where they can be enjoyed by all the facility users, rather than putting them on show in a once a year exhibition.

Plans offer bold future for hall - A warm welcome met the presentation of initial plans last week to transform the Portgordon Village Hall. Tuesday evening saw Elgin-based architect Keith Edwards meet members of the hall committee to unveil his preliminary thoughts as to how the facility could be transformed into a thriving hub for the community, drawing in not only locals but also tourists and others from further afield.

Launch of book- Local author and historian John Crawford and co author John Fowlie have just had their book - "Toonsfolk, Farmers and Fisherfolk at War" published. The book, which tells the story of the lives, and all too often the deaths, of those from Buckie and the surrounding area who took part in the Great War was launched in the Buckie Branch of the Royal British Legion last Monday. In the book, photos from both the Allied and Axis sides are set aside personal accounts from those who endured the horror of four years conflict.

Record well broken - The fifth anniversary of the Speyside Way Race Ultra marathon was to be a memorable one when the course record was obliterated. Moray-based runner Terry Forrest, who now lives in Yorkshire, knocked seven minutes off the previous best time set in the inaugural race in 2010, clocking 4.01.42 against the time of 4.08.47 set by Allen Smalls. Mr. Forrest has taken part in the race every year, improving his time each year. Last year he lost by a margin of two seconds to the winner Donnie Campbell.

Sept 2

Portgordon Honours War Centenary (Front Page) A century from Britain's entry into World War 1, the people of Portgordon came together on Sunday in respectful commemoration of those served in World War 1.

Millbank School Revamp - Elected members of Moray Council at last week's full Council meeting gave the green light to submit proposals to allocate a total of £3,155,853 to a programme of works that would see the school's overall condition rating raised to a B (good). Presently Millbank is rated a C (poor), with the roof allocated a D (bad) grading.

Classic Car Show - The fourth Buckie Classic Car Show was deemed to be a success. The sun even came to the party, blazing down as young and old made their way to the Linzee Gordon Park between 11.00am and 4.00pm.

Radio Buckie recently extended an open invitation to local ladies when they held a fund-raising evening. Organised by Radio Buckie volunteer Leah Rossvoll, Grand Central Bar played host to Ladies Night. . She said:” We invited along a number of local traders, such as Scentsy, Body Shop, and Beautifully You, to sell their products. “ A total of £79 was raised from the Ladies’ Night event, both from the sale of pitches and the raffle.

Sept 9

A new look “Advertiser – (From the editorial page)- Welcome to your new look Banffshire Advertiser. Today is a big day in the 133-year history of your paper. We hope you like the fresh, new layout of the paper, which is designed to enhance the reader experience. To celebrate this new look we have a bigger 20-page Banffshire Advertiser. There is great loyalty and affection for the Advertiser and we want to build on that strong sense of connection with the local community In the coming weeks and months, the aim is to introduce a number of new features in the paper to enhance the comprehensive coverage of life in Buckie and surrounding communities. It is an exciting time at the Banffshire Advertiser and we want the local community to share in that. If you have stories or pictures you want to share with us, or photographs that we might publish, please get in touch.

Did the public take to the new look paper? It is known that many didn’t but then there are always those who take a dislike to change of any kind

Photo competition - One of the new features introduced is a photo competition

New Minister = The congregations of Findochty and Portknockie Church of Scotland welcomed Rev. Dr Hilary Smith as their new minister at her recent induction where they were joined by representatives of the wider community-including children from Portknockie Primary School, friends and family. Dr Smith, a native of Portessie, and her husband New Zealander, Clive Oxford, had been living in northern part of South Island, New Zealand for a few years before their move to Scotland and home for Rev Dr Smith earlier this month.

Boys long walk for charity - A Milne’s High School pupil with the support of his friend has defied illness to raise more than £8.000 for charity. Gavin McKay (13) and pal James Leslie also 13 spent a week tackling the 82 mile East Highland Way from Aviemore to Fort William for Crohn’s and colitis UK and the Archie Foundation, camping out along the way. . While many would regard this as a remarkable achievement for two S2 pupils, it has been made all the more notable by the fact that only a few months ago, Gavin had a major operation due to his Crohn’s disease, which affects the digestive system. The pair managed to complete the epic trek without so much as a blister.

