

2016

Jan. 5 **Annie reaches her hundredth birthday:** Four generations gathered to celebrate the birthday of Buckie's newest centenarian. There was a family gathering to remember for Annie Wyper in her East Church Street home on December 30. A special serenade was in store thanks to her great granddaughter Isla Antonucci (5) who sang Happy Birthday in Italian. Annie and her late husband Bert, who died in the late 1980s were well known figures in the town, running the Thistle Bar for many years. When Annie retired from the Thistle she ran the bar in the Bingo Hall (former Playhouse Cinema) until she was 80.

Good year for Buckie's fund-raising firefighters: The sum of £3700 was raised through the usual annual street collection and a Sunday collection at Tesco, this sum, however, was to be added to by a further £1339.03 when Tesco allowed the firefighters to hold another collection session on the Wednesday before Christmas bringing the total to £5100.17, which is up on the previous year. The proceeds from the collections will be split between the Firefighters Charity and local groups, charities and good causes.

Friends of Seafield Hospital and Community Patients "Over the course of the year 2015 the Friends donated equipment worth around £15,000, all of which was made possible by the generosity of the public. At Christmas time they had the pleasant task of handing over the latest pieces of equipment that they had been advised by the hospital staff and others to their would be very acceptable. Jim Brown, senior charge nurse received from Friends chairman Alistair Robson four Dyson hot and cool fans, three for use in the wards and one for the newly refurbished minor injuries unit. In addition the paramedics based at Seafield were presented with torches which could be attached to their uniform allowing them to work hands-free in conditions of poor light or darkness as well as an ear thermometer which is not standard NHS issue.

Finishing line for New year race organisers : Buckie's New Year's Day 10k saw organisers Paul and Christine Wojcik bow out after 16 years. A field of 33 runners lined up for this popular event which saw them cover a coastal course from Buckie to Findochty and back into town. The 17th annual event raised £225 for Marie Curie and the Aila Coull foundation, taking the total raised for good causes since it started in the year 2000 to more than £4500. There were 10 runners the first year and the biggest field has seen 40 take part, despite some awful weather over the years. After announcing that he and Christine, who live in Findochty, would be stepping down, Paul said "Thanks to everyone who has contributed and helped in any way with the organisation of the run. The race was won for the second year in a row by Buckie runner John Goodall, with Grant Redford, also from Buckie, finishing second. The first lady home was Michelle Slater, originally from Rathven but who now lives in Orkney, while Buckie's Kerry Main was second. Malcolm Smith who helps with the run said: "This was Paul and Christine's last year organizing the new year run and I would like to say what a fantastic job they have done over the past 17 years. They have given up a lot of their time for the benefit of others."

Jan 12

Findochty rallies to aid flood victims: Kind-hearted Findochty folk have rallied to the aid of flooded communities across the north-east. Ballater, Ellon Aboyne and Port Elphinstone and surrounding communities across the region have been hammered mercilessly by storms which have seen homes flooded, roads washed away and bridges badly damaged with communities cut off. However, Findochty Primary School has become the focal point for a local aid appeal to help many of those left devastated by the floods in the wake of Storm Frank and subsequent waves of heavy rain.

Such has been the response to the community-led appeal, which saw donations of food, clothing toiletries and other items dropped off at the village school that a logistical headache was in store to move it to Banff for distribution to those in need.

Flagging up village's 300th anniversary ; The people of Findochty gathered to get the village's tercentenary celebrations underway on Sunday. Young and old alike headed to packed town hall to hear local minister Rev. Dr. Hilary Smith bless the village before a special tercentennial flag was raised. Among the guests for the evening were the Lord Lieutenant of Banffshire Clare Russell and her husband Olivier. Opening the evening's proceedings was Findochty Community Council chairwoman Gayle Calder, who led the audience on a potted history of the village before handing over to Rev. Dr Smith. She went on to highlight that by giving blessings it brought a sense of warmth and protection as well as opening hearts, bringing light, transformation healing and a sense of belonging. In a short prayer, she urged justers to recall the legacy of the villagers who had lived and loved in Findochty over past generations and the legacy they had left for the future. The blessing ceremony was interspersed with songs from pupils from the village primary school, whose performances were warmly appreciated. The flag, which will stay in place for the duration of 2016, was raised by 96 year old James Robertson and Jessie Taylor representing the Taylor family. They were nominated by the community for their contributions to Findochty over the years. Henry Marshall has been selected to lower the flag at the end of the year. After the ceremony, all present were invited into the town hall to enjoy tea, coffees and snacks.

Salmon lands in a bunker. During the record breaking period of heavy rain that led to rivers like the Dee rise well above its normal height. During the spate a salmon found itself swept out of the river to land up in a flooded bunker on the Peterculter Golf Course. Once the water in the bunker began to soak away the fish found itself in trouble, only it was fortunate to be found by greenkeeper Dylan Meiner. Golf Club manager Paul Sharp managed to catch the fish and released it safely back into the river. A video posted on line of the trapped salmon attracted worldwide interest. The story moved to Associated Seafoods Ltd., who are based on Low Street, Buckie to reward the staff at Peterculter Golf Course with some of their premium Scottish smoked salmon. ASL commercial director Henry Angus said:" It was a fantastic effort by the staff at Peterculter Golf Club to save the fish, especially since out wild salmon stocks are so precious. This is why we thought it would be great to reward them with some of our Salmon Company." Mr. Sharp said: We have been

amazed at the huge global interest in this rescue and are delighted at receiving this smoked salmon from Associated Seafoods.”

Jan 19 **Photograph display** - The “Advertiser” office took the photographs from their archives and had them mounted on the wall. The photographs have created a lot of interest. Members of the public can purchase the photos.

Salvation Army receive clothes: An appeal for warm gloves, hats and other items of clothing before Christmas provided a real boost for the Salvation Army’s work with homeless people. The Banffshire Advertiser was a catalyst for the appeal when our front office administrator Heather Green knitted some hats for local Salvation Army envoy Colin Hanover. People responded to the appeal in true festive spirit and Mr. Hanover was delighted with the windfall of items.

“Portgordon Post “ The annual general meeting of the village newspaper Portgordon Post was held in the Lampie Hoose.. The group’s chairwoman Pringle George saluted the paper’s major community story in the autumn when it covered the purchase of an area of foreshore ground by local residents. This along with coverage of the Taste of Portgordon event in the village, hall ensured that the issue was a complete sell out. A further boost was received with a grant of £4,409 from the Lottery’s Awards for All scheme to purchase their own equipment to produce the paper, pay hire costs at the Lampie Hoose and obtain public liability insurance. The management committee elected was chairwoman- Pringle George, vice chairman – Robert LaCamp; treasurer- Sonia Lawrance; minute secretary- Sue Lane groups representative Kay Griffin; resident’s representative Denise Roberts

Jan 26 **Cars suffer at hands of vandals** : A number of cars in the Seaview Road and James Street were damaged at the hands of vandals over Friday and Saturday January 22 /23. One resident with a secret camera installed took a picture of a woman “keying “ her car.

Lodge Gordons 589: Ricky Lawtie was recently installed at the new Right Worshipful Master of freemason lodge Gordons 589. His father Kenny was at one time master and along with his other son Greg are both officials.

Findochty anniversary year - A whole host of events await the folk of Findochty as they mark three centuries as a village. Events are planned for each month of the year with the first event the community blessing and flag-raising ceremony taking place earlier in the month. There was also an over 60s village party in the town hall last Friday. In March the Methodist Church century celebrations will take place on Wednesday and Thursday 23 and 24 from 10am till 4pm.

Feb 2 **Cullen Hotel suffers at hands of mindless thugs:** The Seafield Hotel on Cullen’s main through road which is presently being renovated by new owners Milne’s Property Developments was targeted by vandals over Wednesday and Thursday

of last week. They left behind damage which included 36 broken panes of glass and holes smashed through newly plastered walls.

Willie steps into the breach: Buckie Church of Christ has been without a pastor since the last incumbent Mark Anderson and his family returned to the United States, now however, Willie Aitken has stepped into the breach as interim pastor adding the duties to his normal ones of leading Portgordon Community Church.

Burns Suppers: The number of organisations celebrating the national bard's birthday with the form of Burns Suppers seen in days gone by have greatly declined but the anniversary was celebrated in some form at least in playcentres, primary schools and old folks homes.

Red Cross Syrian Appeal - The sum of £200 was raised in Portgordon at Christmas through an event that was staged and in which pupils of the local school were involved. Recently Jane Murray of the local branch together with Wendy Hay of the charity called at the school where a cheque for this amount was handed over by school captains Ebony Geddes and Finn Semmier.

