

2015

Jan 6 **Alan Hangs Up His School Cap:** - Milne's High School, Fochabers recently said farewell to one of their stalwarts on his retirement. For the last 26 and a half years of his 37 and half years in teaching Alan McIntosh has been a familiar face at the school, serving first of all as PT Guidance before moving on to fill the post of depute rector. He also spent a period as acting rector. A native of Buckie prior to working at Milne's, Mr. McIntosh taught physics at Buckie High School where he had been a pupil.

Jan 13 **Fireworks and Fun Run:** -Paul Wojcik an organiser of both the Findochty Hogmanay Fireworks and also the New Year's Fun run in Buckie had a note in the local paper thanking Graham and customers of the Keystore, Findochty also Jimmy and customers at the Admiral's Inn in the village together with all who turned out for both and helped to raise the sum of £330 which will be shared between Marie Curie Cancer Care Moray and Aila Coull Foundation.

New Year's Day Fun Run: - A photograph in the "Advertiser" shows Paul Wojcik about to blow the runners off for the annual four and a half mile fun run. This year 35 runners took part, both male and female. The winner was local man John Goodall, with Stephen Taylor second and Kerry Mair third. Conditions were ideal.

Not a close shave: A local pharmacist has vowed to ditch his razor for a month to raise funds for charity. Colin Clark of Cullen Pharmacy has signed up for the Beards for Bairns challenge in aid of the Archie Foundation. The challenge began on Christmas Day and runs until Burns Night, on January 25, with participants forbidden from lifting a razor to their face during that time. Colin had hoped to raise £200 through the challenge but to date had already collected approximately £450.

New bus for BABS dials a bus. A Buckie-based community transport charity has unveiled the latest addition to its fleet. BABS dial-a-bus, which is based at March Road East Industrial Estate, recently took proud possession of a new Volkswagen Crafter, which, in addition to 16 seats, has capacity for wheelchairs, including a tuckaway tail lift.

The fleet now consists of an Alero, a white minibus and a car in addition to the new vehicle.

Buckie escapes worst of the storm- Despite much of Scotland, especially the west coast being struck with gale force winds, in places in excess of 100mph causing damage to property over a wide area and leaving many households without electric heat or light, for days on end, apart from a few trees being blown down the area was fortunate to escape lightly.

Jan 20 **Passing of Councillor Joe Mackay - Condolences** have poured in after a local councillor who played a leading role in the community died following an accident with a mobility scooter. Councillor Joe Mackay passed away at Dr Gray's Hospital in Elgin on Monday after an accident at home involving his new scooter, which left him with fractures to his pelvis and wrist. He was 86. Joe was born on Main Street, Buckpool and spent the bulk of his working life as a fisherman, ultimately becoming a skipper. (A full report is given on page 1.)

Woman behind Baxter's soup range dies: The businesswoman who helped turn Baxter's into a global brand dies last week. Edna Baxter, who was living in a nursing home in the area near Huntly where she was born in 1924, passed away on Thursday.

After marrying Gordon Baxter together they created an exciting new range of Scottish soups based on traditional recipes, including cock-a-leekie, Scotch broth and chicken broth. A graduate of Gray's School of Art in Aberdeen, Mrs. Baxter was, in addition to being a talented cook, an artist in her own right.

New deputy at Milne's High: The New Year brought a new start at Milne's High School, Fochabers. Janice Simpson has been appointed as depute rector, taking over the post from long-serving Alan McIntosh. Mrs. Simpson studied Maths and Statistics at Aberdeen University and then trained to become a teacher at Aberdeen College of Education, A former pupil of Buckie High School, she took up her first teaching post there in 1983.

Jan 27

James Shines light on a final frontier: A Buckie physicist's studies have added a new field of Maths to the often-mysterious world of quantum physics. Dr James Reid has just successfully completed his PhD in Mathematical Physics, focusing on gravitational physics, which is related to Einstein's theory of relativity. Three years of application and determination saw the 26 year old former Milne's High School student comfortably pass his final viva exam in a field which, unlike many other aspects of physics, cannot be adequately visualised by the human mind and instead can only be expressed through the realm of Mathematics. His contribution has added to a field, which has been taxing physicists and mathematicians for the last eight decades, although he remains typically modesty about his addition to the sum of human knowledge. (See page 1 and 3 for more.)

Death of Ena Baxter: Tributes have continued to flood in following the death of one of Moray and Scotland's foremost businesswomen. Along with her husband, the late Gordon Baxter, Ena Baxter helped turn a small family-run into the global brand that is the Fochabers-based Baxter's Food Group today. She passed away at a nursing home near Huntly at the age of 90

Author honours unsung Hawk: An often-unsung hero of the skies takes centre stage in a new book by a Portknockie-based author. Michael Leek last week unveiled his latest work "The British Aerospace Hawk: A Photographic Tribute". This focuses on the soon to be retired training aircraft which has trained generations of RAF and Fleet Air Arm jet pilots since it entered service in late 1976. Over the course of 248 pages and in excess of 250 photos, Mr. Leek creates a history of the aircraft in action, often at very low levels. The book, which costs £30, is available from Pen and Sword Books Ltd - visit www.pen-and-sword.co.uk

Feb 3

Probus Club enjoys a Scottish Day Lunch Buckie Probus Club enjoyed a traditional Burns and a packed programme of entertainment, though Robert Burns did not write all the poems recited. A party of 61 was present at the event, held in the Marine Hotel, consisting of members, partners, wives and friends. Club president Allan Fraser gave the Selkirk grace, compered the event, compiled the programme and took part in the entertainment. The haggis was

piped in by Stuart MacMillan and carried by hotel chef Raymond Simpson the address to the haggis was performed by Alex Bruce. Burns was remembered in some of the poems read or recited but a poem "The Puddock" by Enzie poet J. M. Caie. was recited by Allan Fraser and the "Soldiers Cairn" by Mary Symon, Dufftown, by John Fowlie. Others who provided entertainment was well known player of the fiddle Hebbie Gray, Keith, Bill Hunter, Arnold Pirie and John Rennie. Towards the end Hebbie played a number of tunes of his own choice before bringing the afternoon to a close when he played "Auld Lang Syne" with the full party joining in with fine voice.

Buckie RNLI appoints new Chairman: Buckie RNLI has welcomed a well-known figure in maritime circles on board to drive the station's management forward. Deskford-based businessman Tom Gunn recently led his first meeting as chairman of the Lifeboat Management Committee.

BB teams s weep into finals: Success was the order of the day for Buckie BBs two five -a-side teams as they did battle in a in a Scotland -wide tournament. Both the seniors and juniors progressed to the final stages in the respective categories in the national five-a-side competition.

The senior team won the Scottish Championship at East Kilbride on February 21 and now goes forward to the UK Championships, which will be held in Ireland.

The members of the senior team were – Lee Cowie, Greg Hay, Ross Gillies, Scott Innes, Liam Gordon, Liam Wood, Eoin Gordon, and Keir McIntosh. Gordon Pirie is team manager.

Feb 10

Donor Leanne is taking on marathon challenge : A Portgordon fundraiser will be pulling on her trainers to encourage others to signs up to be real lifesavers.

Leanne Carter (38) will tackle the 26,2 mile London Marathon in April to raise funds and awareness for the Anthony Nolan Trust. Leanne joined the bone marrow donor register herself and in 2012 received a call saying she was a match for a patient. Around seven months later she was called back to give a second donation. Leanne would stress that donating bone marrow doesn't hurt, saying how people have this misconception about donating but there is a new process now to how it was done 15 years ago and it is not the invasive procedure that it once was.

Funeral of Councillor Joe Mackay - The community turned out in force on Thursday to say a final farewell to later Councillor Joe Mackay. Buckie Methodist Church was packed for his funeral service, which was led by the Rev Roger Brown. John Sandison led the eulogies, which saw tributes paid to the 86-year-old former fisherman and skipper by council convener Allan Wright and council leader Stewart Cree They were joined by Councillor Mackay's youngest granddaughter Iona.

Regeneration Group Brings Are into Focus : Buckie Regeneration Group is encouraging people to take the long view – thanks to a new set of binoculars In Cluny Square. The northeast corner of the Square now has an extra tourist attraction thanks to the efforts of the group, who are part of Buckie Area Forum. Alongside the binoculars, which are free to use, is a topological map giving details of the spectacular mountains, which can be spied across the Moray Firth.

Commons Speech for former Buckie High Pupil: A former pupil of Buckie Community High School recently had the privilege of speaking in the House of Commons. Ryan Wood (24) spoke on behalf of the University of the West of Scotland in a bid to promote its quest to be crowned a world leading university. Mr. Wood graduated in 2013 with an Honours degree in Sports Coaching and is now sports president at the university, overseeing 25 different sports and over 550 students. Mr. Wood declared the opportunity to speak in the House of Commons and a “once in a lifetime experience”. Mr. Wood regularly returns to Buckie to visit his parents Martin and Donna Wood,, of Redburn Drive.

Feb 17

Pupils’ Treasure Island wows the audience: A lively performance was given by the Cluny after school drama club recently. The P6-7 pupils from the club presented Treasure Island to a large audience of parents and friends. Teacher Mrs./ Debbie Patman runs the club and the music accompaniment on the piano was provided by Mrs. McKay. Jodie Main took on the lead role of Long John Silver and Janey Bain played Jim. Craig Herbert played Ben Gunn and Lucy Murray took the super army captain role. Narrators Erica Wood and Ellyn Bruce kept the story flowing.

Spey Bay to join the superfast revolution: A coastal community was celebrating after learning it would be joining the superfast broadband revolution. Spey Bay was one of three Moray communities (the others were Brodie and Tomintoul) unveiled as the latest destination for the rollout of the fibre broadband project, designed to connect up some 95 percent of premises in the country by 2017-18 The announcement of Spey Bay’s inclusion in the superfast revolution comes hot on the heels of anger in other rural communities in the Buckie area – including Drybridge, Deskford and Arradoul- who at present are not earmarked for connection to the new network.