Sat hello to Squeaky mouse - A new feature for children was unveiled in this edition of the “Advertiser” called Squeaky mouse. Squeaky will also be appearing in the “Banffshire Herald”.

Sept 16 **Hundreds trek for charity:** A Buckie woman who founded a charity in memory of her daughter who died from Leukaemia revealed her pride at seeing hundreds of people walking 26 miles in support of her work. The Aila Coull Foundation was the official local charity of the Speyside Kiltwalk, which set off from Buckie on Sunday morning. Sine and Fraser Coull set up the charity after their daughter Aila, aged just 17 months, died in September 2012 after a brave battle against Acute Myeloid Leukaemia.

Buckie Barnardo's - Thousands of pounds has been raised for Barnardo's by a local group. Once a month the Buckie Barnardo's Luncheon Club meets with the aim of raising funds for charity and meeting up with friends. A different speaker attends the club each month and a raffle helps to boost the fundraising efforts. Last year the club raised £3,000 for Barnardo's. The club was launched in 2007 by the late Linda Gordon. It started off with just a small group of ladies and now has a committee of seven and attracts around 70 members each month. (September 16 2014)

Buckie man was captain of sunk hospital ship - Just before dawn on Friday May 14 1943, the allied hospital ship 'Centaur' was torpedoed some 40 miles north east of Brisbane, Australia, by a Japanese submarine. The Captain of the 'Centaur' was Buckie man George Alexander Murray. Neil Smith who has an avid interest in local research found while reading the report in the "Advertiser" of May 1943 that Captain Murray was a relative. (A report can be read of the wartime atrocity in this edition on page 6.)

Sept 23 **Moray unexpectedly says NO:** Moray joined the rest of Scotland in rejecting independence. After a long and emotional evening in the Fishermen's Hall, Buckie, it was the "Better Together" supporters who ended up celebrating while the 'Yes we can' camp could only reflect on a campaign which took it to the brink of independence. Within the Moray electorate 57.5 per cent voted No and 42.5 per cent of the 64,205 who turned out said they were in favour of independence.

Sept 30 **Anger over plans to merge schools:** Four schools in the Buckie area could be merged to form a new super primary school. Following extensive consultation, independent advisers Caledonian Economics have published a final report of the Sustainable Education Review. It has been recommended that the council give serious consideration to creating a new-build coastal primary school to serve Findochty, Portknockie and one of both of Portessie and Cullen. The Four Schools Action Group, which covers the four villages, has vowed to fight the proposals.

Fun day at Spey Bay - There were smiles all the way at Spey Bay for a family fun day. The local hall was the focal point for the first event held by the management committee. As well as general hall funds the event was held to raise funds to help local youngsters enjoy a new playground area. Helen Smith, chairman of the group's fund-raising sub-committee said, " We're fundraising to put in a new kid's playground at the hall for both older and younger children. We're still looking at

quotes at the moment, which have ranged between £20,000 and £50,000, so I reckon our target will be around £20,000

They stepped down: Barry Taylor, and Alan Beresford, chairman and vice chairman respectively of Buckie Area Forum have both relinquished their roles after a period of eight years. Sonya Warren has been appointed chairwoman and Alistair Farquhar the new vice-chairman.

High praise for Alanah's essay: An inspirational essay by a senior pupil at Buckie Community High School received the highest praise from a leading oil company. Alanah Mair (S6) was thrilled to see her Higher English essay published in 'Flowline' the in-house magazine of Stena Drilling magazine. Alanah was part of a group from the school who enjoyed an exchange trip to Tanzania in October last year and she wrote about her African experience. Stena Drilling donated £500 towards the trip when Alanah's dad approached them for support; Alan Mair is Safety Officer on Stena Forth.