Caroline's poetry book sold well : A book of poetry compiled by Caroline Fowler, and titled "Christmas Chimes O' Doric Rhymes" and sold over the festive season raised £350 for All Saints Episcopal Church's drive to renovate the church hall kitchen, the latest phase in the revamp of the building. Mrs. Fowler, a member of the church was pleased with the response to her wee book and delighted to be able to hand over the money to All Saints priest Canon Jeremy Paisey.

New group for adults with learning disabilities. The person behind the group is Barbara Zealand who is helped by other helpers on a voluntary basis. The group, which is based in the Buckie Church of Christ, caters for adults with learning disabilities, people who Barbara felt could do with more to do during the day time.

Feb 9. **People not happy with service provided by BT.** A meeting has been called to take place on Friday 19 in the Town House Hall about broadband provision. The person behind the meeting is Moray MP Angus Robertson and will be chaired by editor of the "Advertiser" Chris Saunderson. People who have BT as their server have also been lodging complaints regarding inability and time taken to be connected to the internet.

Chinese year of the monkey. The Chinese celebrated the new year on Monday February 8 and the children who attend the Cullen Playcentre made sure that the event wouldn't go past without some form of celebration. Pictures in the "Advertiser" show the whole group and also Kai Murray, Evie Wright, Jack Smith and Heather Campbell with traditional Chinese gifts of rice cakes and chocolate gold coin. Also shown dressed up in colourful dresses were Lexi Currie, Melissa Starrs, India Main, Amiee Murray and Ellie-Mai Ritchie.

Buckie Community Theatre Group: The panto came to Buckie last week when thanks to Buckie Community Theatre Group, their own interpretation of the classic “Dick Whittington” took to the stage. The show, held in the Fishermen’s Hall ran for four nights. Joining the group this year were members of the Out of the Darkness Theatre Company and performers from JJ Dancing Company and Alison Munro School of Dancing.

Feb 16. **Drug raid ends with four being charged :** Four people have been charged following drug searches in Buckie and Elgin. A 30 year old man , a 14 year old boy and two women aged 48 and 53 from Elgin have been charged.

School celebrates year of the monkey: Chinese New Year came to Buckie Community High School last week in all its finery. February 8 saw the dawning of the year of the Red Monkey, and students from the school’s S1-2 Mandarin classes got into the spirit of things as their teacher Selena Liu explained: “We’ve been making Chinese lanterns and other decorations in class to celebrate Chinese New Year. It’s been a great chance to help teach the students about our new year and customs. A picture in the “Advertiser” shows teacher Selena Lui with pupils Coral Rough and Alexander Theodorou holding up some of the decorations. Also getting into the act were the dinner ladies who dressed up for the occasion - Alison Dutoy, Mharee Stewart, Sybil Wilson, Annette Watson, Muriel Logan , Heather Reid and Kathleen Morrice.

Top keeper - Nothing gets by Buckie High footballer Lee Herbert- quite literally. The school’s 14 year old under 15 team star has established himself as the north of Scotland select’s goalkeeper, helping them on their way to the national cup semi-final with his goal unbleached. Latest on the north’s list of triumphs in the cup was a 3-0 quarter final victory over Edinburgh on their way to a final four place.

Feb 23; **To leave Buckie for down under:** The last post is set to sound on an era spanning four decades for Buckie Post Office for the last 42 years , but next month will see him set aside the piles of letters and parcels and head for the Antipodes. “The time is right to go,” Mr. Munch told the “Advertiser”. “Myself and my wife Faye, were out in Australia last year for our son’s wedding and we decided that we want to be there for our grandchildren growing up. “

Lending library returns to Portgordon: Keen readers will enjoy the latest venture launched at Portgordon Lampie Hoose. A lending library will run every Monday afternoon from 2- 3.30pm, with a wide selection of books on offer. Pringle George, of the Lampie Hoose group said, “The books have been donated by the community and we have all kinds- fiction or non-fiction, biographies, history, romance, crime and lots more. As well as picking up a good read, folk can come and have a chat and enjoy a coffee and biscuit. There is no charge but anything added to the donation would be greatly appreciated. The library is run solely by a rota of volunteers.

Milne’s kids are whizzes at quizzes: Milne’s primary school pupils were celebrating being kings and queens of the quizzers last week. The Fochabers

school improved on their joint second place finish in last year's Rotary inter-school quiz. Last Thursday saw a total of nine schools vie for the honour of the local quiz champs title in Buckie Community High School's assembly hall. The 2015 third-ranked team Cluny, moved up to runner-up slot this time round, while Portgordon claimed third place. The glory, however, belonged to the Milne's quiz quartet of Magnus Engstrand, Daisy Edmond, Luca Addicot and Daniel Drysdale, who made their triumphant way back to Fochabers with an individual trophy each, plus a shield which will take pride of place in the school for the next year,

They do mair than play fitba: Buckie Thistle Youth Development held a dance in the Fishermen's Hall recently and raised the sum of £3800. The money was split equally between the youth development, Teddy Bear Group for children with special needs and Moray Firth Radio Cash for Kids. The even included two local bands, the Disclaimers and Target 5 playing with DJ Paul T.

Teachers sign up for sign language tuition: Going the extra mile for pupils is standard at Buckie Community High School and last week saw this taken to a new level. A group of 18 teachers have signed up for a series of informal lessons in British Sign Language used to communicate with people who are deaf. Leading the sessions, the first one which took place last Tuesday afternoon after school, was Moray Council teacher of the deaf Paul Duncan.

Mar 1

Discarded drug needles in Portessie: A child of five picked up a needle that he had found lying among other drug paraphernalia as he was playing and jabbed himself. The youngster a boy, was given hepatitis B and tetanus injections and will require further hepatitis boosters after a month and again after two and nine months. Blood tests will also be required after three and six months.

Buckie actress bound for Spain: An aspiring actress from Buckie has fulfilled her dream of being cast in a show abroad and is set to head for Spain this summer. Amy Johnston (25) has, after impressing in auditions, been recruited to perform at an Ibiza resort where she is looking forward to experiencing "sun, sea, sand and singing every night." Since graduating from The MGA Academy of Performing Arts in Edinburgh last summer, Amy has made her name as a professional performer, landing roles at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe and in a production of Aladdin at Dunfermline's Alhambra Theatre.

Mar 8

Fochabers Public Institute: The drive to grant a new lease of life to Fochabers Public Institute has been handed a five-figure boost. Fundraising efforts by Fochabers Village Association Ltd. To bring the much used community facility up to modern standards are £39,000 better off thanks to local trust Abbeyfield Fochabers.

Groups join forces for football future; Plans to move football development in Buckie forward have been unveiled. Local football organisations have joined forces to form the new Buckie Community Sports Hub, which aims to provide a pathway for youngsters from P1 through to adult level. Group chairman

Martin Christie, who is head of Buckie Thistle Football Development said the hub could have a radical impact on the development of young footballers. "The hub brings together the Football Development primary and youth sections , the girl's team, Buckie Rovers and Buckie Thistle. It is hoped also to get local Welfare League team Buckie United to join. The plan is that with the combined teams acting together a pathway will be created for young players from P1 potentially right up to Highland League," he said. Dave Roberts, Rovers' secretary is secretary of the new group with Wendy Christie as treasurer.

New faces join group: Two new faces have been welcomed on board the Buckie Regeneration Group. Joining the Buckie Area Forum-backed group, chaired by Councillor Gordon McDonald are Buckie High School rector Neil Johnston and Banffshire Advertiser editor Chris Saunderson.

Big boost for Leukaemia Research Fund: Last December Portknockie singer,/songwriter erstwhile head school teacher, John Trodden (63) launched his CD Time and Tide as a fundraiser for Grampian Children's Leukaemia Research Fund, marking 20 years since his son Denis - who turned 30 on Christmas Day - was declared clear of cancer. Thanks to generous support from across Moray, John was able to present a cheque for £1700 to the charity from CD sales.

Mar 15

Post Office new owner: There is a new face at the helm of Buckie Post office on the High Street. Last Tuesday morning saw Sriniva Badam take over the reins as postmaster, taking over from predecessor Paul Much , who together with his wife Faye are set to join their son and daughter in Australia. Mr. Badam is already well known in the area having run the post office and local store in Portknockie for the past six years. He has other business outlets in Fraserburgh and Macduff.

Aul' Ads: A new book exploring the history of businesses in Buckie and the surrounding area has been released. Aul' Ads is the fifth book from Buckie man David Fowler and it features cuttings of advertisements promoting businesses in the area, together with a list of slogans used. The book was printed and bound by Moray Desktop Publishing students. A copy can be found in the Buckie Library and also the Buckie High School Library. It will also be published on the www.buckiedistrictfamilyconnections.org website.