BCHS to help keep Holocaust memory alive: Buckie Community High School pupils are set to capture their current moment in time for posterity, inspired by a memorial project. Students from all years in the school have been contributing memories to a time capsule, which will remain closed to the outside world until the year 2035. The scheme forms a wider part of BCHSs work round Holocaust Memorial Day, which falls on January 27, and also the 20th anniversary of the Srebrenica massacre in Bosnia. Included in the time capsule content will be work undertaken by students for Holocaust Day, including contributions from seniors Emmie Main and Megan Holway who along with teacher Isabelle Annand visited Auschwitz last year as part of an education programme. PT Guidance Donna McIntosh said, “Each year we have a different theme for Holocaust Day, and this year we chose ‘Keeping the Memory Alive.’ “As part of this we were keen to find a way to preserve a snapshot of life here at BCHS and one of the suggestions was to seal up a variety of objects in a time capsule. The inspiration came from one of the Jewish ghettos during the war where the occupants placed everyday objects and notes in can to be found after they were gone to remind people of who they were.”

Panto was a big success: The fairest panto in the land proved a giant hit for Buckie Lyric Theatre Group “Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs “ was a terrific success story for a group that is now going from strength to strength after a few years in the doldrums off stage. With renovation of its own theatre hall now

underway, the annual panto was staged in the Fishermen's Hall last Wednesday though until Saturday.

Feb 24

Dredger joy for Buckie yard: Buckie has been handed a boost after the successful tender for a new Moray Council dredger was unveiled last week. Macduff Shipyard's fabrication site in the town (the former Herd and Mackenzie shipyard) will build the 25.7 m vessel, which is being commissioned to replace the now retired 'Shearwater.' Once completed - estimated to be in the spring on next year - the vessel will serve Buckie Harbour and the other Moray Council harbours at Cullen, Portknockie, Findochty, Burghead and Hopeman as well as being available for hire.

Cluny youngsters set for national stage: Cluny Primary School badminton players have qualified for the Scottish Schools Championships. The achievement came after an impressive performance at the Moray School's Badminton Championships at Aberlour, held on Saturday February 7. Eden Cowie, Marni Phillip, Charlie Hay and Jodi Greig have qualified for the Scottish Championships, which will take place in Perth on Saturday, May 2. At the Moray event Eden Cowie and Marni Phillip were crowned girls Doubles Champions and scooped gold. Eden received bronze in the Girls singles and Marni was fourth. Charlie Hay took gold and was crowned Boys Singles Champion together with Jodi Greig took silver in the Boys doubles. Other Cluny pupils who took part in the competition were Lucy Cowie, Neil Gillies, Jayden Innes, Jaymee Hannah, Ellie Campbell, Georgia McCarten, Eryn Dawson, Charlie Moonie and Craig Herbert.

Oil firm unveils new horizons: A Lintmill-based national fuel and lubricant supplier has unveiled the latest step forward in the firm's expansion. Northern Oils announced last week it would commence operations from its new site at Workington on March 1. The Cumbrian Storage terminal will be a key location for the group, which has land and sea operations around most of the UK coastline. Among the key benefits of Workington outlined by Northern Oils owner and Chief Executive David Wood, is its road, rail and sea loading facilities which are set to make it a key fuel storage and distribution centre for the north of England, with millions of litres of fuel and lubricant held on site. It is anticipated that at least one of Northern Oils own ships will operate from the port of Workington while third party vessels may also be used to bring in cargoes.

Northern Oils operates a fleet of 80 vehicles from 15 UK locations, supported by a fleet of barges and coastal tankers. Activities are split between fuel and lubricant supply with a large part of group turnover being marine and offshore related but with supplies being made to all industries and sectors.

Mar 3

Parliament date for Buckie-born engineer: A Buckie engineer is getting ready to present his research findings to a parliamentary panel. Dr Euan Wielewski (30) a lecturer at Glasgow University will travel to Westminster on March 9 to unveil his conclusions to a panel of politicians and experts as part of the SET for Britain competition. His research poster about predicting the failure of materials used in jet engines will be judged against dozens of others in the only national competition of its kind, bringing early career researchers and politicians together.

Emma aims to forge links through African adventure: A teacher from Buckie Community High School plans to travel to Africa this summer to share her teaching skills and experience. History and Modern Studies teacher Emma Hely (25) was selected for a four-week placement in Rwanda through the Global Learning Partnership. The trip, involving 14 teachers from Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire and Moray, will take place from July 4 to August 3. Miss Hely said, "We will live and work alongside teachers in Rwanda as we try to improve their English and try desperately to learn their language. We will learn from each other and hopefully create a strong link with Rwanda. Before I go I want to involve as many of the pupils at Buckie as possible. Both the school's staff and pupils have been supporting and excited for me to go on this adventure. I want to raise awareness and prepare materials to take across with me to let children in Rwanda see what life is like here. I hope to bring back something similar to let the students here what it is like there. Fifty-one percent of Rwandans live below the poverty line and raising awareness and letting students understand this from someone who has lived and worked there should be invaluable.

Mar 10

He'll be inside for a good file; A Buckie teenager has been jailed for four years for his part in the death of a pensioner. Reece Munro was convicted last month of killing James Robson by kicking and punching him. His stepfather Garry Munro (32) was convicted of murdering the 67-year-old and sentenced to life imprisonment at the High Court in Edinburgh.

Buckie Rovers team 1947 A photograph of Buckie Rovers F.C. taken in 1947 appeared in this edition of the "Advertiser" All the players are named as well as the officials.

Where the bag money went. It became law in an effort to reduce the amount of little in the form of plastic carrier that all shops must charge 5p if a customer asked for the purchases to be put in one. Since the law was brought in some shops have collected fair sums. Stephen Grant proprietor of the Fry Inn was able to hand over £120 to Miriam Kemp of the Fishermen's Mission while Darren Anderson from Anderson Butchers handed over a similar cheque to Buckie High School Special Education Department. The money was accumulated over three months and the sale of 2.400 bags. Prior to the law change the butcher would give out approximately 1.000 bags every two week. There has been a dramatic cut in the use of plastic carrier bags, benefitting both the environment and charities.

Mar 17

Buckie High welcomes Chinese student: A Chinese student has been treating local school pupils to a taste of the Orient. Through the Confucius Classroom Initiative, Zhang Chi, known as Bella (25), will spend a year teaching the Chinese language and culture in schools throughout Murray. She will spend every Monday at Cluny Primary and Buckie Community High School.

Local loon wins a major book prize - A former Cullen man scooped a prize in an international book competition. David Addison finished in third place in the international Bookbzz.com prize write competition with his book "An Innocent Abroad: The Misadventures of an English Teacher in Montana. Among the ten books that the author has produced is "Confessions of a Banffshire Loon" and he already has plans for his next offering.

Buckie is the nations vanity plate capital - Buckie has been named as the UK's personalised number plate capital. Data gathered by insurance firm Admiral has revealed that more than a quarter of drivers in the area had the status-symbol plates. The study sampled some three million drivers from across the UK. It has been suggested that the high number of oil workers in the area, earning relatively high wages, is behind the high proportion of personal plates.

BB side secures national silverware - There was glory and heartache for two Buckie BB teams recently when they headed south to do battle in a national football tournament. The national five-a-side s finals awaited the seniors and juniors on consecutive weeks, with the former heading north with the silverware for the second year in a row. It was heartbreak, though, for the juniors who lost in their final

The victorious senior team was Eoin Gordon, Ross Gillies, Liam Wood (captain), Greg Hay, Scott Innes, Lee Cowie and Brodie Christie.

Flying the flag for the junior team were Jamie Wood, Innes McKay, Finlay McKay, Charlie Hay, Neil Gillies, Matthew Cowie, Tommie Marandola and Mitchell Adam. .

Mar 24 **Solar eclipse at Buckie.** It was billed as the opportunity of a generation and pupils at Buckie Community High School made sure they did not miss out when a solar eclipse swept across Scotland. Although the cloudy sky at 9.30am last Friday did not aid observation, S2 youngsters at the school nevertheless made the most of an experience they will not have the opportunity to share in again for some time.

Mar 31 **Local election:** Sonya Warren, representing the SNP camp was the successful candidate in the Buckie ward on Moray Council. The mighty battalion of SNP supporters in the area guaranteed that she was to succeed against Norman Calder who stood as an independent and Tim Eagle Conservative.

Quiz Queens at Portessie: Portessie Primary School were crowned queens of the quizzes at a closely fought contest in Buckie. Teams of four from local primary schools converged on Buckie Community High School recently to do battle in the annual Rotary quiz.

Portessie all girl team, Ellie Grant, Cara Coull, Emma Hepburn and Abbie Nye, were victors with 47 points gathered over ten rounds, scooping the title by the narrowest of margins from joint second place Portknockie- last year's champions - and Milne's, Fochabers, who each amassed 46 points. Only two points were to separate second and third, Cluny garnering 44 points. Portessie and perhaps one of the second-placed schools can now look forward to the regional finals in Nairn, where the prize of a place in the area finals in Aberdeen will be up for grabs.

Songs seek to save sight: There were songs to save sight at Buckie Community High School recently when a showcase concert was held. Buckie Rotary hosted the variety event at a packed Highfield Hall, in aid of the charity Sightsavers. Compered by Rotarian Malcolm Watt, the evening saw pupils from local primary schools perform songs, poems and even juggling at the packed fundraiser. Fellow Rotarian Chris Sugden also put together an education pack for the youngsters to further aid the youngsters understanding

of the issues at hand. One of those behind the concert was Buckie Rotarian and Cullen Primary School Headteacher Moyra Hendry.

Buckie dialect still a going concern: Buckie's dialect is far from dead- that was the message which was issued loud and clear last week when a linguistic expert visited Buckie High. Higher English students had the opportunity to learn more about the dialect many of them have spoken all their lives from former High School student Dr Jennifer Smith, a native of Portessie, a proud Doric speaker herself who is a Reader in English Language and Linguistics. She was joined last Tuesday morning in the school by research assistant Sophie Holmes-Elliot.