Part of her essay, which she chose to title "Bloom Where You're Planted" is printed in this edition and was well worth reading and fully deserved the high praise given.

Oct 7

Light kept under a bushel: A chance encounter has led to a retired RAF officer meeting some of his former comrades after a gap of 50 years. Vic Ayres (69) who lives in Buckpool, retired from the RAF in 1983 with the rank of Squadron Leader after a 21-year career mainly spent piloting Vulcan bomber aircraft from RAF Scampton. (I have known Vic for a many years as an acquaintance, he and I being employed on a casual basis with the "Banffshire Advertiser," he as a photographer and I as a reporter, mainly of football games where he would come and take pictures. Little did I know of his past history, as Vic is a very quiet, unassuming person? As one who served in the RAF in a very minor rank I should have been addressing him as Sir. It is a true saying one should never judge a book by its cover.)

Vic told the "Advertiser" how the meeting with his air force friends of long ago came about. Local pharmacist Alistair Farquhar was on holiday in Austria when he met one of my former roommates at Cranwell, John Fountain. When he heard Alistair came from Buckie he said that he knew someone from that part of the world. John then sent me a post card, we got in touch and a reunion was arranged at John's home in Derbyshire over September 24-26.

A "Knocker" Andy Murray on the horizon? Plans to resurrect derelict tennis courts in Portknockie are almost halfway to completion. Thanks to the sterling efforts of a band of enthusiastic volunteers the tennis courts, once the pride of the village, will be restored to their former glory. Chairman of the Tennis Portknockie group, Andy Dewar told the "Advertiser" that the outcome of various funding bids was looking very bright. Around half the cash required has been sourced courtesy of about £6,000 being raised through fund-raising events and donations from the good folk of the village and £3,500 being made available subject to a matching funding agreement from the European Fisheries Fund through Moray Council Fisheries Local Action Group plus other miscellaneous donations and subscriptions. –

Oct 14

Buckie girl awarded top industry prize: Amy Bruce (18) who is studying architectural technology at Robert Gordon University, in Aberdeen, has been awarded a top industry prize for her outstanding academic performance during her first year at University. She was presented with the Simpson Shield Technology

Award for stage one students at the Scott Sutherland School of Architecture and Built Environment during a special ceremony last week.

The annual award, donated by local surveyor and designer Raymond Simpson, was established to encourage students to become more engaged with technology and as a result more accomplished in their studies.

Buckie's newest songbirds: The latest sensation on the local choir scene continues to go from strength to strength after two recent packed concerts. Although formed only last October, Buckie Community Choir is celebrating its latest triumphs over September 26-27 when performances went down a storm.

Buckie High School's Highfield Hall was the venue for the events, which marked the group's second and third public performances. Community choir organiser Jane Murray said: "We had a really good response with 340 tickets sold over the two nights, so we're very happy all in all. On the Friday night we had three encores- it's just amazing how people have responded. We all really enjoyed it." Mrs Murray attributed a lot of the success of the group, which boasts about 80, men and women, as being down to the fact that they did "nothing fancy" and are simply a group of people who love singing together."

Clochach Community Centre - The latest phase in Clochach Community Centre's bold revitalization plans will make life a bit easier for disabled users. Last Tuesday morning the facility's new disabled toilet was formally unveiled by Margaret Milne. It is situated in the former headmistress's toilet back in the days when the building was a school. Chairman Mike Howard said: "This is the latest step in our five year programme of improvements which began in 2012.

School's high flyers in high company - A trip to see the Lord Lieutenant of Banffshire was a highlight for two high-flying Buckie Community High School students. Duxes Liam Gordon and Aileigh MacGregor, accompanied by the school's head Neil Johnston, were the guests of honour to receive their Joe Mackay awards from the Lord Lieutenant, Clare Russell. The duo was giving a guided tour of the castle by Mrs. Russell before enjoying tea and a chat. The award, which is backed by Buckie councillor Joe Mackay, is handed to the Dux of the school each year and consists of £100 to buy books and a copy of Mrs. Russell's book 'I Love Banffshire' Councillor Mackay, has funded the award now for many years.