New bridge over the Cullen Burn: Work is soon to begin on a long awaited replacement bridge in Cullen. Moray Council gave the green light last year to replace the footbridge over the Burn of Cullen to the west of the village and a short distance downstream from the viaducts. A bridge is necessary here as it is a vital link between the Seatown part of the town the golf course and beach.

Death of military artist. A military artist who was born and brought up in Buckie died recently. Andrew May specialized in accurately depicting in minute detail military uniforms and his work displayed in museums and private collections around the world, Mr. May was born in 1926 and was the

only son of the late Andrew and Mary Helen May of Wallace Avenue. An interest in military uniforms, weapons and equipment developed at the age of ten and his hobby of drawing military uniforms complemented his favourite subjects of art and history. His hobby became his full-time profession when he moved to South Africa in 1971.

Findochty Methodist Church This Sunday will see a week of very special celebrations begin at a local church. Findochty Methodist Church will be asking the village community to join them in marking their 100th anniversary in the church building on Seaview Road.

The first mention in the local paper of the church was in the January 14 1915 edition when the list of contractors engaged to build the church was given. Oddly enough the firms that actually were to build the church were not all as were given. The joiner work was done by the firm of Herd and Mackenzie not A. Murray of Buckie. A. Milne and Son, Buckie, were said to have been the masons though other reports have this as Mair. The church was opened on Friday 23 March 1916.

Buckie Rovers are champions. The 'Lilywhites" (their traditional colours and nickname) beat Banffshire rivals Islavale (Keith), by four goals to two on Saturday to win the McBookie First Division West league, with two games to spare; the first league title in 24 years. The Rovers team was - Aaron Sherman, Nathan Walls (Shaun Findlay), Bleu Innes (Harry Noble), Greig Sinclair, Mike Gauld, Scot Mair (Russell McLaughlan), Calum Murray, Neil Davidson, Jo Sutherland, Mike Campbell, Scot Davidson. Subs. Mike Wood and Liam Wood.

Mar 22 **Nevada were tops** - Enterprising senior pupils at Buckie Community High School have netted a £5000 boost for local charities. Team Nevada was the winner of the school's annual enterprise competition which was judged last week. The team of Erin McKenzie, Megan McGowan, Isla McRae, Emmy-Jo Munro, Niamh Paterson, and Taylor Patient beat off stiff competition from Santa's Little Elfers and Special Tea Beans. As well as setting up and running their business, making knitted snowmannies, they had to submit a business plan and accounts, set up a display describing what they did - and make a presentation before an invited audience last Wednesday evening. Their enterprise made over £3500 profit and the three finalists between them made almost £500 profit which went to local children's charity Logan's Fund, Moray Firth Cash for Kids and UNICEF's refugee Appeal

Radio Buckie mean to go further - Radio Buckie plans to reach out to the community as it makes good use of new equipment. At the group's annual general meeting reports were given of a successful year which has seen an impressive list of targets achieved. Securing a grant of just under £10,000 from the Lottery's Awards For All enabled Radio Buckie to purchase new, modern equipment and cover installation costs. Nick Brown chairman said "Among the new equipment purchased were four outside broadcast units. The portable equipment allows us to conduct interviews anywhere. We can get out into the community, visit people and broadcast from events, too.

They got their certificates - A group of learners at Buckie Library have accepted that computers and IT are not so scary. IT beginners Helen Hay, Lewis Riddoch and Elizabeth Moir received certificates last week to mark their completion of the free Get DigITal course. The course held over four weeks is aimed at ICT beginners and teaches how to use e-mail, search the internet, use social media and how to stay safe on line.

Family company a real driving force- A Buckie -based business continues on the right road with another award triumph. Maynes Coaches scooped the prestigious title of coach tour operator of the year in the large fleet s category , at the National Coach Tourism Awards. Director Kevin Mayne said, " We were delighted to find out that Maynes Coaches had won this award. I am very proud of the team."

Mar 29 **Prison sentence for Buckie mother of four.** A 29 year old woman was given a sentence of 14 months in jail after her drug-dealing business was busted by the police. Plastic bags and scales were found in the kitchen unit of her home. Over a six month period from July 2013 to Boxing Day 2014 it was discovered she had bought £22.000 worth of cocaine. From the part-time barmaid's mobile phone numerous text messages it was found that she was heavily involved in the supply of the drug.

Reviving the harbour was his dream- Tributes have been paid to the founder of a group committed to reviving Portgordon harbour who passed away last week. Portgordon man Ron Billing lost his battle with cancer at the age of 82. He shot to prominence 13 years ago when he spearheaded the formation of what was to become known as the Portgordon Community Harbour Group, fired by the dream of breathing new life into the facility which had been officially closed since just after World War II.

Apr 5 **Findochty bairns get online-** Findochty Primary School pupils are logged on thanks to a generous donation from the parent support group. The group presented 20 laptops and two charging trollies , worth over £9000, which will be used by all pupils in various projects and classroom learning. Headteacher Dawn Thomson said: "this donation is fantastic and the pupils have already been making good use of the laptops. The trollies save the need for having wires. The kids all really enjoy working with the laptops at their desks."

Lintmill will have a better playpark: A playpark project has been given a massive boost which will allow it to go much further and create an amenity for all the community to use. Lintmill Playpark Action Group won top prize in Tesco's regional Bags of Help competition for community projects in Moray, scooping a £12.000 cash prize. The windfall has taken the group over the £20.000 mark, smashing its original target of £15.000 to provide an adventure playground for local youngsters. Katie McLean, chairwoman, said the Tesco success would allow them to do more planting and put in benches around the playpark, which all residents will benefit from.

Jean has passed the century milestone thanks to porridge and dancing: A lifetime passion for Scottish Country dancing has helped a spirited lady reach the grand old age of 100. Jean Mair was still reeling in her 80s and teaching it to the youngsters at Portessie Primary School. She also puts “porridge every day for breakfast, even on Sundays and no bacon and eggs” another secret of her long life. Born on March 29 1916, during the height of World War 1, she was the fifth of eight children and grew up at Cunningholes, a farm on the outskirts of Buckie, whose land is now covered by the maltings and the industrial estate. She married John Mair during the war who returned to his job with Taylor’s Transport at the end of hostilities. With the help of Crossroads Caring Scotland Jean is still living in the same home in Portessie she moved into in 1952.

Apr 12 **Play Centre plans at derelict factory:** Ambitious plans have been drawn up to convert the derelict former pork factory at Great Western Road, Buckpool into a state of the art play and activity centre. The Advertiser revealed last October that the derelict site had been bought and now the new owner Braidreef Ltd. Is set to lodge a planning application with Moray Council (Into December 2016 and nothing more had been heard of the project.)

Tributes paid to community champion : He lived life to the full and never stopped helping others- that was the moving tribute paid last week by the family of a Portgordon community activist. Ron Billing a former Fleet Air Arm aircraft engineer will forever be synonymous with the formation of what is now the Portgordon Community Harbour Group Ltd, dedicated to the revitalization of the facility for the good of the whole village.

Alex Wilson , Buckie footballer: This year Buckie and District Fishing Heritage Centre set up a new display in honour of Alex Wilson, the Buckie loon who went south from Buckie in 1948 at the age of 15 to sign for Portsmouth who he was to play for a number of years. He was playing for Buckie Rovers at the time and Portsmouth was told about Wilson’s potential by R.N. Chaplain Father Purcell an Honorary President of the Club. He was to win a cap for Scotland against Finland

Apr 19 **New mosaic marks school anniversary:** Past present and future came together at Findochty Primary School last week when a commemorative mosaic was unveiled. Visitors, staff and pupils will now be greeted by the large mosaic marking the school’s 80th anniversary later this year. The piece, which is around five feet long has as its centerpiece a compass reflecting the village’s proud maritime past. Behind the scheme was the Findochty Parent support Group, chaired by Lynsey Watt.

French dance group pay a visit: The Auld Alliance was alive and well last week in Buckie when a group of French dancers were welcomed in town. However, the group of eight brought with them their own take on Caledonia, being from a Scottish country dancing group based in Bezu St Eloi, Normandy. Leading the group was their instructor Alice Le Polles, who is originally from Buckie before moving across the Channel with her French husband. They

entertained a packed house in Portessie Public Hall on April 9 before rounding off their whistle-stop tour last Monday at Buckie and District Fishing Heritage Centre.