New Pilot Study: S4 pupils at Buckie Community High School have been enjoying playing their part in an exciting new pilot study at the school. As part of the senior phase profiling the S4s have joined their colleagues in the S5-6 using a new online system called EDICT to record their personal achievements and learning plans.

Apr 7

Changes in store at the store: As part of the general shake up of the firm Buckie Tesco is to lose its night shift. Staff were given the news last week, fortunately for those involved there would be no pay off, no reduction in the current staff level of 100 nor would there be any change on the store's opening hours.

Thefts from homes bring police appeal Police are targeting thieves after two "brazen" thefts in Buckie, A four-figure haul of jewelry and photographic equipment was stolen in the latest incident. A property in the Union Terrace area of Buckpool was targeted at some point over Friday evening and into the early hours of Saturday morning. Local officers are also hunting a man in connection with a "brazen" sneak-in theft the week before. A house in the town's Blairdaff Street as targeted on Saturday March 28 at around 2.30pm and a purse containing a high two figure sum of cash stolen.

Lunch Club : A new lunch club for the over 60s has been launched in Cullen. Village resident Tricia Watt and a team of volunteers served up the first of what is hoped to be many monthly meals last Thursday at the Community and Residential Centre. Those attending enjoyed a two-course lunch followed by fun social activity. The group intends to meet monthly from 12.15pm to 2pm with meals costing £3.50 The fledgling group received a welcome boost last week when it was awarded £1.000 after a successful bid to the Canny Wi' Cash fund through TSI Moray.

Inspection time for Buckie BBs The achievements of the last year were proudly put on display recently when the 1st Buckie BBs held their annual inspection. A packed Fishermen's Hall played host to the event, which saw in the order of 200 officers and boys joined by 150 family and friends. Inspecting the boys was Buckie Baptist Church minister Rev. Gavin Hunter. Company Captain, Alan McIntosh said: It was a very successful evening with a great turnout. We're very grateful to Rev Hunter for agreeing to inspect what is one of the largest BB companies in the UK.

Apr 14

Death of Buckie businessman, Nemat Ali who arrived in this country at the age of 15 from Pakistan and began his business career selling clothes from a

case from door to door around the local area to progress to become a prominent businessman and a renowned public figure in his adopted home of Buckie, died in Dr Gray's Hospital, Elgin on April 6. He opened the large Buckie Furniture and Carpet Centre in 1980 and also had the first Indian restaurant in the town. He was to become a well-known and loved member of the community. His wife Manira died a year ago and he is survived by five of a family, four daughters and one son Zafar who was in business with his father.

Success for art workshop: A Banffshire gallery has held its first ever workshop. The Wee Gallery in Cullen ran an "Introduction to Watercolour" on Sunday March 29 and received some great feedback from those taking part. Fiona Bruce, a local artist from Portgordon, was the tutor for the two-hour course, which was deemed a great success. The next workshop will take place on Sunday April 19 and will be covering drawing with pastels

Jags War Vets To Be Honoured: This summer will see those Buckie Thistle players who served the country in the two World Wars honoured. A special plaque will be unveiled at Victoria Park on June 20 at 2pm as a permanent reminder of the men who swapped the football pitch for the battlefield. It is believed that this memorial will be unique in the Highland League. Behind the project is club historian Easton Thain, who is keen to hear from the families of anyone who have not turned up in his extensive researches. The names of 18 from World War 1, have been found with 31 from World War II

Churches Unite for Holy Week: Holy Week saw the churches in Buckie and the surrounding area come together in the run-up to Easter. The weekday mornings began with communion breakfasts, each led by a member of the local clergy. Hosting these services throughout the week were Buckie Baptist Church, Portessie Methodist Church, Rathven Church of Scotland, Findochty Methodist Church and on Good Friday, Enzie Parish Church. Good Friday lunchtime saw the annual "walk of witness" get under way as usual with a fair crowd turning out to walk the route, passing the Buckie churches, All Saints Church Hall being the last stop where participants were able to get some refreshments. Holy Week celebrations came to a close at 7am on Sunday in Findochty with the sunrise service.

Buckie High School new faces: Two new faces have been welcomed at Buckie Community High School. Taking over as acting deputed rector is Stacey Hamilton while the latest occupant of the PT maths desk is Alistair Oliver. A native of Otley, Yorkshire, Mrs. Hamilton has spent 19 years as a maths teacher at Keith Grammar School. She is covering for David Strachan, who is on secondment in Elgin with Moray Council. Mr. Oliver formerly taught at the Royal High School in Edinburgh where he spent 19 years. Originally from Edinburgh he has been well travelled, studying at Leeds University he has also been in Seattle, Loxton in South Africa and Budapest.

Findochty concert: An enchanting and varied evening of song was in store at Findochty Church of Scotland recently when a very special choir came to visit. A packed kirk gave a warm welcome to the Kinloss Military Wives from the Army base near Forres, who entertained with a medley ranging from Scottish folk songs to popular musical numbers. Helping them wow the audience were eight youngsters from Portknockie Church of Scotland with whom Findochty Kirk is linked- and two from the host church who sang with the choir on two

numbers. Findochty Church minister the Rev Dr Hilary Smith was among those left highly impressed by the evening, "It was a fantastic night, really fabulous and very well supported by the local area," she told the "Advertiser."

A generous donation: Two local girls' football teams are celebrating a recent donation. Buckie Thistle Football Development's fewer than 13 and fewer than 16 teams have each taken delivery of a consignment of five match day footballs thanks to Sara Christie of Buckie firm Christie's Cleaning. "We're just delighted to receive this generous donation of ten matchday balls from Christie's Cleaning. It's a generous and practical donation and we're very grateful to Sara for thinking of us," said Dave 'Parro' Findlay from BFTD

Apr 21

Buckie lad wins £1m with lottery ticket. A Buckie offshore worker, Michael Innes (29) scooped the magic £1million on a National Lottery Instant Win game.

Buckie BB's provide royal guard of honour. There was history in the making for Buckie Boys Brigade when they were honoured with a second royal occasion. Thursday saw the 1st Buckie Company – the biggest in the UK – bugle band and Queen's Men travel to Ballindalloch to welcome Prince Charles and Camilla, the duchess of Cornwall, to the opening of the new distillery there. A total of 54 boys and officers made the trip. The Queen's Men formed a guard of honour while the band performed for the royal couple. Last May the company received a visit from the Earl and Countess of Wessex at Buckie Community High School.

Buckie 10K- The annual Buckie 10k, normally held in September took place on Sunday last. The decision to move to April was in order to form part of the Northern Scot 10k series of races, which also takes in Nairn, Elgin and Forres. This was also the second year that the event has been run by Keith and District Amateur Athletics Club. The first manhole with a time of 37.27 was Kenny Wilson of Moray Road runners. The first female home was Mary McIntosh with a time of 38.33. Sponsoring the 16th year of the Buckie 10k race were McEwan Fraser Legal, Peter Reid and Buckie Tesco.

April 28

Fochabers man caught up in quake horror; A Fochabers man and his family are lucky to be alive after finding themselves at the centre of Saturday's devastating earthquake in Nepal. Fraser Sugden, (33) the son of Chris Sugden, former Rector of Buckie Community High School, his wife Lata and young son Aarav were so afraid their home might collapse during a series of aftershocks that they slept outside following the natural disaster. Fraser, who lives in Kathmandu, is a researcher with the International Water Management Institute. Mr. Sugden, senior in an interview with the "Advertiser", told how Buckie schools and Rotarians in Buckie and Elgin were working last year to support water projects in Nepal, so many local people will know of the grinding poverty in this beautiful country. Fraser Sugden was also caught up in the Gujarat earthquake in 2001, the year in which he left Buckie High. Then he was "missing" for three days but now there is a good mobile phone infrastructure, even in such a challenging country like Nepal and Fraser was able to contact his parents almost immediately.

May 5

Six Harbour Walk: Hundred of walkers and cyclists gathered in Cluny Square, Buckie on Sunday to take part in this year's Six Harbour Walk and Cycle. Now in its 16th year, the Buckie Rotary Club event – which has raised more than

£250.000 for charity – formed the inspiration for the inaugural Buckie Summer Show based in the square. Buses transported participants from the town to the starting off point at Portsoy. A 15-mile route spanning the harbours at Sandend, Cullen, Portknockie, Findochty and Buckie awaited the 450 plus walkers and around 15 cyclists of all ages as they made their way to the finishing line at Moray Hearing Centre in Cluny Square.

Maree seeks Miss Universe success: A beauty queen with links to Portgordon is in the running to represent Great Britain in the Miss Universe GB 2015 competition. Maree Wilson(26), from Aberdeen and who has family in the Portgordon and Portsoy areas, will be one of around 40 women to take part in the competition on June 25 in Cardiff. Maree is a catering manager in Aberdeen and other interests include karate, running and supporting charity fundraisers.

Shortlisted for entrepreneur award: A local businessman is in the running for a prestigious entrepreneurial award. Northern Oils CEO, David Wood, has been unveiled as being on the shortlist for the prestigious EY Entrepreneur of the Year Programme. Said David Wood” I am extremely honoured to be in the running with such a high calibre of respected business counterparts.”

Major face-lift for local primary school: Millbank Primary School, is one of four schools to benefit from a multi-million pound project contract of refurbishment awarded by Moray Council. The £17 million project will refurbish Applegrove in Forres, Millbank in Buckie, Seafield in Elgin and St Gerardine in Lossiemouth.

School again suffers at the hands of vandals: A Buckie primary school has been hit with a wave of vandalism attacks over the last few weeks causing damage worth hundreds of pounds. Cluny Primary School has been the victim of a number of incidents, which have plagued the school since the beginning of the year.

May 12

Portgordon community receives congratulations: Portgordon’s hugely successful community efforts to mark the 70th anniversary of VE have been hailed by a local councillor. On Friday a service was held to mark the historic anniversary of the end of World War II in Europe – the Asian theatre of conflict did not cease until August 15, 1945- with the Allies accepting the Nazis surrender on May 8. Councillor Douglas Ross (Fochabers – Lhanbryde) said, “Its clear there has been a lot of work put in organising this weekend of activity in Portgordon recognising VE Day If it were not for the dedication of people planning and organising these celebrations it would be too easy to forget the huge sacrifices that were made to allow us all to live in the freedom we sometimes take for granted.”