Oct 21

Fears of closure of schools As in the previous week's edition of the "Advertiser" much coverage was given over to fears that some primary schools in the Buckie area could close, this week the stories were all about Findochty. In the letter's page people from afar have had their say.

Top Award for Buckie firm: Innovative thinking has brought its own rewards for a pioneering Buckie electrical firm. Gateway Control Systems has scooped the Best Environmental Project Award sponsored by the Microgeneration Certification Scheme at the prestigious SELECT Awards held at the Radisson Blu Centre. The ceremony saw representatives from across the electro-technical industry gather to celebrate success in a variety of categories. Gateway Control Systems, which specializes in process control Systems, and automation equipment for all types of food and drink and other industrial uses, staked its claim to the trophy after installing a heat-recovery system to help a world-renowned whisky industry client save on the amount of river water it used in its cooling process.

We are not having that: Staff at Baxter's Food Group factory, Mosstodloch, staged industrial action last week over changes to pay and conditions. Monday saw workers down tools for three hours over new working conditions which would see changes to shifts and shift allowances.

Oct 28

Possible closure of schools: This week the front page and was reserved for a story on Fochabers and the possible closure of Milne's High School, the only secondary school in Moray over which the shadow of closure has been cast. The paper also carried inside as well picture of the large crowd of people who turned on the Sunday to voice their protests. Inside adults and children of Cullen Primary are photographed with their placards, which carry the same statements as everywhere "We Love Our School", "Don't Close Our School" In Fochabers it "Save Milne's High"

Portgordon Fireworks: Portgordon celebrated a major milestone with a bang when its fireworks display came of age. The event's 21st anniversary celebrations literally lit up the skies over the village on Friday evening as crowds from far and wide turned out to witness the extravaganza.

Committee chairman Kenny Gunn was delighted with the response to the display with people turning up in the village more than an hour before it got under way. "It was a fantastic night and the weather was spot on", he said.

Two step down: Buckie and District Community Council bid farewell to two long serving members last week, At the October meeting former chairman James Smith and minute secretary Heather Innes chose to call it a day, .the pair told the meeting that they now "had a lot of things on" and it was time to head for pastures new. Mr. Smith served around three decades as a community councillor first with Buckie Community Council and then following the inclusion of Rathven and Arradoul Community Council. He acted as chairman for many years taking over from the then incumbent Derek Horrobin Ms Innes had served for a shorter period but both were very regular attendees. Tricia Greenwood the present chairperson paid tribute to both describing them as stalwarts who had worked hard on behalf of the community council. "James and Heather are a big loss to the community council," she said. "They brought a wealth of experience to the group and we're sad to see them go. We wish them all the best in their future endeavours "(According to what Jim and Heather told me what had been written in the paper was far from the truth, they both had become disenchanted with everything pertaining to the "new" community council - since the joining of Rathven and Arradoul councils with Buckie.)

Nov 11

Closure lifted from Milne's High: Relieved campaigners were overjoyed as Milne's High School; Fochabers was yesterday saved from the threat of closure. Moray councillors unanimously agreed to lift the dark cloud that had been hanging over the school for more than a year. At the same time, a five-year moratorium has been placed on any rural school closures while a reshaping of Moray's education system is progressed. The move prompted council leader Allan Wright to step down. There had been fears that Milne's would be closed and pupils bussed to Keith and elsewhere.

Portgordon harbour damage. There was a warm welcome last week from Portgordon boat owners and people locally as work got underway to repair the storm-damaged village harbour.

In the following week's paper the message was that the work was likely to take longer than had been anticipated, continuing into the new year as a result of more damage being caused as a result of bad weather since they had began.

Nov 11 **She took the salute:** Grace McIntosh, daughter of George Imlach McIntosh VC, proudly stood to take the salute at the march past at the Remembrance Day parade, organised by the Buckie branch of the Royal British Legion on Sunday November 9.