Apr 26 **School pupil is charged:** A Milne's High School, Fochabers, pupil has been charged after allegedly making serious threats against fellow students and staff at the school. It has been alleged the teenager made the threats via social media, with pupils at the school being questioned by police officers in relation to the incident. Letters have been sent to parents by the school in the wake of the arrest and subsequent charging of the youngster, who cannot be named for legal reasons.

A first for Buckie Maltings: The Boormalt Buckie Maltings is set to open its doors to the public for the first time during the Spirit of Speyside Whisky Festival. Four fully booked tours will see more than 40 people gain an unique insight into the March Road facility.

May 3 **Bullying meeting was 'disgusting':** A meeting called to resolve bullying at a Buckie primary school has been branded a shambles after it ended in chaos. Around 60 parents attended a meeting with Council officials at Millbank last Thursday evening in the wake of a playground incident where staff refused to intervene to help a boy being beaten by two other boys. It was claimed policies governing this prevented them from getting involved.

Heartache for Rovers in Elginshire Cup Final: A second half collapse against ten men saw Buckie Rovers' hopes of retaining the Elginshire Cup shattered at Boroughbriggs on Saturday. They lost 5 goals to two to Forres Thistle. Rovers – Ferguson, Walls (M. Smith), Noble, Sinclair, M. Gauld (Wood) Mair, Murray, Innes (K. Gauld), N. Smith Sutherland and Campbell. Sub. Sherman (G/K)

Buckie's show motoring on: Buckie Summer show brought it's own ray of sunshine to the centre of the town on Sunday as young and old alike flocked to the event. Now in its second year there was plenty for everyone to enjoy. First out of the blocks was the 'Six Harbour Walk and later in the day the middle of Buckie gave way to displays of shining classic cars, motorbikes and tractors which no doubt provided many a pleasurable trip down memory lane. As the last of the buses taking Six Harbour Walk participants to the start point in Portsoy the first of the classic cars started rolling into Cluny Square. The weather was anything like summer time, decidedly dampish but no one seemed to mind.

Hundreds step out for the Six Harbour event: Once more fundraisers flocked to the Six Harbour Walk and Cycle on Sunday as the event celebrated its 17th year. Around 540 people - about 140 of them doing the walk for the first time got their walking boots on to complete the 15 mile hike from Portsoy along the coast to Buckie in aid of charity. Behind the event is the Rotary Club of Buckie.

May 10 **Launch Party:** History was made when Scotland's only council-owned dredger was launched. Naming the £2.5 million 250 tonne Moray Council vessel MV Selkie was the Lord Lieutenant of Banffshire Clare Russell in front of a large audience of VIP guests and members of the public who had gathered expectantly for the unique occasion. The vessel was built in Buckie by Macduff Shipyards who operated out of the former Herd and Mackenzie boatyard.

Dredger is given mythical name: Fittingly the name of Moray Council's new dredger was chosen by Cluny Primary's P6/7 pupils. The youngsters won a Moray wide contest between coastal primary schools to name the vessel, with their suggestion of a mythical Scottish creature getting the nod from councilors. A selkie resembles a seal in the water but adopts human form while on terra firma. The male of the species are said to be very handsome and possessing great seductive powers over human women.

Crowds have a 'whaley' wild time at festival: Things got a bit wild at Spey Bay over the bank holiday Monday, but in the best possible way May 2 saw visitors and locals alike make their way to Whale and Dolphin Conservation's Scottish Dolphin Centre when it hosted its annual Really Wild Festival. The event sought to celebrate Scotland's great outdoors and the fantastic array of wildlife and heritage that Spey Bay has to offer.

Winning team is praised for its fresh approach: Pupils at Buckie community High School secured a sizable cash donation for a Moray wide charity at this year's Youth Philanthropy Initiative. The annual event involves second year pupils researching a local charity and giving a presentation in a bid to scoop a £3000 boost for their chosen cause. This year's winning team – comprising Amber Smith, Noah Bowie, Jodie Murray and Tommie Marandola secured the cash for homeless charity Moray Fresh Start. It helps to support homeless people moving into new tenancies by providing a pack of household items to those making a new life. Moray Fresh Start chairwoman Catherine Green said: "the pupils gave a brilliant presentation and to be honest, I was not surprised that they won as it was one of the better ones."

May 17 **Redundancy fears on 80 Baxters jobs:** One of the biggest local employers is set to shed up to 80 jobs as part of a restructuring of its European operation. Baxters Food Group currently employs 700 people at its Fochabers base and 1500 people globally.

Ice cream parlour is flavour of the nation with award: It's simply the best – that's the judgment on Fochabers Ice Cream Parlour after it scooped a tasty national award. Owner Sheila Gray longest serving employee Olivia Greenwood headed to Glasgow for the Molson Coors Entertainment and Hospitality Awards, Success was indeed sweet for the popular High Street based company when the pair came back up the road with the best ice cream parlour in Scotland trophy.

May 24 **Copy went missing**

May 31 **Jobs boost to blow in as project gets the go-ahead:** Buckie is set to benefit from a major economic boost from the £2.6 billion Beatrice offshore wind farm development. Scottish and Southern Energy has revealed that Buckie harbour has been chosen as a contingency base for the project's operation and maintenance work, and for the marine control co-ordination base. The harbour at Wick will be the main operations and maintenance base.

Celebrations across the generations: A centenarian had the honour of cutting the birthday cake at a special birthday bash at Ballindaloch Castle. Banffshire residents aged 90 and over were invited to attend a tea party at Ballindalloch Castle to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday. As the oldest person at the event Margaret Kidd (104) a resident at Parklands Care Home, Buckie cut the cake and she was assisted by the youngest guest Rose MacPherson-Grant (5). She said: It was a lovely afternoon, everything looked beautiful. I felt very honoured to be asked to cut the birthday cake."

Way to grow for Buckie pupils: Green fingered youngsters at Buckie Community High School have embarked on a project to create a wildlife garden for the whole community to enjoy. The pupils took advantage of the glorious weather last week to plant some wildflowers on the banks of the Buckie burn near the school. "We have chosen flowers that will encourage bees and insects," said pupils Laura Garlick and Dylan Wood. They also hope to create a bug hotel and put in some bird feeders. They would also like to add some picnic tables for people to make use of. In addition to those pupils named others who have been involved include David Gordon and Jody Clark, with Linda Coull (auxiliary) a second adult helper.

June 7 **Time to wave off Ayles skiff:** Months of hard work made waves on Saturday when the Three Harbours Association launched their first Ayles skiff. The Mairi was launched at Cullen Sea School by secretary Mairi Innes, after whom she is named. She was piped to the Moray Firth by Adam Newlands, while skiffs from Portsoy Skiffettes and Findochty Water Sports Club joined in the celebrations. Chairman Prof. Ashley Mowat hailed the efforts of the volunteer team who have turned a construction kit into a seagoing vessel in record time.

Findochty score in cash hand out: Cash secured through the first Money for Moray event is set to back a wide variety of causes. The biggest winner in the Buckie area was Findochty Community Council, which scooped a £5000 boost towards the village's 300th anniversary celebrations. The group's chairwoman, Gail Calder, told the Advertiser: "We're really chuffed to get this money, just delighted." "Some of the money is going towards signs which will mark well-known parts of the village, like the Coo's Road, while another part of the money is earmarked to provide flower tubs and flowers, as well as the refurbishment of the goals at Mini Hampden. We're also hoping to buy a bespoke sign for the eastern entrance to the village."

Buckie company gains top award for excellence: A Buckie seafood firm has netted a prestigious export award for the global reach of their premium product. Associated Seafoods Ltd. Won the export Business of the Year

category at last Thursday's Scotland Food and Drink Excellence Awards 2016. The firm, located on Low Street in the premises formerly occupied by Moray Seafoods, proprietor Charles Eckersley, has shown a steady growth in exports combining this with an ambitious strategic marketing plan both which greatly impressed the judges at last night's special awards ceremony in Edinburgh. A.S.L currently supplies its premium the Pride of Scotland smoked salmon to 28 countries in five different continents, including Switzerland, the United Arab Emirates, the USA and Hong Kong.

Girls clean up Cullen beach: Cullen beach got a good spruce up recently thanks to the efforts of group of dedicated local girls. Youngsters from the village's Brownies and Rainbows along with leaders and parents joined forces to tackle litter on the beach as Nicola Aitken, from the organization explained. "We did the beach clean as part of a dolphin challenge badge we are doing this term," she said "We got a talk from the Spey Bay dolphin centre and we spoke about the importance of keeping beaches clean and free from rubbish which can harm sea life and animals. It was decided that since we have the beautiful Cullen beach on our doorstep we should try our best to keep it clean too." The group spent a total of one and a half hours scouring the beach for litter and disposing of it with their efforts drawing praise on social media, including Cullen Past and Present Facebook page.