Anyone for tennis? There were plenty of aces being served in Portknockie on Saturday when the village’s newly refurbished tennis courts were officially re-opened. After years languishing in a derelict state, the twin courts next to the bowling green are open for business.

Playcentre targeted by thugs - A highly regarded playcentre has suffered at the hands of some mindless morons. Cullen Playcentre, which is located in the village’s Community and Residential Centre (the former village school),

was attacked by vandals over the Bank Holiday weekend, who left behind them a mindless orgy of destruction. The lovingly created and tended garden area was their main focus. A small trampoline was thrown down - flowerpots attached to the fence in which the youngsters had been growing flowers – were ripped off and thrown around and compost scattered. The yobs daubed graffiti on the building itself, and the lock on a shed used by the playcentre was broken. Bizarrely, a burned out oil drum was also taken from a nearby house and left at the main door of the playcentre. Cullen Playcentre manager Joanne Wood said the incident had left parents stunned. Local councillor Ron Shepherd described the actions of those responsible as despicable.

SNP are successful in Moray : In the recent election Moray's MP Angus Robertson was returned with an increased majority.

Cash for Children's Charity: There was a four-figure boost for the coffers of a kid's cancer charity thanks to the makers of a local history DVD. James George Addison and Sandra Taylor teamed up again to produce their third DVD on life in Cullen in days of yore, entitled "Div You Min?" It was the latest in their Cullen Claik series of productions. Their efforts have netted the Make a Wish Foundation £1.500 from sales of the DVD in local outlets.

May 19

Lucky tae bide in Buckie: Buckie proved lucky for the town's latest lottery winner, who was sent home early from his job offshore to claim his winnings. A month after another local man Michael Innes scooped £1 million on Monopoly Millionaire, it was the turn of offshore engineer Barry Howie (33) to discover he was in the money. He was sent home in a daze to celebrate his good fortune with partner Hannah Sherman after telling his equally stunned boss he had won a cool £378,884.40 in the May EuroMillions draw.

Gordon Castle Games: The crowds flocked to Gordon Castle, Fochabers, to enjoy the annual Highland Games and Country Fair on Sunday. Through much of the 20th century the Gordon Castle Games was a prestigious event regularly attracting in the region of 30.000 visitors. It was re-launched in 2011, with around 8,000 visitors last year. Angus Gordon Lennox, owner of Gordon Castle said the event had gone from "strength-to-strength" over the last few years and represented "a great day out" for all the family.

Churches join forces in a unique event: Two local churches joined forces recently to undertake what is believed to be a first in Buckie. In a heartening example of cross-denominational co-operation, three members of Buckie Riverside Church – Jim Cheeseman, and Susan Blake from Portgordon and John Allan, Keith –celebrated their baptism in Buckie Baptist Church.

May 26

Wooden spoon for Buckie Probus team: Buckie and District Probus Club recently hosted the annual Probus Inter-Club Quiz. Teams from Banff, Huntly, Ellon, Peterhead, Inverurie, Turriff and Buckie competed, facing 50 questions covering various topics. Joint winners with 36 points were Banff and Huntly, a tie-breaker round saw Banff emerge as the overall winners. The Buckie team George McKenzie, Jim Findlay, Ian Jameison and Alex Smith with 30 points, was presented with the wooden spoon. The questions were composed by George Smith and John Fowlie with Steve Liley as question master.

June 2

Cash grant for Deskford Community : The Deskford and District Community Association has been celebrating a funding boost for hall refurbishment plans. The Association has been awarded a grant of £2,739 from the National Lottery's Awards for All scheme, which will be used to insulate the loft of the hall. The Association has also gained initial approval for £33.00 of funding from Entrust, which will go a long way to funding the solar panels and double glazing. The centre is widely used by a diverse range of community groups, offering badminton, belly dancing, crafts and wine tasting, as well as providing the venue for the heritage group and Deskford WRI. The hall is available for private hire, with a wedding booked for July.

New Modern Languages teacher at Buckie High: The latest addition to the teaching staff at Buckie Community High School has taken the helm of the modern languages department. Mrs. Catherine Eadon is the new principal teacher of modern languages and she is committed to promoting the subject at Buckie High, as well as working closely with local primary schools. Mrs. Eadon gained her degree in French, German and European Studies and carried out her teacher training at Warwick University, Devon. She has been teaching for 17 years.

VE DAY cash donated to Erskine. Money raised from two days of VE commemorations held at Portgordon has been presented to Erskine. Pupils from Portgordon School were involved in the VE events presented a cheque for £575.66 to Michael Parkes, Erskine community fundraiser for the north of Scotland. The money included £190 raised from the trees decorated with fundraising memory labels and the rest came from an evening dance, boosted by a raffle. Mr. Parkes said: "On behalf of the veterans and staff at Erskine, I'd like to thank Pringle George, prime organiser, and everyone at the Portgordon Post for their tremendous efforts over the past few months. The VE Day events were very well organised and this could be seen with the great turnout they had over the weekend."

Dream wedding on the beach: A sun-kissed beach provided the perfect start to married life for one local couple. However, forget the Maldives or Caribbean- your more customary tropical exotic wedding venues- Lois Stallard and husband Jordan Rose had the perfect day on their doorstep. The couple tied the knot on Sandend Beach in a romantic ceremony in front of 40 guests - all sitting on bales of straw - with wellies and coats at the ready just in case British summer time deserted them. As it turned out the weather was beautiful and it was the perfect wedding for the couple on Saturday May 23. Lois (23) from Portsoy and Jordan (20) from Buckie and their guests were treated to ice creams on the beach by Rev. Martin Pilley of the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses in Portsoy - who led the couple through their vows with the help of Portsoy ice cream. That was followed by a fish and chip supper reception, provided by All's Diner of Findochty in Portessie Village Hall.

June 9

New bridge at Cullen - The green light has finally been given to the construction of a new footbridge at Cullen.. Seatown footbridge, which spans the Burn of Cullen to the west of the village will be replaced by a new structure to be placed five metres upstream at a cost of £418,640 .

Houses to be built on site of former supermarket- the site of the former supermarket in the heart of Buckie is to gain a new lease of life. Houses for first

time buyers are set to be built on the site of a supermarket on East Cathcart Street built originally for Presto later to be taken over by Haldane's. Following a major blaze in 2011 when the building was totally destroyed the wreckage was in time cleared away with the site lying vacant since this time. Behind the development is local firm Milne's Property Development (MPD). Work to clear the site of the concrete that formed the floor of the supermarket began in the first week of June.

Findochty Brownies call it a day. The last meeting of Findochty Brownies took place last week with a number of presentations being made. Due to a lack of leaders and girls the group took the decision to close. Friends of Guiding and Findochty Community Council presented leaders with gifts in recognition of the work they have done over the years. The girls also received a small memento. A picture was taken to mark the occasion, which shows the girls with their leaders, namely- Donna Murray, Tina Work, Donna Campbell, Lynne Eckersley and Julie Thorpe. –

Medal comes home 80 years on. A piece of Buckie Community High School's academic history has come home after more than 80 years. The school was contacted by a lady living in Carlisle, Ann Scroggie, whose aunt, Mary Hepburn, won the English Dux medal at the school in 1932. She has since donated the medal to Buckie High where it will go on display. Rector Neil Johnston said: "It was completely out of the blue that Ann wrote to us, and we would like to thank her for taking the trouble to do so and kindly donating her aunt's medal. It is nice to know people think so fondly of the school. The medal is part of the school's history and comes from a time when each subject awarded dux medals, rather than the one overall award, as is the case today." Mary was born on May 18, 1914, the eldest child of James, a joiner, and his wife Mary. She had two younger siblings Margaret (Ann Scroggie's mother) and James. The house where she was brought up, 13-15 Main Street, Buckpool, is believed to have been built by Alexander Hepburn, the last harbourmaster at Buckpool.

June 16

Portgordon's own paper receive cash award: A community newspaper has become its own front page story after scooping more than £4.000 in a lottery grant. "The Portgordon Post" team has been popping the champagne corks after landing a grant worth £4.400 from Awards For All – a move which is being hailed as safeguarding the future of the publication and allowing people of all ages to take part in its production. The cash is earmarked for the purchase of modern IT equipment to be installed in the 'Lampie Hoose'.

Orcas, killer whales seen in the water off Strathlene - Rachel Scott and her family while sailing between Strathlene and Findochty had an unforgettable experience when they encountered a family of orcas. Rachel (31) from Buckie snapped a breathtaking picture on her iPhone. It shows a giant orca rising out of the water to feed on a piece of seal meat. Rachel said there were about ten whales altogether and when four or five broke away we followed them. It became apparent that the whales had been feeding on seals, especially pups as their numbers have increased in local waters in recent times. It was said that they were likely to be Icelandic orcas.

"Things" receive additional light: The future looks brighter for a Buckie museum following a four-figure funding boost. A £1,800 grant from the Gordon and Ena Baxter Foundation has enabled Buckie and District Fishing

Heritage Centre Ltd to install LED lighting in its display cases. The sum was match-funded by the centre. Three new display cases have also been added to the museum's tally, allowing it to put even more of its large stock of models and artifacts on show to the public. Cash for this has been donated by Buckie Rotary, Elgin Rotary via its Marafun event and Buckie Welfare Society, each chipping in £500. Representatives from the various bodies were invited along to the Heritage Centre, behind the library on Cluny Place, last Wednesday afternoon to thank them for their generosity.

Coastguard retires: Nearly a quarter of a century's service to the Coastguard was honoured recently when the organisation's Sector Manager for Moray retired. At a ceremony in Buckie Coastguard Station, Kevin Docherty's 23 years were hailed by colleagues from both the Coastguard and local RNLi. He was also presented with long service and good conduct medals by deputy station officer Michael Chisholm, as well as a large number of gifts.