Stories told of WWI - This edition carries a number of stories of people and of their experiences during the four years of war 1914-1918, all very much worth reading. The paper also tells how the different communities marked a very significant anniversary – the outbreak of war which was to affect in some way every family in the lands, as witnessed by the names on the war memorials.

Blythswood Boxes - A large team of volunteers were packing boxes of joy last week for some of the very poorest people in Eastern Europe. Monday through to Wednesday saw Buckie Baptist Church Hall turn into a hive of activity as around 25 volunteers collected and packed shoeboxes of goodies as part of the Blythswood Christmas Appeal. The boxes, which cover a range of ages from three year olds up to the elderly, are bound for Romania, with Buckie's contribution being uplifted on Friday morning.

A total of 1290 boxes were filled, slightly up on last year, something that delighted local organiser George Flett who said, "People have been very generous as have schools. and I'd like to thank everyone who contributed, especially in such difficult economic times."

Nov18 **High School planning night of nostalgia:** Celebrations at Buckie Community High School Christmas parties will be extra special this year with fond farewells being said to a well-known musical maestro. Hebbie Gray's 45-year association with the school's festive parties will come to an end this year and Buckie High School plan to give Hebbie a fantastic send off. A final Dashing White Sergeant involving parent, former pupils and staff at Buckie High S, will take place outside the hall on Wednesday December 10, at 10.20pm. All are welcome to join in.

Portknockie trowel mystery unearthed: A detective's hunch has finally snared a long-term fugitive from Portknockie. However there was no criminal manhunt in the offing, rather the search for an important part in the village's rich history in the shape of a silver trowel used by the Dowager Duchess Caroline, Countess of Seafield, to open the new part of the harbour on April 25, 1890. However, following the death of the duchess in 1911, the trowel vanished from sight until the tail end of last year.

Coming full circle, the trowel was presented last week to the Cullen, Deskford and Portknockie heritage Group by member and former detective

Arnold Pirie whose sleuthing tracked down the long sought after object.

Accepting the trowel on behalf of the heritage group was secretary Peter Mason. "The history of the trowel is well documented in various issues of the local newspapers," he told the "Advertiser"

Portsoy - new life for derelict cottages - The wind of regeneration is set to blow through historic sail-making cottages on the Banffshire coast in a £1.8 million project. Derelict cottages at Back Green Portsoy will be restored and converted into bunkhouses accommodation for walkers, cyclists and other visitors to the

area. Confirmation of an £873,500 grant from the heritage Lottery Fund has signaled the green light for the project.

The buildings, known as Back Green, comprise a former sail-making loft and associated cottages. The category B-listed buildings are located in the Portsoy Conservation Area, close to the town's caravan site.

Move for Buckie High School teacher - Janice Simpson, P.T. of Maths has been appointed to the post of Depute Rector at Milne's High School, Fochabers. As well as her Maths role Mrs. Simpson is currently part-time acting Depute Rector at Buckie, covering for Mr Strachan's secondment. Mrs. Simpson has been a member of staff at Buckie High for more than 30 years. She will take up her new post after Christmas.

Nov 25 **Buckie Christmas Cracker:** At the annual Christmas Cracker, delighted crowds were kept entertained all day thanks to a packed programme of attractions and performances. The event kicked off with a Breakfast with Santa event at Le Café Coull, enjoyed by youngsters of all ages. Santa was then kept busy in his grotto as visitors queued up to enter his winter wonderland throughout the day. The star guest was "Coronation Street" actor Andy Whyment who plays Kirk in the hit ITV soap. Fans of the show were excited to meet him and he happily posed for photos and signed autographs
Cluny Square and East Church Street was a pedestrian free zone and encouraged by the superb weather for the time of year was thronged though out the day up to and beyond the falling darkness when the lights were switched on by Andy Whyment. (This issue of the "Advertiser" has lots of photographs taken during the day.)