Army praised for help with garden upgrade: Residents at a sheltered housing development in Buckie have thanked soldiers from Kinloss for their assistance in renovating their garden area. The residents' association at Hanover Housing Association's Burnside Court site in Buckpool has been awarded £9945 from the National Lottery to renovate. This is set to include more communal space, an outdoor bowl's lane French boules court and three to four small putting holes. The association had already raised £1000 themselves but it was the assistance of 39 Engineer Regiment at Kinloss Barracks which made the grant possible.

Tributes paid to inspirational teacher. Tributes have been paid to an inspirational former Buckie High Assistant rector. George Smith sadly passed away on May 14 at the age of 81 surrounded by his family. A former housemaster of Lennox House, Mr. Smith was best remembered by many for his 20 years of stalwart service as the school's assistant rector guidance, a role he held from 1977 until his retirement. The creation of a highly efficient and organized guidance unit was one of his lasting legacies at the school.

June 14 **Nomination 'a bolt from the blue':** A voice-over artist is in the running for a top industry award. Philip Banks (56) who works mainly from his Cathcart Street home in Portgordon, has been nominated in the Best Male Voiceover category at this year's Vox awards. Catching the judge's eye was his role in voicing the trailer for Inside the Court of Henry VIII, which was produced by American broadcaster PBS. "I'm not sure exactly where the nomination came from, to be honest, it could be from a number of possible sources," he told the Advertiser. "I'm delighted at the peer recognition making the finals brings, although I've got no delusions of grandeur about it."

Oil firm is subject to management buy out: Lintmill-based oil firm Northern Oils has been taken over. In a surprise move on June 1, Northern Grampian Ltd, purchased the lubricant division of Impact Trading Ltd, which trades as Northern Oils. Backed by a financial investor, a management buyout by Northern Grampian Ltd. Has been effected by operations director Yvonne Donaldson and sales director Graeme Carney, who has assumed the role of managing director. The sale brings to an end the 18-year association of former owner David Wood with Northern Oils.

Historic treasure trove set for wider audience: A local heritage group is to kick off celebrations of its 30th anniversary with a major exhibition in Elgin. Buckie and District Fishing Heritage Centre Ltd will be taking some of its reassured trove of photographs and paintings to Elgin Library in a bid to reach a wider audience. Round 60 framed photos and paintings will be on show from Saturday until July 1.

Art exhibition takes Portessie Down Under : A touch of the outback is due to come to Portessie this Saturday. Portessie Public Hall is to hold an art exhibition featuring the work of a former local resident, Roselin Humphries, who recently returned to Australia. Hall treasurer Rosella Smith said: "Roselin has donated more than forty of her paintings to us, which will be on sale this Saturday. "We're looking to raise money for a new storage area in the hall, and as well as the sale of paintings, we're running a coffee morning and heritage display in conjunction with Buckie and District Fishing Heritage Center. "Roselin's paintings feature a variety of subjects, including Scottish scenery, animals, flowers and the Australian outback.

Recycling firm delighted to be back in business: A Buckie home goods recycling firm is back in business and looking for donations. On April 19 we reported that Green Home, which sells second-hand furniture and appliances, would have to close in a week after its charitable status was revoked by the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator. However, Mr. Gardner, who is managing director of Moray Recycling Action Group which set up Green Home in 2005 has said that the firm was set to rise from the ashes as a not for profit concern. The move means that while Green Home will be liable for tax and Vat it will no longer be answerable OSCR. A team of six rowers aboard.

Mairi makes her maiden voyage: Coastal rowing is a booming sport, with more and more people taking to the water. Last week the Advertiser reported on the official launch of the St Ayles skiff, Mairi, at the Cullen Sea School. Built by members of the Three Harbours Association from a skiff kit, the boat enjoyed its first official trip out into Moray Firth with six rowers aboard.

Mither tongue talks for charity: A collection of Doric poems written by two Buckie friends will help a charity which aims to give people struck down by speech impediments the ability to speak in their native tongue. Caroline Fowler and Linda Smith have produced 'Ah'd Like Tae Speak in Doric' and all the proceeds from its sale will go to the Voicebank Project. The book was funded by Buckie Blethers, a local group whose aim is to promote the use of Doric.

Caroline said many people affected by neurological conditions such as Motor Neurone Disease, Parkinson's and Multiple Sclerosis who require the use of a communications aid would like 'Ane that speaks in their ain Mither tongue'. The ultimate aim of the Voicebank Project is that people can have a bespoke aid that speaks as near to their own voice as possible, in their own regional accent, wherever in Scotland that might be.

June 21 **Local hero teacher heads for Holyrood:** A Buckie Community High School teacher is set for a VIP day at the Scottish Parliament as Moray's local hero, or perhaps heroine. Sam Simpson has been handed the accolade by Moray MSP Richard Lockhead for her work in helping to raise more than £100,000 for charities, including Logan's Fund, following her daughter Isla's cancer diagnosis. Mr. Lockhead had invited members of the public to send him their suggestions of people who have gone the extra mile for a cause or for their community. Mrs. Simpson will accompany the Moray MSP to the official opening of the Scottish Parliament next month. The news came as a bolt from the blue for the special education department teacher, who splits her time between Buckie High and Newmill Primary. Mrs. Simpson will be joined in the capital by her husband Ross and Isla who has made a full recovery from her illness.

All hands to the pump stems Buckie flooding: A joint effort by emergency services, building workers staff of other businesses and council employees has been praised for alleviating the effects of major flooding in Buckie. Following four days of heavy rain, the High Street in the town - from the main road - the A98 - to the Tesco roundabout was inundated with water last Friday. One nearby home was flooded for the second time in two years and the petrol station forecourt and shop at Tesco was also affected. The flooding was caused by a breach in the bank of the Buckie burn south of Inchgower where a local digger went and made an emergency repair job to stop the flow.

10k grant is just perfect for club.: Cullen Golf Club feel like they have scored a hole in one thanks to a major grant award. The club were given the news last week they had been eagerly awaiting when Awards for All announced they are to receive £10,000 towards a major repair and refurbishment project. "We're just delighted to receive this as it's a major step forward," club treasurer Coleen Roy said. "The money will go towards refurbishing the roof which needs a lot of work done to it, including taking all the tiles off and replacing some of the joists.

Top award for Spey Bay Centre: A local visitor centre's family friendliness has landed it a prestigious award. Whale and Dolphin Conservation's Scottish Dolphin Centre in Spey Bay overcame strong competition to take the Family Venue of the year prize at the 2016 Scottish Hospitality Awards hosted in Glasgow. The centre, which receives nearly 100,000 visitors each year was up against venues such as the Scottish SEA LIFE Centre, Deep Sea World, Blair Drummond Safari Park and the Scottish Equestrian Centre.

The Rovers' report writer gets his jotters: Due to financial constraints the Banffshire Advertiser was forced to take the decision to dispense with the paid

for reports on the exploits of Buckie Rovers, which had been written each week home and away since 1984 by Allan Fraser, who was forced at one point to adopt the nom de plume of A. L. Nath. A letter written by him appears in this edition of the local paper saying how much he had enjoyed the task mentioning some of the players who had especially taken his eye over the past 32 years. The Editor added his thanks at the end.

Jun 28 **By a hair's breadth!** Moray backed a future in the EU last Thursday – but only by the narrowest of margins. The historic referendum on Britain's future in the EU has cast the country into uncharted waters, with Brexit triumphing by 52 per cent to 48 percent, although the picture in Scotland was very different with 62 per cent opting to stay in the EU. In Moray, however, Remain squeaked over the winning line by a hair's breadth, the final count showing 50.1 per cent casting their ballot in favour of remaining part of the EU; just 122 votes separating the sides. The experiences of the fishing industry under the Common Fisheries Policy no doubt helped put the Leave camp within touching distance of claiming the region.

The focus is on new fundraising title: 'Our Lives,' the Grampian Group charity photo book of reader's pictures, is on sale now and already proving popular. The first book was sold within a minute of them arriving at the Banffshire Advertiser office in West Church Street. The book contains 184 pages of reader's photos submitted over a 12-month period from April 1 2015 to March 31 this year. It is a fascinating insight into local lives and is supplemented by photos from our chief photographer and inspiration behind the idea, Lyn Macdonald, along with trainee photographer Becky Saunderson. The glossy book is on sale at the advertiser and all other offices in the Grampian group, Huntly, Keith and Banff. For every book sold £3 will go to local charities- the RNLI, the Friends of Keith and District Multiple Support Group, Grampian Child Bereavement Network and the Samaritans. The first book was bought by Paul Munch, former manager of Buckie Post Office who is emigrating this week to Australia with his wife Faye.