June 23

Buckie woman awarded the BEM. A Buckie woman's selfless efforts to help young people turn their lives around have earned her a royal honour. Susie Cameron(31), has been awarded the British Empire Medal (BEM) in the Queen's Birthday Honours List. The accolade recognizes her work with the Youth Advantage Outreach, a five-day residential scheme run by Police Scotland and the Army for 14-18 year old who suffer from a variety of issues ranging from low self-esteem to problems with drugs and alcohol. Ms Cameron has also been one of Buckie's volunteer RNLi lifeboat crew for the last two years.

War heroes honoured : The memory of Buckie Thistle players who fought in two World Wars was honoured at a special ceremony last Saturday and "Advertiser" reporter Alan Beresford was there to witness a poignant tribute to the club's war heroes. Club officials and relatives of the footballing servicemen, many of whom paid the supreme sacrifice, gathered at Victoria Park to witness two plaques – one for each war- unveiled by the daughter of Buckie's only VC, Ms. Grace McIntosh and Mrs. Margaret Smith, whose father, George "Kitchy" Cormack, was killed at Anzio,

The project was the work of over more than a year was done by Easton Thain, the club historian. President Garry Farquhar paid tribute to Easton's efforts. He added that this was possibly the last official duty Easton would perform for the club as he was leaving the town for Inverness where he was to start a new job. Among the things that Easton had done over an extended period was the production of programmes for games, which had received much praise for their quality. He also produced programmes for special games for local junior club Buckie Rovers.

June 30

Tea Party for CLAN: There was a four-figure boost in store for a cancer support charity thanks to the efforts of a team of local volunteers. The Cullen Bay hotel was the venue recently for a tea party in aid of CLAN, who provide a range of services for cancer sufferers across 11 locations from Aberdeen through to Kirkwall and Lerwick, A total of £4,150 was raised from the afternoon which has left the organisers delighted. One of those behind the tea party, which was an exclusively female event, was Jill Cowie., who had the honour of handing over the mammoth cheque to Tracy Sellar from CLAN.

FOCHABERS INSTITUTE TRANSFER: Celebration was the order of the day in Fochabers when the Public Institute passed to community control. It is hoped that this will herald a bright and sustainable future for the Institute, which has fallen into an increasing state of disrepair due to a lack of investment by Moray Council.

Award for Buckie woman: More than a quarter of a century of dedicated service to charity has seen a Buckie volunteer honoured. For the past 25 years Loran Thomson has selflessly devoted her spare time to helping out the Fochabers branch of the British Heart Foundation and recently she was handed a special Long Service Award by local B.H. F. fundraising manager Kathy McIlwaine.

July 30

An award for local cancer stalwart: A Portessie woman who helped found a cancer support group has been awarded a royal honour. Adeline Reid, who now lives in Keith, got the shock of her life when she was handed an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List as recognition for her work in founding Keith Cancer Link

Tesco serves up breakfast . A breakfast fit for heroes was served up at Buckie Tesco recently as staff did their bit to honour those who serve and have served. Part of the wider Armed Forces Day celebrations, staff rallied round to offer a free, slap up breakfast to services personnel, past and present in the store's canteen, with quite a number of veterans calling in between 10am and 12 noon. Thanks to people's generosity the sum of £333 was raised, which Tesco topped up by 20 per cent. I meant that around £400 would be donated to Help For Heroes.

School says goodbye to head: Headteacher Gillian Findlay was treated like royalty when staff gathered to mark her retirement. Miss Findlay, from Portknockie, was chauffeur driven to her surprise celebration in a Rolls Royce. A party in her honour was held at Drummuir Castle. Miss Findlay, the headteacher at Botriphnie Primary School retired after a teaching career spanning 42 years. Appointed the head's job at Botriphnie in 2000 she was also guest of honour at a school concert. She was showered with gifts including flowers, a necklace, money books, and a scrapbook in which pupils past and present had contributed memories of their time at school.

July 14

Tesco and food donations : There was treasure on them thar shelves at Buckie Tesco recently when a charity campaign got underway with the help of a local councilor. As part of the supermarket's three day neighbourhood food collection scheme, manager, James Reid was joined by Councillor Gordon Cowie in a supermarket sweep-style shelves treasure hunt. This saw the duo solve riddles in order to find products on the shelves, with everything they then collected being donated to the campaign. The treasure hunt was part of our food bank collection with all items going to Grampian Food Share and the Salvation Army, said Sam Thomson, Tesco community champion. At the end of the campaign 71 trays of food and along with Tesco's top up 106 trays in total were collected. £150 was collected from the treasure hunt by James Reid and Councillor Cowie.

Victory march for pipe band. Youth and experience teamed up recently to land Buckie and District Pipe Band some prestigious silverware. Despite

counting teenagers as two thirds of their ranks, the band fended off rivals with European experience at the Forres Highland Games to land the Best Band Bank of Scotland Tercentenary Shield. Ranged against the local band were outfits from Elgin, Keith, Dufftown, Forres, RAF Lossiemouth, Kintore, Towie and Queen's Own Highlanders Association . The band also scooped the Chieftain's award of £100 and a bottle of Macallan from the sponsors.

July 21

End of an era as dairy farm closes. At one time, and not all that many years ago dairy farmers were so numerous in the local area that they found it possible to hold an annual ball, and one would have needed two hands to count them now there are none. The last dairy farm and one that had been operating for almost a century will come to an end this week . Chapelford Farm Clochan, currently run by John Shand (52) and parents George and Flo has been in the family since 1917, when John Shand moved from Pathhead around three miles away, but this Wednesday the herd of 100 or so Holstein dairy cows will be transported to Carlisle to be sold. With the closure of Chapelford as a dairy farm there will only be three in the whole of Moray, at Keith, Elgin and Brodie. The reason for the Shands selling up is because it does not now pay, in fact they lose money from selling milk. They were getting 21.5pence a litre when it was costing in the high 20s to produce.

Preshome Church is reopened: Catholics from Buckie, Fochabers, Keith, Elgin and beyond attended a special Mass to mark the reopening of St Gregory's Preshome, near Clochan, after lengthy refurbishment works. Built in 1788 during the tenure of Mr. Reid as priest St Gregory's replaced St Margaret of the Craigs, which was located in a valley less than half a mile away to the east. This had been a fairly rudimentary structure requiring to be re built every 30 years or so. Mr. Reid was more than the priest when the congregation decided that they wanted to build a church of stone, he was the architect and a lot more. We know a lot about Preshome as Mr. Reid kept a diary , which was found two hundred years later by Ian Bryce in the archives of Aberdeen University, who painstakingly re-wrote all its pages. In time a copy was given to me and I had it put in book form a copy , which is to be found in the local library and the Heritage Centre

July 28

Community's Outrage at racist outburst: A Buckie businessman has hailed the local community's response to a shocking incident of racial abuse. Zafar Ali who runs Buckie Furniture and Carpet Centre, has spoken out after one of a group of Muslim clerics was shouted at while crossing Cluny Square last Wednesday. Stuart Currie,(53) of King Street, Ianstown appeared before Elgin Sherriff Court on Thursday where he admitted threatening and abusive language with a racially aggravated element was fined £500. A shocked Mr. Ali told the "Advertiser:" A group of clerics were visiting Buckie from a mosque in London on Wednesday something they about two or three times a year. They come to talk to local Muslims in a pastoral capacity about issues they may not wish to at the mosque and also to preach the word peacefully. I'm proud of Buckie and the way people have reacted to this shocking and cowardly incident, he said."

New foodbank thanks to Facebook post: Plans to introduce a foodbank in Buckie are now well under way after a simple social media message triggered off a huge response. Messages of support from individuals and organizations have been flooding in since Joe Glennon of Mair Street, in Buckpool went on to

Facebook to say he wanted to support hungry families in Buckie. He said:” I initially put a post on Facebook offering some cans of soup and I was surprised that nobody wanted them, but the next day I had lots of messages from people who said they would take them, . I set up a Facebook group where we advertise food and deliver it to those in need. There are over 500 members in the group, this is both people wishing to donate and others looking for donations.”

Peter Fair The age-old fair took place once again during the past week. Remember what has always been said it always takes place on the Friday before the last Monday in July and as it happened it seemed to be earlier than usual. Nowadays the fair stretches, as it has done now for many years from Wednesday till Friday, something that was dictated by economics. It just didn't pay to come for only the one day.

A new era dawned at this year's fair when fresh organisers took over the helm. For the last 35 years or so the annual extravaganza has been masterminded by John Cowlie along with his cousin and business partner Edwin Percival. However, with the latter retiring and the former scaling back his commitments to nearer his Glasgow base, the mantle has passed to Horne's Pleasure Fairs a well-known name in the business with more than a hundred years experience under his belt. Horne's boss Charlie Horne has been coming to Peter Fair for the past 15 years first with dodgems and gradually adding more rides. He has plans to make Peter Fair bigger and better with new rides and attractions.

This year, something of an exception Friday, the real day of the fair was blessed with dry weather.

Fochabers Gala : Fochabers four day gala proved once again to be an event well worth waiting for. This year chosen as the Gala Queen was 11 year old Hannah Kingham with Harriet Whelan and Ellie Wallace, both ten, as princesses. One of those delighted with the event was Edgar Toombe of the Fochabers Village Association Ltd., Gala Committee. He said it was on course to be bumper fundraising event adding :”We're all absolutely delighted with how it went over the four days. At the moment our treasurer is still counting the proceeds but as of the end of Saturday we had made around £3000, which was up on last year and that was before the main gala day, Sunday, itself. The weather was kind to us in that it stayed dry and despite a quiet start on Sunday it became really busy and by mid-afternoon the square was packed.

Aug. 4

20th Anniversary for Speyfest: All roads led to Fochabers last weekend when a very special Speyfest took place. The Celtic rock festival celebrated its 20th anniversary, providing a special moment for all connected with the event, not least current chairman James Alexander, who was one of the founder members of the event. Mr. Alexander described the 20th Speyfest as being “fantastic” The attendances over Friday to Sunday appeared to have doubled from the previous year. Among the artistes were Ally Bain and Phil Cunningham who played at the very first festival, also Canadian group Tiller's Folly. Another big hit this year was Banff star Sandi Thom.