Cullen Skink World Championship: Now in its third year the Cullen Skink World Championships continue to go from strength to strength. The competition held at the Cullen Bay Hotel on Sunday saw a good mix of local taking part as well as competitors from further afield. Adding to the long list of culinary titles was Neal Robertson from Auchtermuchty, Fife, and the winner of the new Cullen Skink with a Twist contest was Ian Watson from Cullen. Other titles held by Mr Robertson include World Porridge Champion 2010 and World Specialty Porridge Champion 2011, as well titles in the World Stovie and World Jam-Making Championships

Buckie-born poet wins award: A Buckie-born poet has been awarded a prestigious prize for his latest collection of works. Alexander Hutchison was presented with the 2014 Saltire Society Poetry Book of the Year Award for "Bones and Breath," a book that savours language, especially Scots. The winners in each category received a £2,000 cash prize and are put forward to be considered for the Saltire Book of The Year Award, supported by Creative Scotland and accompanied by a total cash prize of £10,000.

After attending Aberdeen University, Mr Hutchison went to live in North America for 18 years, where he taught at the University of Victoria. His first book was published by the University of Massachusetts Press in 1978. Mr Hutchison returned to Scotland in 1984 and now lives in Glasgow.

Folk chipped in - Three new benches have been installed at Cullen harbour thanks to the generosity of local folk. The Cullen Harbour Association was keen to replace the benches, which had been destroyed during the storms at the end of 2013. Buckie Rotary Club donated a generous cheque to fund two replacement

benches and Stephen Findlay, from Cullen, paid for a third bench in memory of his parents Stephen and Jeannie. Bob Ross of Cullen Joiners responded to the request for help and completely refurbished a favourite wooden bench, which had been wrecked in the storm.

“Mr Buckie” A businessman known affectionately as “Mr Buckie” has marked a 50-year anniversary of trading in the town. Aged only 15 years Nemat Ali arrived in the northeast in 1959. He came with nothing but the clothes on his back and a ten-shilling note. With a suitcase of clothes, guaranteed by his uncle, Mr Ali began selling door to door in Lossiemouth. In 1962 he ventured into Buckie with his suitcase. “The clothes were imported so they were different to those you found in the shops”, said Mr Ali. “The ladies liked getting a new outfit for the dances in the Fishermen’s Hall He opened his first shop, a drapers, on East Church Street, now the Co-op Travel agents, in 1964.

Dec 2

Vicious attack on singer – Rathven woman on trial - A Rathven woman has gone on trial accused of being involved in a vicious attack on a well-known nightclub singer. Andrew Smith, who performs as Andy Layton James, was allegedly attacked with a cosh, axe and a scythe at his former home in Findochty last year. The attack left the entertainer with two partially severed fingers and other injuries before he managed to escape. Those on trial are June McIntosh (60) of 3 Connage Cottages Rathven, John Fisher (52) of Airdrie and his younger brother Alexander (45) of Wishaw.

Doric poem Competition for school pupils - Youngsters from primary schools in the Buckie area went head to head last week to pit their Doric talents against each other... Buckie Community High School was the venue on Tuesday in what was the second such contest to be run by local Doric language group Buckie Blethers. In the run up to the event group members went into the schools to give a flavour of the language, which is native in its various forms to the north east of Scotland, especially related to farming and fishing. Caroline Fowler, from the Buckie Blethers said: “Each of the eight schools taking part put forward three pupils from the written part of the competition, and three pupils each for the recitation part (written poems were judged at Blethers meetings recently, with the recitation being judged at BCHS.) Judges for the event were- Linda Smith, Chairperson Helen Sandison and Sandra Taylor. The morning ended with competitors entertaining those present with a rendition of their own written work. Winning the trophy for reciting a poem from memory, which was judged on expression and understanding, clarity and fluency, was George Wallace from Findochty, reciting ‘Gloria Carrot. Victory in the written poem category, judged on use of Doric words, content and structure, was Kelsey Gordon from Millbank, with her poem ‘Fishin.’”