Portgordon man takes top spot : A voiceover artist from Portgordon is delighted to have won national glory. After attending a glittering awards ceremony in Manchester Philip Banks was on his way home on Sunday with the VOX Best Male Voiceover Performance 2016 trophy safely tucked into his luggage.

Thirty years of dedicated service honoured: Three decades of service to lifesaving at sea have led to a Buckie man being honoured. Gordon Lawtie (53) who is the full-time mechanic and second coxswain at Buckie RNLI lifeboat station, has been handed a long service certificate and badge to mark more than 30 years with the RNLI crew.

Paintings draw in cash for hall: A taste of Oz proved to be something of a draw in Portessie. On show at the Portessie Public Hall's art sale, heritage display and coffee/tea morning were works painted by Australian artist and

former resident Roselin Humphries. She left Portessie in 2015 to return to Australia after suffering a stroke but left a number of her paintings behind for the public hall to use in a bid to raise funds. Treasurer Rosella Smith told the Advertiser : “We had a good turnout and sold eight paintings in all , bringing in £300. The coffee morning raised a further £400 so it wasn’t a bad morning’s work.”

Jly 5 **Major windfall for Fochabers campaign:** The campaign to restore Fochabers Public Institute to its former glory has gained a massive six-figure boost. Last Friday saw the Abbeyfield Fochabers Society hand over a £2000,000 cheque which has put a community group within touching distance of their £500,000 refurbishment project target. The donation comes on top of a £39,000 contribution which allowed Fochabers Village Association , who run the Institute, to install a biomass boiler.

Remains of Cullen Castle now seen : A Cullen community group’s efforts to reclaim an overgrown area near the village have been lauded by the local MSP. Stewart Stevenson (Banffshire and Buchan coast) joined volunteers last week from the Cullen Past and Present Volunteer Group at the Castle Hill area., which has now been opened up after years of being completely overrun with gorse and elder bushes. Dennis Paterson and Barry Addison two members of the group are seen with Mr. Stevenson at the castle site in a photo , while two other photographs show the castle site before any clearance work was done and as it now. The group have further plans for the site.

Knockout competition delivers charity boost: A record –breaking Buckie Its Knockout tournament looks set to hand a bumper boost to charity. Fun, foam and fundraising all came together on Saturday when the fifth annual tournament to be held at Linzee Gordon Park got underway. A total of nine teams in each of the two categories- senior and junior- did battle in a bid to raise cash for Moray-based kids cancer charity Logan’s Fund. The teams alone raised £10,123

Jul 12 **Store’s food bank drive brings in 2000 meals:** A helping hand to hungry families has been given by customers of Tesco in Buckie. Donations of non-perishable food items such as rice, pasta and tinned goods were handed in over three days for Fare Share and Trussell Trust. The store’s community champion, Sam Thomson thanked all those who had helped the campaign. “With the help of our generous customers we’ve collected the equivalent of 2000 meals,” she said. Tesco will top this up by 20 per cent, which means a further 400 meals going to those who need them most. “

Fish stolen from harbour: Police are investigating the theft of fish from Buckie harbour last week. A quantity of fresh fish had been stored in a plastic box with a freezer from midday , June 29. When the owner returned at about 6pm the following day the fish had been taken. It is believed the fish was worth a three figure sum. Among the fish stolen were halibut and monkfish .

Muddy marvelous teachers: Mud and guts were the order of the day for three Buckie High teachers as they battled an extreme obstacle course for a good

course. Gary Harper, Kate Murray and Vickie Glennie headed for Drumlanrig Castle to take part in the grueling Tough Mudder Challenge a 10 to 12 mile course featuring 26 obstacles. Joining the High School trio in Team Garylicious were former BCHS staff Scott McCracken and Kirstie McLaine as well as Ms Glennie's sister Lisa. Set to gain for the team's pain is the charity Target Ovarian Cancer. Its Just Giving page is sitting at £1600, a figure which could rise to around £2000 once gift aid is taken into account.

Cullen kids have fun with new play equipment: There was all to play for at Cullen Primary when new playground equipment was put to use for the first time. The fruits of a determined fundraising drive which raised £4000 were unveiled with the active trail equipment. Staff and pupils – with the parents support group, Cullen businesses, the community council and the wider village - all swung their weight behind the project, Scottish Landfill Communities Fund (£14000) and Cullen Common Good Fund (£1652). Welcoming the latest addition to the school playground was head teacher Moyra Hendry. The trail has been officially named Ryan's Trail in memory of Ryan Wood, a former pupil from 2008 to 2014, who enjoyed his time at Cullen and played many times in our playground in and out of school time. A bench seat was unveiled at the trail dedicated to a former janitor David Robertson.

Len (91) pens his first novel: It's never too late to try something new, as one Fochabers resident has proved. Len Hall has packed a lot into his 91 years-pilot, publican, engineer, college lecturer and journalist – and he now made his debut as a novelist. His first dip into literary waters comes with a 'A Mare's Tale' set in the fictional town of Culbokie, a cross between Cullen and Portknockie. The book was launched at a signing ceremony at Bellie Church in Fochabers. A 'Mare's Tale' is published by J & J Publishing, which is run by Forres resident Jacqui Jones. Anyone who would like a copy should call Ms Jones on (01343) 850123.

Jul 19 **Copy missing**

July 26 **Buckie heritage centre celebrates triple whammy;** A treble celebration was the order of the day last week at Buckie and District Fishing Heritage Centre marking 30 successful years, plus the launch of a special commemorative book, Scenes of Yore, to top it off the centre has also been awarded the prestigious four-star status by VisitScotland. Behind the book is a centre founder member Ron Stewart and John Addison, who is presently chairman of the group. It is a work which Mr. Stewart said, neatly covered the two other milestones.

Scores flock to village square for annual gala: Fochabers was abuzz at the weekend as the village celebrated its annual gala. Since the bypass was opened a few years ago the event which is based around the village square, has continued to go from strength to strength. The weekend formally got underway on the steps of Bellie Church on Thursday evening when Gala Queen Ellie Wallace was crowned, along with Gala Princesses Madeline McWilliam and

Connie Whelan. A tombola session in the Public Institute followed which went on to raise an astonishing £1400.

Portgordon art group plan spectacular display: The biggest ever Portgordon Art Group exhibition is set to be unveiled in pastures new this Friday. From 7.30pm to 9pm will see the 2016 event officially declared open at Spey Bay Community Hall and will run over the following two days there. Said chairwoman Kitty Bell "We'll have around 160 framed paintings on show covering a wide range of mediums, including oil, pastel, pencil, water colour and acrylic. There'll also be mounted though unframed paintings, as well as cards on sale, priced at £2.50 based on member's work.

Buckie band marches off with second trophy: Forres Highland Games again proved a happy hunting ground for Buckie and District Pipe Band when they headed home with silverware. Around 20 band members of all ages joined nine other pipe bands at the annual event and claimed the Best Marching Band trophy for their trouble. The previous year the band won the trophy for Best Band, which this year went to the pipe band from Keith. Pipe Major said "We're just chuffed to get this especially as we had tough competition from the nine other bands – to get silverware two years in a row is brilliant."

Scorcher to shocker in 24 hours: From searing to soaking in less than 24 hours – that was the story in Buckie and across Moray last week when summer dramatically came, and just as quickly departed again. Tuesday saw the mercury soar to the high 20s in what could be described as an idyllic summer's day, the likes of which are all too rare in this part of the world. Young and old flocked to the coast, with Strathlene and Cullen being just two of the beaches which were packed with sun-worshippers. The high temperatures that lingered into the evening and night were followed by thunder but few people could have predicted the heavy rain that hit the local area not long after 11am on Wednesday. The skies darkened dramatically before the heavens opened in monsoon fashion with a downfall which lashed the area and overwhelmed the drains. Many businesses and households were left mopping up as water gushed in through doors and windows.

Village celebrates major anniversary: There was an extra special flavour to this year's Findochty Community Day as the village basked in the glow of its 300th anniversary. Families, visitors and local alike of all ages flocked to the harbour on Saturday afternoon to have fun and help the village celebrate its tercentenary. The event marked the latest and biggest public community celebration of the landmark in the village's long and proud history, with January seeing the anniversary being set in motion with an evening gathering at the town hall which saw a special commemorative flag raised, this will fly for the whole of 2016.