Function Hall and Ian Clark (see page 7) Tribute was paid to a Buckie Thistle off-field legend last week when a display was unveiled at Victoria Park Function Hall. January 23 this year was a sad time for all those connected with the Jags when former club vice president Ian Clark passed away after a long illness at the

age of 66. He was widely hailed as one of the key men behind the Thistle's revival under the 10 year presidency of Mark Duncan, which saw, amongst other silverware, back to back Highland League titles brought back to Victoria Park.

Aug 11

Dredger starts to take shape: Buckie's shipbuilding skills were once again in the spotlight when progress on Moray Council's new dredger was revealed. The new vessel is presently taking shape in the Macduff Shipyards Ltd., fabrication facility in the town. (This was formerly "Herdiess". Shipyard.) The custom-built 25.7 m vessel, which comes with a price tag of £2.4 million, will replace the ageing "Shearwater", which was sold two years ago. The new dredger, still to be named will service the council-owned harbours at Buckie, Burghead, Hopeman, Findochty, Portknockie and Cullen as well as being available for hire.

Reunion of original Radio Buckie members A reunion of some of the former pupils at Buckie High School who under Jeff Jones PT Chemistry, established Radio Buckie, albeit on a very humble scale, in 1973 took place recently in the Highlander Hotel, Buckie. The event was organised by Keith Fraser one of the pioneers. (A report of the event is given on Page 11, with further coverage in the "Advertiser" of August 18.) From the very small beginnings the station came to be connected to Seafield Hospital, Netherha Nursing Home, and the Youth Club in the former West Church. The demise of the station came in the 1990's when landline costs rose by 10% or more, what had been £30 initially soared to £300 and became prohibitive.

They all did well: Jay Slater did extremely well in this year's diet of exams. She sat five Highers and was awarded A grade passes in each one. The following were awarded National 5 straight A's. Adam Newlands, Joseph Campbell, Cameryn Mair, Eilidh McDermott, Nicol Cowie, Eden Sutherland, Caleb Mair and Michael Reid.

Aug 18

Radio Buckie Mark 1. More can be read of the early days of Radio Buckie back in the early 1970's and later. A picture of two of the early members Innes Flett and Keith Fraser can be found on page 16. Jeff Jones was the guest speaker at the reunion of former Radio Buckie members of the early days and described how starting a hospital broadcasting service from a school to a small country hospital, back in the 1970's was a "heady adventure." No other school had such a service nor was any small hospital served.

She was there for a long time: Buckie said a fond farewell to a piece of its maritime history last week when a grand old vessel set sail for pastures new. The iconic three-masted schooner Regina Caelis – Queen of the Heavens in Latin – has been a tourist attraction in its own right for the last 15 years, when berthed in Buckie harbour, but last Thursday saw new owner Robert Drysdale take his new pride and joy out on her latest adventure to her new home in Belfast.

Aug 25

Open Day: Sea School was open for business in Cullen when it held its first open day. Situated in the former Moray Council boat-shed near the harbour, visitors were invited to take a tour of the revamped building and find out more, not only about the activities planned there but also volunteering opportunities available.

Speyside Way Race: It was first time lucky for a Broxburn runner at this year's Speyside Way Race ultra marathon when he triumphed over the course, which finishes in Buckie. Now in its sixth year since being resurrected, Lee Muir won the 36.5-mile contest in a time of four hours 09 minutes and 22 seconds. The event part of the Scottish Ultra Marathon Series, boasted a number of first this year, not least a new start line at Cragganmore distillery and a £500 prize for the first runner to break the four-hour finish mark.

New staff at Ardach - Four new members of staff began at Ardach Health Centre recently. Two new permanent GPs – Dr Catriona MacDonald, and Dr Ruth McCullough are being joined by final year trainee Dr Andrew Gatenby and practice nurse Aileen Forrest.

Sept 1

Back on the airwaves: Radio Buckie is back on the air and broadcasting to the world from its studio at Buckie Community High School. The new community station went live online last Thursday night as those involved in the project celebrated the landmark moment. Dr Nick Brown, chairman, said: "It will be modern and worldwide not just a music playing station, but capturing all sorts of material about this community." (See page 2)

Home after 40 years: A piece of Buckie's fishing heritage sailed back home last week for the first time in 40 years. When it plied its trade from local shores, as well as further afield, it was known as the "Transcend" BCK75, a wooden hulled fishing vessel, built at Macduff Shipyards in 1958. On its return last week, however, it was reborn as the "Challenge", having been converted to a leisure vessel by retired pleasure boat operator Trevor Broadhead from Melton Mowbray in Leicestershire. He bought the vessel in 2008 and has spent the last seven years restoring it. The "Transcend" was built for John Flett of Findochty in 1958 and in 1971 the name was changed to Intrepid after being bought by A. Thomson of Buckie. In 1975 it was bought by Oban men who kept her until 1979 when she went further south to Filey where the name was changed to "Challenge".

BB's Guard of Honour : **Buckie Boy's Brigade** provided a guard of honour for some very special fundraisers. Eight boys studying for their Queen's badge accompanied by six adults form 1st Company made the trip to Glenfiddich Distillery to give a send-off to six former combat veterans- four from the UK and two from the USA – as they set off on a 1.000 mile walk as part of the Walk of Britain expedition.

Probus Club: Vic Ayres, former Vulcan bomber pilot who lives locally, was the guest speaker at the August lunch meeting of Buckie and District Probus Club. He gave a talk on his experiences as a regular on-watch member of the Quick Reaction Alert (QRA) team, ready to deploy within a moment's notice with a Vulcan armed with nuclear weapons.

Sept. 8

Men's Shed : Efforts to establish a Men's Shed in Buckie will see a meeting take place in the town next week. Aberdeen Voluntary action is hosting the meeting in the Royal British Legion building on High Street, on Tuesday September 15. The aim is to bring together men who have a range of skills and want to come together to help their local community and meet new friends. The meeting will be open to all men in the Buckie area.

Classic Car Show : What has now become an annual even on the calendar of the year, Buckie Classic Car Show again took place in the Linzee Gordon Park on Sunday August 20. The good weather did much to encourage a good crowd of spectators to come along to view the over 200 vehicles on show. This number was double that of the previous year. In addition to the display of vehicles a number of community groups had taken the opportunity to set up their stalls. Mr. Clark, a fisherman and skipper of the Reliant had the newest car on show - A Mercedes SI 400 AMG. A Mercedes enthusiast he had five cars from the German manufacturer's stable at Linzee Gordon Park, half of his total collection. The oldest vehicle on show was a 1935 Daimler Light 15 owned by Andrew Grant whose father, Merson, passed it on to him. He in turn was handed the car from his uncles. The car has been in the family since it was first made. Despite the car not being out for 13 years prior to the show started first time of asking.

Death of Buckie business man: The death took place in Burnbank Care Home last week of John Duncan who rose from humble beginnings to become a major businessman in the town and well known over a large area through his firm John Duncan Construction, which was heavily involved in steel erecting although offshoots were very important. He had suffered from ill health for more than a year going through three major operations. He was 73. He was involved in a lot of things but was never one to court publicity.

Radio Buckie : The station that was very popular through the late 1970s and 1980's before rising costs saw to its demise has been relaunched. The ceremony took place at Buckie Community High School where the station is based. Former High School pupil Eden Brown (20) and former Radio Buckie trainee who is studying media at Robert Gordon University in Aberdeen was invited back to perform the official launch of the community station. A large number of people were present at the ceremony including Jeff Jones and John Sandison who were the leaders of the original Radio Buckie.

They walked for charity; Walkers of all ages gathered in a number over 200 on Sunday August 30 to raise funds for two children's charities. Buckie Community High School provided the venue for the beginning of The Walk, a 26-mile trek in aid of the Aila Coull Foundation and Logan's fund. It replaced the Speyside Kiltwalk, originally planned for the same date, which was cancelled in June. Around 80 set off from Buckie bound for Aberlour while 25 began their day at Fochabers on the 16-mile version and 150 taking part in the 2.5-mile family walk from Craigellachie. All of the routes ended up at Aberlour. Cameron McIntosh from Logan's Fund was delighted with the turn out. He said the distance and numbers involved had made the walk a tricky one to organise and had praise for all who took part and for Buckie Rotary Club who provided enthusiastic marshalls from the Buckie, Portgordon and Speybay sections of the Walk.

Sept. 15

It's a BALL game at Cullen: Older people in Cullen are having a ball. The Cullen Be Active Life Long (ball) group recently made good use of a generous grant from Buckie Common Good fund. The £614 was used to purchase a music player, indoor curling mats and softball tennis. Ann Hay of Moray Council's Older People's Development Team said: Moray has a network of ball groups and Cullen has developed well in the year it has been running. The group was formed in October and having just opened their own bank account is

now self sustaining. The Cullen group has around 30 members , but more are always welcome. The ages of members range from people in their sixties to eighties. The equipment can be used while sitting or standing so all abilities can be involved. The Cullen BALL group meets every Thursday from 10.00am till noon in Cullen Community Centre.

There is to be a hurley or cairtie race : At the annual Buckie Kracker on Saturday November 21 it has been planned to have a race for home-made hurleys or cairties , whatever you call them. The event to be organised by Buckie Rotary Club. There will be two races, one for pedal cars and another for ones being pushed , which will be in teams of two.

Buckie registered boats seen in far off lands: The small congregation of the Church of Christ on Cluny Terrace have provided the money to have five fishing boats built for a the fishermen of one of the areas worst hit in the Philippines by super typhoon Haiyan. The boats , which are around 25 feet in length, have the letter Buckie written on the bows together with the numbers 1-5. (A photo of the boats appears in this edition of the "Advertiser" on page 11.)

Dimple safties and their originator . Some may call them belly-button others dimple safties, whatever they were all first made by David Johnston , a well known owner of a bakery business in the town who died on August at the age of 98. He was the driving force behind the busy family-run business on Well Road. It is a fact that the finger imprint on each softie first made by David Johnston is still done the same way today. It is known that the dimple-softies are well known and people travel from some distance to buy them while natives, now living elsewhere but on holiday, are known to go home with lots of softies to be stored in the freezer.