Switch on at Cullen - The countdown to Christmas has started in Cullen with the switch on of the village’s festive lights. Thursday evening saw the community come together to witness the big event and at 7pm the Millennium Square, viaduct and surrounding streets burst into a glorious blaze of colour. The occasion was topped off by a spectacular fireworks display, which was kept as a surprise for the assembled crowd.

Doing the honours in switching on the lights were six representatives from Cullen Primary School Emily Paterson (Nursery); Sienna Kirkwood (P1-2); Nyah Wright (P2-3); Rhea Gardner (P3-4); Danielle Parr (P4-5); and Chip Dougall (P6-7) one of

those delighted with yet another successful lights switch on was Cullen Christmas Lights Committee chairman David Paterson

Dec 9

Duo found guilty of ‘despicable’ attack- the licensee of a Buckie club, along with an associate, have been convicted in relation to a “despicable” assault on a local performer. June McIntosh, who runs Ji C’s and John Fisher were found guilty last Friday afternoon at Elgin Sheriff Court of involvement in an attack on Andy Smith, better known as Andy Layton James – early last year. Police Scotland welcomed the convictions, describing the assault as “nasty.” The case against Alexander Smith was not proven. The two will receive their sentences in the New Year.

Portknockie hail Christmas lights and citizen of the year. Portknockie got its festive season into full swing on Saturday when the village came together to switch on the Christmas lights. Young and old alike gathered at the Millennium Garden to witness Josh Innes, the youngest pupil at the primary school, do the honours for both the lights and the Christmas tree. Leading the service was Portknockie Church of Scotland Rev. Dr Hilary Smith, who reflected that Christmas time was very much a time for togetherness, not only among families but in the wider community. A further ceremony took place later in the hall where tea and snacks were provided for all and people were entertained by local school children that sang some Christmas carols; this was the unveiling of this year’s John Addison Memorial Trophy Citizen of the Year. Taking the award this year was local pensioner Frank Legge (69) who was honoured from his years of selfless work tidying up local paths. Fraser Weir presented the trophy.

Newsletter makes successful return: A community newsletter has reported a successful first year since its re-establishment. The “Portgordon Post,” resurrected after a period of dormancy, has roared back to life, including organising a sell-out commemoration of the beginning of World War 1 and donating a four-figure sum to charity. At the annual general meeting previous secretary Pringle George was elected chairman for the forthcoming year, replacing Sonia Lawrance who becomes vice-chairman. Kay Griffin takes over as secretary. In her report, Mrs. George praised all those who had supported the publication over the course of the year, also paying tribute to the passing of “dear friend, supporter and advisor “ Charles Staves. Thanks to a number of highly successful fund-raiser, many based around the World War 1 commemoration event in August, a total of £1,335 has been donated to Erskine Care Homes, Poppy Scotland and the Buckie branch of the Royal British Legion.

Dec 16

Community backs future of harbour: Plans to move forward with the redeveloping of Portgordon harbour have received resounding community backing. The recent meeting of Portgordon Community Harbour Group saw the results of a recent survey of residents give overwhelming support for transforming the facility, which is currently closed, into a vibrant leisure craft port. The views of the residents were asked by means of a questionnaire that was delivered to each house in the village and when those returned were checked and counted Lee Brown, group chairman, told the meeting;“ This is an excellent response and it would seem a huge majority of those who responded are in favour of moving ahead with the redevelopment of the harbour.”

School forced to close due to shortage of staff: A shortage of staff forced a Buckie Primary School to close yesterday (Monday) to all pupils. A crippling shortage of supply teachers in Moray meant replacement staff could not be found

at short notice to open St Peter's Primary. A sickness bug hit the school last week causing about 30 pupils of the 90 strong roll to be kept at home. A Moray Council, spokesman said, "Inevitably the bug has been transmitted to staff and a number have reported sick today. No cover staff was available to meet the numbers needed to continue with classes, so the head teacher and director of education and social care made the decision to close the school.