Aug 2 **Buckie firm clinches prime deal with M&S.:** Staff at a Buckie firm have been praised for their role in securing a prestigious contract. Associated Seafoods Ltd. Is celebrating winning a contract with Mark and Spencer to supply the retail giant with smoked salmon from September onwards. The Low Street

based company already supplies the company with shellfish products. ASL managing director Victor West praised the staff and the support of the wider community as key planks in the firm's commercial coup. He said: "The staff have been the key to sealing this deal."

Missing Cullen woman found safe in Glasgow: A Cullen woman missing for three weeks has been found safe and well in Glasgow. Police confirmed last Friday that Amanda Tomison (47) had been located in the city. That followed the release of CCTV images of MS Tomison by police last week.

Cullen heritage exhibition is likely to have been busiest yet: The unexpected has been the norm for the volunteers at a heritage exhibition. Throughout July the Memorial Hall in Cullen played host to the Cullen, Deskford and Portknockie Heritage Group's annual exhibition. The volunteers put on quite a show, with early attendance figures indicating that last year's total of 1000 visitors has been exceeded. Heritage group president Brenda Wood said: "The exhibition has gone very well, in fact I think this may have been our busiest yet. Two of the new features on display was the dux board from Portknockie School together with a belt 'tag' or tawse – call it what you will.

Crowd drawn to art show: There was an art spectacular last weekend when Portgordon Art Group unveiled its annual exhibition. Friday evening saw the official opening in the new surroundings of Spey Bay Hall in what was billed as the biggest and best ever exhibition by the group. Art group chairman Mike Collins said "It's all gone very well and I'd like to pay tribute to all those involved. The art work created over the course of the weekend was raffled with Highland Cow being won by Margo Howe, Nether Dallachy and the Tiger by David Herd from Banff. Portgordon Art Group meets in Clochan Community Centre, the move being forced upon them by the condition of their former base at Portgordon Community Centre.

Aug 9 **Fury as branches shut down by bank:** The Bank of Scotland branches in Fochabers and Cullen are to close. A spokeswoman for the bank said that following a strategic review, a total of 23 branches nationwide will shut due to falling customer demand or overlap with nearby branches. Branches in Aberlour, Portsoy and Macduff will also close. She added: "We have made the difficult decision to close these branches (Cullen and Fochabers). They have been identified for closure because of the changing way customers choose to bank with us, which has resulted in customers using them less often. The majority of customers also now regularly use alternative branches or use other ways to bank such as online and telephone banking to complete their banking need." Both SNP and Conservatives were united in their disappointment at the move. Both identified the older members of the community to be most affected by the move

Tribute to Rovers 'top team player': Tribute has been paid to a stalwart of Buckie Rovers Football Club. Team manager Dave Findlay and committee members gathered to honour Allan Fraser who is retiring after three decades of service. Mr. Fraser was well known to Advertisers readers for his weekly

match reports penned under the nom de plume of A. L. Nath. He was presented with a set of four matching glasses and a thank you card by Rovers secretary Dave Roberts. The club have also made him an honorary member, which allows him free entry to all of the club's home games.

Attendees at Harbour Day event forced indoors: The weather did its best to put a dampener on Cullen Harbour Gala, but it did not stop visitors and locals having a good time. Young and old flocked to the quayside and surrounding area of the picturesque harbour to enjoy the activities and stalls. By around 2.30 pm the rain forced a move to the nearby Cullen Sea School, where the festivities continued. Tea and coffee were on offer, alongside a popular display by Cullen, Deskford and Portknockie Heritage Group. Local duo Joe Mowat and Bill Findlay used the venue to continue their musical entertainment, and they were joined by an impromptu performance from other musical musicians.

Lyn's photo book is launched: A special celebration of the 'Our Lives' book took place in the Banffshire Advertiser office in Buckie. The Grampian Group charity photo book of reader's pictures over a 12-month period is on sale now. It is a fascinating insight into local lives and is supplemented by photos from our senior photographer and inspiration behind the idea, Lyn MacDonald, along with trainee photographer Becky Saunderson.

Lyn was delighted to welcome so many people into the office to formally launch the book.

Aug 16 **A class act:** Four Buckie High students have been celebrating a five star Higher exam performance. As the results were announced last Tuesday for Highers and other exams it was time for Joe Campbell, Michael Reid, Cameron Thomson and Adam Newlands to enjoy achieving five straight A grades. English, they all told the Advertiser, was the subject which presented the most concerns as they awaited the release of the results.

Miles of smiles: Hundreds turned out in Buckie on Sunday to tackle child poverty as the Speyside Kiltwalk got underway. Over 600 walkers, many donning kits for the occasion, gathered at Ian Johnston Park to set off on their 6 mile journey to Aberlour in aid of various children's charities. Initial estimates point to around £650,000 having been raised from the even. Paul Cooney, the Kiltwalk CEO, said, "In such beautiful surroundings the Moray Speyside event is always special."

Local business boost: Two of the newest businesses in Buckie have been praised after a visit from a special guest. Wednesday saw Moray MP Angus Robertson come calling to see for himself how Zen Ink Body Art and Motion Fitness and Juice Bar – both on the town's High Street- how two very different firms were faring in their early days. Turning to Motion Fitness – run by Shawn Milne - first, he told the Advertiser: "I'm delighted to see new businesses open in Buckie. Motion Fitness is an excellent addition to the town, offering the highest standard of training and fitness services." The trip to Zen Ink Body Art saw Mr. Robertson take in a very different type of business, and he praised its owner Shaun Docherty for both his dedication and enterprising spirit."

Art Show draws in a good crowd: Art lovers flocked to Cullen's Memorial Hall last Friday as the village's art group unveiled their annual exhibition. Running over Saturday and Sunday the event showcased work produced by members over the course of the past 12 months. Before introducing group tutor and professional artist Michael Kitchen, who was to officially open the exhibition, Cullen Art Group's chairwoman Myra Craig said: This is our 29th exhibition, which is really amazing when you think we started away back in 1987. The exhibition has grown over the years with a good standard of work."

Aug 23 **Honour for Buckie RNLi man:** A Buckie RNLi crew member has been honoured for his role in saving the life of a yachtsman. Gavin Hyne (28) a volunteer relief mechanic and crewman aboard the William Blannin, has received an official letter of thanks from the charity's operations director for helping the Russian sailor during a force 10 gale north west of Islay. Although serving on board the 197 metre pipe-laying vessel Deep Energy at the time, his skills learned over the last eight years with the RNLi proved vital during the 18-hour rescue.

Elise (16) is a chip off the old block: Chip shop worker Elise Boothroyd (16) has been named one of the top young fryers in the UK. She has just returned from Holland with other finalists in the 2017 National Fish and Chip Wards organized by Seafish where they enjoyed a two day fact-finding visit to one of the biggest manufacturers of frying equipment. She said:" It was really interesting. I was over whelmed when I found out I was in the final 10 because I didn't expect to get that far. Elise whose father owns the Fochabers Fish Bar, will now compete with other contenders for the Drywrite Young Fish Frier of the Year Award.

Birthday smiles for Findochty: Findochty Primary was the place to be as it celebrated 80 year of serving the local community. Last Friday saw pupils past and present, staff, parents and invited guests gather for a birthday tea to honour the landmark anniversary. A specially baked cake was on hand and the youngsters had the chance to play some games as befitted any good birthday party. As a memento of their piece of history each child was presented with a piggy bank bearing their school logo, the years 1936-2016 and their name. The school library also played host to a display of photos and various documents gleaned from down the decades. Headteacher Dawn Thomson said: "We were delighted to welcome everyone. the school's 80th birthday is part of Findochty' 300th anniversary celebrations which has made it extra special."

Deskford Flower Show: The crowds once again flocked to the Deskford Flower Show on Saturday as the event demonstrated its evergreen appeal. Now in its 117th year, people of all ages made their way to Deskford Community Centre to admire the displays of not only flowers but fruit, vegetables and a whole host of other produce. It was a day to remember for Graeme Clark who claimed the men's overall Baldwin Cup while in the women's Rose Bowl the honours went to Gladys Smith.

Friendly library fun for Fochabers: Colouring in, fun and freebies, were the order of the day in Fochabers – for adults. Tuesday saw the first of the brand new Your Big Friendly Library sessions for older readers unveiled in what proved to be a popular community-based event. Visitors to the drop in had the chance to enjoy a story time for adults-based on books of reminiscences – some grown up colouring in and some free goodies. It was an opportunity for those swinging by the event to see for themselves the many services Moray’s libraries offer in addition to borrowing the likes of books CDs and DVDs. One of those delighted with the session was community librarian Eleanor Kidd. “It was very busy, especially earlier on in the session, so we’re all very pleased indeed at how it’s gone,” she told the Advertiser. “It’s the first time we used this approach and it was good to see other agencies taking the opportunity to come along and be available to speak to members of the community.