Sept 22

They raised thousands for two hospitals: A Buckie family handed over donations to two hospital children's wards. Alexander and Kirsty Imlach organized a series of fund-raising events earlier this year in a bid to raise some cash to thank hospital staff for taking care of their little girl Eden. Thanks to the support they received they were able to present £3500 to the children's ward of Dr Gray's Hospital, Elgin, and £3774.55 to the Archie Foundation , the charity which supports the children's ward at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary.

Bus company was glad to help: A group of youngsters from Chernobyl recently arrived in Moray thanks to generous support from a Buckie coach firm. Mayne's coaches collected the 16 youngsters from Aberdeen airport when they landed to begin their month-long stay organized by Friends of Chernobyl's Children Moray. The group are staying with host families in Moray and will follow a health programme in a bid to boost their well-being. All aged seven or eight the youngsters were born many years after the explosion which occurred in 1986 at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant. However, radio active fallout from the blast continues to contaminate the soil and has a detrimental effect on the health of the population. The airport waived the pick up charge, we were delighted to hear this said Kevin Mayne of Mayne's Coaches and provided the coach free when asked and were more than happy to help the charity.

Church help disabled charity: Three members of the congregation of All Saints Episcopal Church, Buckie, recently paid a visit to Cranloch Riding Stables to hand over a cheque. A total of £319.75 was presented to Moray Riding for the Disabled raised from the Lent Appeal at Easter. Denise Ross of All Saints said: "The funds will help maintain the three ponies Corrie, Tim and Blair. Chairwoman of RDA Charlotte Mountain was delighted to receive the cheque, handed over by Ina and Denise Ross and Caroline Fowler.

Taste of Portgordon: A large crowd gathered at Portgordon Villager Hall on Saturday to see the progress being made with the refurbishment programme. As well as seeing the improvements that have already been made, the Taste of Portgordon event provided a showcase for local crafters and groups who were keen to promote all that the village has to offer. The event was officially opened by Clare Russell, Lord Lieutenant of Banffshire. A total of £500 was raised on the day which will go towards the ongoing refurbishment works.

Sept 29

TV star will switch on the lights: Switching on Buckie's Christmas lights this year will be Danny Miller, who plays Aaron Livesy in the ITV soap programme Emmerdale.

Police drama on Buckie street : A large scale police operation led to a Buckie street being cordoned off late Thursday morning. Up to 12 uniformed officers went to the scene after being called to a disturbance in the Wallace Avenue area of the town. A stalemate situation ensued for more than six hours while police officers talked to a number of occupants inside in an upstairs flat. A special police unit was later called to the address along with police dogs.

Veteran Car Club. A convoy of 26 cars of the Veteran Car Club of Great Britain which had been on a week long tour of Moray stopped in Buckie on Thursday morning when they called in for refreshments at the Strathlene restaurant "Bijou by the Sea". Among the veteran cars was a 1916 Packard, the youngest vehicle in the group. It was driven by Heiner and Anne Marie Rossler, from Germany, who had travelled the furthest to join in the tour.

The end of the line: Following on advice given by the bank a group of people, some who were members of the committee when the last Buckie and District Flower Show was held in 2015, attended an extraordinary meeting called by a former secretary Allan Fraser, held in the All Saints Church hall on Wednesday 16 September to wind up the affairs. The meeting was chaired by Ian Moir, who had been invited to do so by Mr. Fraser, being an independent person. The others present were - Marion Mitchell, the last president, Pat Grant, John Grant, Jessie Low, William Douglas, Isabell Johnston and James McKay. It was agreed that the money in the Flower Show account, £2,288.62 should be divided among the following charities - The Gardeners Benevolent Society, Buckie Boys Brigade, Buckie Girl Guides, Buckie Cancer Group, Friends of Seafield Hospital and Buckie Christmas Lights. The Buckie Flower Show held their first show in August 1983 and came to an end in 2012 when there were only four members of committee left.

Oct 6

Revamped hall opened: The stars were out in more ways than one last Friday when Buckie Community Theatre Group (formerly the Lyric Opera Group) unveiled its newly revamped hall. Group members and invited guests

came along to the Logie's Lane premises , just off Low Street, to admire the massive changes brought about thanks to a lot of planning and hard work . The place has been given the name – the Ruby Hughson Community Theatre Hall.

Cinema opened in Buckie : It has been several decades since Buckie has boasted its own cinema but the silver screen is returning to the town. A temporary cinema has been made possible thanks to Buckie Area Forum's regeneration group working in conjunction with Buckie Community High School. It will be set up in the school's 200 seat capacity assembly hall , courtesy of Film Mobile Scotland Ltd. Films will be on show once per month.

Oct 13

Portgordon sale of land along sea shore- Eight local residents of the village pooled their resources to buy a piece of land from the harbour east to the ice house and beyond. The plans for the involved housing as well as a small café and rowing shed by the previous owner had split the village in two parts. Mrs. Maureen Burrows, chairman of Lennox Community Council was of the opinion that the sale was an opportunity missed.

Harbour cruise line bid welcomed: The potential for Buckie harbour to benefit as a potential destination for cruise ship passengers to visit has been welcomed by the town's Regeneration Group chairman. Last week saw Moray Council leader Councillor Stewart Cree address the Convention of Highlands and Islands in Elgin, during which Shetland Council noted the boon it received from visiting cruise ships over the year.

Oct 20

Buyer found for former factory site. The former Grampian Country Pork factory in Buckpool looks set to emerge from years of limbo, the "Advertiser" can exclusively reveal . Only a week after the site was identified by Moray Council as one of over 100 disused and derelict premises potentially in line for tough new enforcement measures, it has emerged that a buyer has taken over the ground.

Cullen woman celebrates her 100th birthday: During the past week family and friends were joined by staff at Wakefield House Care Home in Cullen in wishing Phyllis Austin all the best on reaching her milestone century. Married to a former Huntly man the couple lived in Edinburgh before moving north to Cullen in 1989.

RNLI receive cash donation from golfers. Buckie RNLI have been handed a three figure boost by a local golf club. Spey Bay Golf Club's recent Lifeboat Open attracted over 100 entrants , who in turn earned the maritime search and rescue charity a boost to the tune of £500 for their coffers.

From Portessie to Africa : Pupils at Portessie Primary were helping farmers in Africa when they held a successful charity bring and buy sale. P6 and & pulled out all the stops to hold a fund-raiser for 'Farm Africa', collecting £356.72 for the charity in the process. The charity was selected following a class project on Africa.

Rotary Six Harbour Walk cash hand out - This year's Six Harbour Walk and Cycle has seen £15,000 handed out to good causes. Around 450 people took part in the Buckie Rotary's annual fund raiser on May 2, which started and

ended at Cluny Square. Three charities – Buckie High School Minibus Fund, Sightsavers and Sandpipers Trust each received £3,500 while £400 apiece was handed to Buckie Festival, Buckie Boys Brigade, Buckie Christmas Cracker and Christmas Lights and Buckie Enable. A further £3,000 was split between a total of 15 other local charities having representatives in the walk.

Oct. 27 **Cullen Sea School Opened:** The royal seal of approval was bestowed on a bold new maritime venture in Cullen on Monday 26 October. Prince Edward, the Duke of Kent, was on hand to do the honours in declaring the Cullen Sea School officially open. (See page 1.)

Portgordon Fireworks- The major fireworks display that has taken place on an annual basis for some years was held this year on Saturday evening. A large crowd descended on the village to view the spectacular event. It has to be said that not everyone, or everything, sees it as such but then it takes all kinds

Nov 3 **Plans unveiled for iconic Cullen Hotel:** Returning an iconic hotel to its former glory and creating new jobs is the aim with bold plans unveiled last week.

Cullen residents and those from further afield attended an exhibition in the town's Memorial Hall to see what the future could hold for the Seafield Arms Hotel. The hotel has lain vacant since it closed in June 2011, but that is set to change should plans by Milne Property Developments Ltd. (MPD) be given the green light by Moray Council. The firm hopes to transform the hotel into a modern, upmarket 21st century hotel and MPD managing director Charlie Milne, director Amanda Taylor, designer Ronnie Burns and architectural technician Chris Bremner outlined the plans to the public.

Girls report back: Two senior girl students from Buckie Community High School Erin Temple and Jay Slater were sponsored by Buckie Rotary Club to attend this year's RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) residential scheme at Nethybridge earlier this summer. They attended a recent meeting of the Rotary Club where they gave a report on what they had done and what value they thought they had gained. They received their RYLA certificates from Rotary President Jo Farquhar and RYLA convener Tom Peat.

Nov 10 **Buckie soldier took the salute** A Buckie soldier of 34 year's service spoke of his pride at taking the salute at the town's Remembrance Day parade. Major George Cormack(50) who left Buckie in 1981 to join the Army said: "It's a great honour for me, a really special moment. I'm more than happy to make the 700 mile round trip to be here." He began his military career as a sapper, training to become a bricklayer and rose to be a regimental Sergeant Major before being commissioned as a Captain in 2002, later to be promoted to Major. He added: Although I have been away from Buckie for 34 years I've still got close connections with the town. My mum and dad still live here and I have school pals I still keep in touch with.

REMEMBRANCE DAY: At Buckie Remembrance Day was marked with as large a turnout of members of the public as has been seen for many years past. On parade were a contingent of R. E. soldiers from Kinloss, a representative of the Royal Air Force, Territorials, A.C.F. a relatively small group of ex-service men and other Legionnaires, members of the local lifeboat crew, Red Cross and the Boys Brigade led by their

bugle band. Buckie and District Pipe Band led the parade. The salute was taken by local man Major George Cormack, who has been 34 years in the Army, joining up as a youth. The day saw a number of innovations which greatly helped to enhance proceedings, one being the attendance of Buckie Community Choir which led the singing of two hymns, 'How Great Thou Art' and 'Abide with Me' also the first verse of the National Anthem from sheets, which had also been distributed widely; another first was the presence of a group of motor bikers.