Festive Lights make a return at Portgordon: Portgordon community festive spirit received a boost with the welcome return of the village's Christmas tree. Folk gathered at the football park on Sunday afternoon to witness the lights being switched on. Leading the carols at 3pm were Portgordon Community Church lay pastor Willie Aitken and Enzie Church of Scotland worker Steve Hay. Providing musical inspiration were youngsters from the community church. At around 3.30pm Kay Fielding switched on the lights. There hadn't been a tree for two years, and one those involved in what was a communal thing, Pringle George said "We thought it would be nice to have it reinstated. Kay Fielding got the tree; Kenny Gunn of the Fireworks Committee, sorted out the electrical side of things while Peter Thain arranged access to electricity at the park

Dec 23 **13 K raised in two days for cerebral palsy girl Faith:** A new world of communication is set to open for a brave little girl this Christmas thanks to the generosity of others. Faith Easton (7) was left unable to talk or walk after being born with cerebral palsy. The Portgordon youngster has endured countless operations over the years in a bid to improve her mobility. She is currently in plaster after undergoing a fourth hip operation. The 2015 are set to be a brighter one for Faith and her family thanks to a remarkable fund-raising appeal, which has enabled the family to buy an eye-recognition interactive computer. This will allow Faith to let people know her emotions, activities she would like to do, things she would like to see, simply by looking at a computer screen. The Swedish-made Smart Box computer also allows Faith to play games and activities with friends, family and her teachers. Mum Debbie admitted she was overwhelmed when a plea for help in raising the £12,000 needed for the computer and accessories, raised an astonishing £13,000 in just 48 hours. Debbie and her husband Steven, a fisherman were stunned by the generosity of friends in Portgordon, the wider Buckie community and other donors.

More stories of World War 1, copied from letter that were sent home from soldiers at the front appear in this edition of the "Advertiser" as they have done over the past copies. As has been said all are interesting and thought-provoking to read. Two soldiers are mentioned this week - Private Frank Devine of Rathven sent a letter to local priest Rev Canon McIntosh while L/Cpl Manson West, sent a letter to his mother of 3 Seaview Terrace, Buckie In his letter L/Cpl West tells of the gift he had received from a German soldier during the Christmas day cease-fire in 1914

Dec 30 **Spirit of Christmas alive at Riverside:** Those who doubt that the true spirit of Christmas - sharing and kindness of deed and spirit - still exists were proved wrong at a Buckie church. Riverside, on East Church Street, opened its doors on Christmas Day to welcome those who otherwise may have spent the day alone. A meal and entertainment, including a table quiz, were on the cards from 12.30pm for those of all ages who turned up. A record number took the opportunity to turn up and share in the season of good will to all. No one went home empty-handed

either with each guest receiving a small present. Riverside pastor John Coppard said: "It was a really brilliant day and everyone who turned up enjoyed them. Our original numbers took a bit of a hit at the last minute because of the bug that was going around, but we still had 71 which is an increase on last year. Our numbers have been going up year by year and we're actually not far off capacity now." Mark and Jordan Anderson from Buckie Church of Christ provided entertainment during the afternoon, as did others.

New visitor room is unveiled at Seafield: Visiting patients at Seafield Hospital will now be a far more relaxed experience thanks to the efforts of a dedicated team of fundraisers. Seafield and Cullen Medical Group GP Dr Kirsty Shaw have formally unveiled the Rowan Suite. Senior charge nurse Jim Brown explained some of the benefits of the new facility the new facility would bring to patients and visitors alike, "The Rowan Suite is somewhere that patients and visitors can meet away from the ward," he told the "Advertiser" "It's a café-style environment and is a more pleasant place to meet." Friends of Seafield president Alistair Robson said the group was delighted to have been able to help out. Last week saw the Friends out in force delivering a bit of Christmas cheer to patients in the form of presents, a smile and some friendly words.

Other stories from the trenches appear in this edition. One concerns L/Cpl Alex Imlah, whose father had a grocer's shop on High Street, Buckie L/Cpl Imlach suffered severe injuries that saw him die at the early age of 33. .