The service was led by Rev Paisey, minister of All Saints Episcopal Church, with Rev, Hunter, Baptist Church also taking part. Leaders of the Salvation Army and the Riverside Church were present. Two minutes silence was observed before the bugle calls Reveille and the Last Post were sounded by Janet Winterbourne with a lament played by a Robbie Innes of Buckie and District Pipe Band.

Wreaths were laid on behalf of all the parties mentioned also Moray Council, Buckie and District Community Council and individuals. The organisation of the wreaths was, as then have been for the past 20 years, in the hands of John and Pat Grant., and as ever was done in a most competent manner.

This year for the first time the members of the parade did not attend any churches in the town with all returning to the Royal British Legion Hall where pies and teas were provided for all.

Findochty Kirk- 1863-2013. The final piece in the jigsaw to celebrate the 150th anniversary of a local church has been unveiled. A special ceremony at Findochty Church of Scotland saw the launch of "Findochty Kirk – 1863-2013 – Commemorating 150Years" by Fiona Stevenson. Guest of Honour Clare Russell the Lord Lieutenant of Banffshire, did the honours. Welcomed by kirk minister Rev. Dr. Hilary Smith, Mrs. Russell spoke warmly of the church, which was initially built for the then princely sum of £500 to accommodate 400 souls on a Sunday. (See page 10)

Nov 17

Baxter's support for local groups: Three local causes have benefitted in the latest round of funding announced by the Gordon and Ena Baxter foundation. The Cullen Sea School, 1st Buckie Boy's Brigade and the Lintmill Playpark Action Group have all received funding from the foundation, which manages personal legacies left by Gordon and Ena Baxter, of the Baxter's Food Group. The 1st Company's recent enrolment parade provided the perfect occasion for the foundation to present 15 new bugles to the organisation. (Report on page 9)

Small statue goes for mighty sum: Gasps of amazement could be heard in the auction room at Cluny Auctions when a small brass statue reached a princely sum,. In a recent antique and collectable auction, the five inch brass statue of a Chinese god/warrior fetched £5,300. Including buyers premium and online fees, the total paid was £6444.80 from a purchaser in Beijing. With an estimate of £25-£50 the bid shocked everyone as there were several other statues that sold just above estimate. Barbara Ferguson of Cluny Auctions said: "We had a lot of interest from Beijing and UK-based Chinese people before the auction requesting condition reports and extra images which is a good indicator of a high price." (A photo of the statue is shown on page 3.)

Family firm is honoured: A family firm with its roots firmly set in Buckie has won a Moray-wide award. J. P. Pozzi was named Small to Medium Enterprise of the year at Moray Chamber of Commerce's first annual awards launch. David Robertson, managing director, collected the award, sponsored by Johnston Carmichael accountants and business advisers, at the ceremony held last week in the Gordon Castle Walled Garden Restaurant, in Fochabers.

Nov 24

Christmas Carnival was a real Kracker. Good weather helped to make this year's the Buckie Christmas Kracker, held on Saturday, an enormous success., with large crowds packing the Square and central streets all day long. The lights were switched on by Danny Miller from T.V. programme Emmerdale. On Sunday the BCK

committee lit up a Christmas Memory Tree at the South and West Church with a short service led by Jean Forbes, a lay reader. The tree was dedicated to John Duncan, a stalwart of the Christmas Lights over many years.

Fochabers chefs in the limelight: Two chefs from Fochabers have been showing off their top culinary skills on Master Chef: The Professionals. Executive chef at Baxters Darren Sievwright (34) has made it through to the knockout week, a new feature to the series, where the 12 qualifying chefs will come together for the first time to cook for the judges in an invention test. Starring earlier in the competition was Alex Thain, who is a former pupil of Milne's High School. Mr. Thain is head pastry chef at the Cromlix Hotel, Dunblane and now lives in Glasgow. T.V programme Master Chef: The Professionals is on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, on BBC Two (A picture on page 5 shows Mr. Sievwright and Mr. Thain among the other contenders.)

Gordon Castle win two awards: Gordon Castle has been recognised by both VisitScotland and the Moray Chamber of Commerce in two separate awards for excelling as a tourist destination.

The castle, estate and walled garden in Fochabers won the Tourism Business Award at a recent Moray Chamber of Commerce ceremony held at its Walled Garden restaurant. Visit Scotland has designated Gordon Castle as a three-star visitor attraction along with awarding it their Taste our Best accreditation which recognizes businesses that provide and promote quality Scottish food and drink.

Award for Fochabers Chip Shop: The chip shop on Fochabers High Street has been named Scotland's micro employer of the year at Scotland's Modern Apprenticeship Awards. Owner Darren Boothroyd, accompanied by his daughter Elise and apprentice fish fryer Isla Cruickshank, received the award at a ceremony held in Edinburgh. Now in its 14th year the awards recognise the achievements and commitment of those involved in the Modern Apprenticeship programme delivered by Skills Development Scotland.

Clochach loon does well: Steen Durno (19) was announced as runner-up in Scotland's Modern Apprenticeship Awards. Having completed his Modern Apprenticeship (MA) in Land Based Engineering with Mark Garrick Ltd in Elgin and Scotland's Rural College's Oatridge Campus in West Lothian. "it is a fantastic achievement to reach the finals of this competition," said David James SRUC's assistant principal of further education, "which is open to the entire range of apprenticeships.." Steen secured full time employment with Mark Garrick as soon as he completed his apprenticeship.

Dec 1

Buckie born poet dies: An award-winning poet who hailed from Buckie has passed away. Sandy Hutchison (72), died on November 22 after being diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in August. His career as a poet reached a pinnacle last year when he scooped the prestigious Saltire Scottish Poetry Book of the year prize for his fifth collection Bones and Breath.

Reward offered in hunt for Buckie quine: A reward has been offered in the hunt for a suspected fraudster, a native of Buckie. Crime-fighting charity Crimestoppers has put up front the sum of £2000 for information leading to the arrest of Pauline Flett (31) who is wanted in relation to a string of crimes across Edinburgh, Glasgow the central belt and the north of Scotland.

School Department receive handsome donations : Tea parties and fish suppers have combined to raise over £4.500 for Buckie High's Special Education Department. Presenting a cheque for £4178.60 were stalwart fundraisers Suzanne and Derek Clark whose son Jody is one of 15 SED students currently. They were accompanied by their other son Jamie. The amazing sum was the result of their latest Mad Hatters Tea Party. Also boosting SED coffers was the Codfather fish and chip shop in Buckie, their cheque for £328.20 being handed over by manager Debbie Easton., whose daughter

has special needs. SED principal teacher was keen to stress the massive difference such donations can make to the students over the course of the year.

Dec 15 **He has stepped down:** After 30 years at the helm of a national cancer fund-raising concert a Buckie man is stepping down from centre stage. At the age of 82, Strathlene resident Syd Harris is finally kicking back following three decades in charge of the Festival of Brass and Voices, held in the Royal Albert Hall to raise cash for Cancer Research UK. The concerts are held every three years, with the total from the 2015 event still being tallied. The previous year concert raked in an astonishing £165,000 Syd who belongs to the north of England bought Strathlene House in the mid 1980, originally treating it as a holiday home but he and his late wife Shelagh became full time residents in 2003.

Dec 22. **Firefighters go out and about on annual cash collection:** Last week saw the firefighters out and about collecting in the streets of Buckie, Portgordon and Findochty, raising over £3,700. The money will be split between the Firefighters Charity and local good causes.

Portgordon go gay: Festive spirit lit up Portgordon on Sunday – quite literally- when the inaugural Squarefest took place. Children from the Primary School got the day underway with the Walk to the Light lantern procession, beginning at the school and making their way to the square, then over the road to a packed Enzie church where a candlelit Christmas service awaited. Organised by the Portgordon Post, the success of the event left the organisations's chairwoman, Pringle George delighted. Around £100 was raised from the collection taken in the church and after a poll taken amongst the village's primary pupils this will be donated to the Red Cross's Syria appeal.

Fochabers Fish Bar . An award-winning local chip shop is in the hunt for a prestigious national trophy honour. The fish shop run by former RAF engineer Darren Boothroyd for the past two years is one of the finalists in the National Federation of Fish Friers Fish and Chip Quality Award 'Champion' Award. The silverware is one of the many titles up for grabs at the 2016 National Fish and Chip Awards, organised by Seafish.

Dec 29 **Riverside Church welcomed 72 guests on Christmas Day** . The team at the church were left amazed by the number of volunteers who stepped up to the plate to help out at their Christmas Day event for those who were keen for some company. So many helpers came, including those from Tesco and the Bank of Scotland, that the offers from some had to be turned down. The number who came to enjoy the meal was 72, the largest number yet. All the food served on the day was kindly donated. Pastor John Coppard said: 'It has been a Christmas of kindness in Buckie as people from all walks of life have come together to spread genuine yuletide cheer.' What it does show is that there's a real niche for this kind of event at Christmas here." In addition to a slap up meal, the guests also enjoyed a quiz, music from Ronan Fitzimmons and Andrew Service and a bit of festive singing.

Fochabers's chef made it to the semi-finals, Darren Siev wright, an executive chef at Baxter's stormed his way to the semi-finals of BBC's Master Chef: The Professionals but lost out at the penultimate stage. He wasn't too disappointed, however, saying: "I've had such a great experience. I've had the time of my life. I've got to the semi-finals of Master Chef and I've cooked some great dishes and had some amazing feedback from the judges. It taught me to believe in myself and have a bit more confidence."

A first event of its kind was a success Moray Reach Out's achievement awards and celebration buffet and disco at the Marine Hotel in Buckie was a great success with 48 trainees attending to receive recognition. It was the first event of its kind, bringing

together all of Moray Reach Out's projects and the room was buzzing with excitement. Adults with learning difficulties attend training in real work places at Waste Watchers Recycling Centres (Buckie and Lossiemouth), Buckie Yarns Wool and Haberdashery shop or In Stitches Embroidery Services and Haberdashery shop in High Street, Elgin. . Lloyd Watt,, chairman of Moray Reach Out , presented certificates to each trainee. The certificates highlighted each individual's strengths and achievements