Aug 30 **Oscars get Top Class treatment:** A night of glitz and glamour is promised when Top Class Drama stage their latest production. Rehearsals are going well for a Night at the Oscars and it is hoped three large audiences will turn out to see the show. Lynne Ward said:” We have some amazing props and scenery this year thanks to Sandy and Jan Duncan. It will look fantastic. “All the songs in this show are from award-winning Oscar shows, or shows that have been nominated for an Oscar.

Clash over welfare as foodbank demand rises: The scale of foodbank usage in Moray has been described as “very concerning” by the area’s MP. Angus Robertson said the statistics, published last week on Twitter(a computer website), by Moray Foodbank, were testament to the impact of Conservative austerity policies hitting society’s most vulnerable. The figures show that included in the overall rising demand is an increase for cold parcels, where the recipients have no means of heating the food.

Key vandal fined £340: A Buckie woman who caused nearly £3000 worth of damage to parked vehicles has been fined £340. XXXX YYYY of St Peter’s Road, Buckpool was caught on CCTV keying a vehicle. The footage, posted on Facebook (a computer website), went viral and attracted 3000.000 hits. The footage showed YYYY damaging the car while walking a dog. She later pled guilty to recklessly damaging three vehicles on January 22. At Elgin Sheriff Court last week it was said that the accused had repaid £2845 to the victims. Two of the people whose vehicles were damaged but she has no grudge towards any of these people said defence agent Matthew O’Neill He added that YYYY had no explanation why she damaged the vehicles and was receiving help for alcohol issues.

Business guru offers wide range of support: A Cullen entrepreneur is set to bring his expertise to the aid of Moray businesses this week. Fraser Hay, the founder of Grow Your Own Business Club Network, brings his unique track record helping small businesses across the globe to a free event in Elgin Library this Thursday.. Entrepreneurs from the region are invited along for practical advice and proven techniques that have helped members from over 60 different sectors to identify and address more than 2000 small business issues,

challenges and obstacles that have been holding them back and preventing the growth they want. Fraser Hay a former pupil of Buckie High School has published 14 books on Amazon and helped business owners in over 44 countries. He has appeared on TV and acquired more than 400 testimonials on the UK's oldest social network. He has promised to "thrill, excite, irritate and delight people into action with his results focused approach.

Sept 6 **Legion in appeal to find family of war hero:** An appeal has been launched for relatives of a World War 1 hero to come forward. The gravestone of Alexander Stewart, who is buried in Buckie's New Cemetery, is in need of replacement and the local Royal British Legion Scotland is hoping to speak to relatives before seeking to go ahead with the work. Alexander Stewart, the son of Andrew and Mary Stewart (nee McIntosh) Stewart, 23 Bridgend, Buckie, died on October 17 1922 from the effects of stomach wounds he received in France in November 1916. He was a Private with the 2/6 Battalion Seaforth Highlanders and was aged just 24 when he died. Although a tailor to trade he worked at Jones's sawmill before enlisting, a position to which he returned after the war. He was also an assistant trainer with Buckie Thistle F.C. The Buckie branch of the Legion were alerted to the state of Mr. Stewart's gravestone by local historian David Fowler while undertaking research.

Diver propeller-ed to fame by Cullen Bay discovery: The sea served up a mystery on Friday when an aircraft engine was brought ashore at Portknockie Harbour. Experienced diver, Brian Donaldson, who lives in the village, got the surprise of his life earlier this year when asked by a local fisherman to help free some of his creels which had been trapped on something on the sea bed in Cullen Bay. "Normally when creels or nets get caught its on a boulder or something like that but Cullen Bay is just basically sand so I thought it was unusual" Mr. Donaldson said. "I saw a big tangle of ropes, nets and creels then I spotted what turned out to be the blade of one of the propellers. Once I got it all cut away it was clear that what I was looking at was an aircraft engine - it was the last thing I expected to see. In all my 40 years of diving I've never seen anything like it" The origin of the engine remains unclear but Mr. Donaldson said "Its definitely either a British or an American engine as its got English writing on it, so its not from a German plane which crashed in the Bay during the war."

Book tribute launch by son of a steelman: A moving tribute to the memory of well-known Buckie businessman will be unveiled at a book launch today. 'John Duncan -its tough at the top,' has been written to commemorate the varied life and times of the man behind John Duncan construction by his son Mark. It comes just after the first anniversary of his passing on Saturday. The book, which includes a wide variety of photos drawn from Mr. Duncan's life, charts the history of a man who left school at 14 to work at Christies Nurseries, then as a TV aerial engineer before entering the steel fabrication industry and eventually founding his family-run firm where he was to become famous as one of Buckie's best-known and prominent businessmen.

Local creative minds get ready to open their doors to art lovers: Four local artists and studios are set to lay out the welcome mat as this year's North East Open Studios exhibition gets underway this weekend. From September 10-18 artists will be inviting people into their studios to view and discuss their work in an informal way. Taking part in the local area will be husband and wife Geoff Roberts and Maggie Clyde, who are based at 18 High Street, Portknockie, while in Cullen Patch of Blue and Dirty Dog Designs at 6 Seafield Street and 9-11 Seafield Street respectively - will be opening their doors.

Back in Buckie: A former fishing vessel made a return to her old home port recently. The MV Challenge – formerly MFV Transcend BCK 75 - was back in the north-east again with her owners Trevor and Joan Broadhead, who hail from Melton Mowbray, on August 22/23. The 50ft wooden hulled vessel was built in 1958 by Macduff Shipyard for John Flett of Findochty, who named her Transcend, BCK 75. Mr. Broadhead bought the vessel in 2008. She is berthed in the Wash.

Visitors never 'tyre' of classic cars at Buckie show: Vehicles and visitors alike came from far and wide to enjoy a bumper Buckie Classic Car Show. A record number of 231 cars, plus a large range of motor bikes packed out Linzee Gordon Park, joined by an array of stalls Organising the event, which turned the park into a gleaming sea of polished steel was John Clark. "I'm just delighted at how it's gone, really thrilled," he said. "We've had a record number of cars from all over the north east, with visitors from all over as well. People were also digging deep to support the show's nominated charities for the year – the new CLAN unit, the Teddy Bear Developmental Playgroup, the RNLI and Rrrallye. Mr. Clark said he had been overwhelmed by the generosity shown including James Smith of Peterhead of James Smith fuel distributors who had travelled from the Blue Toon with his family to make a donation.

Sept 13 **Walker triumphant after 250-mile trek:** A trek up the spine of Scotland in aid of an Alzheimer's charity came to a triumphant finale in Buckie on Friday. The start/finish of the Speyside Way in the town welcomed Darren Lyon (29) as he ended a footsore 250-mile odyssey which has taken him up the west and east Highland ways before the third stage through Moray to Buckie. It is a journey which has already helped the Clydebank police officer raise £725 for Alzheimer Scotland, with more to come in. He was accompanied part of the way by friend Conor Cairney, but most of the trip was undertaken alone as he spent many nights under canvas during the 14 day trip to Buckie. Darren is no stranger to the local area as his mum Jacquie and her husband Colin McLeish live in Portknockie.

Cullen trio rise to Girl Guiding challenge: Three Cullen Guides are celebrating after achieving the highest honour in the movement. Willow Daymond, Emily Murray and Anastasia Davidson have all successfully achieved their Baden Powell Challenge Award. Guider for 1st Cullen Sarah Ritchie said: "We are delighted that we have three Guides successfully achieving the highest honour in Guiding.

Girlguiding UK is part of the worldwide organisation called Waggs. It was founded in 1928 as the umbrella organization for guiding and girl scouting associations around the world.

New book puts spotlight on Deskford past.: A window into the rich history of the Deskford area has been opened thanks to a new book just launched. Deskford – A lower Banffshire parish, was formally unveiled on Saturday at the Banffshire Field Club meeting at the local community centre. The 650 page, exhaustively researched book is the brainchild of debut author John Aitken, who lives near Berryhillock. Through a mixture of historical accounts and photos, the former Keith Grammar School rector illuminates the grind of daily life and changing fashions in agriculture education, and housing throughout the centuries. He also casts a spotlight on the legal and moral control exerted by both the Kirk and landowners. “The research was the most enjoyable bit of the process,” Mr. Aitken said.

Oscar show is Top Class: The red carpet was rolled out to welcome the audience to a Night at the Oscars thanks to a Buckie group. Wednesday, Thursday and Friday evenings saw Buckie High’s Highfield Hall packed for Top Class Drama’s latest show which saw 30 youngsters showcase their talents on stage. Numbers from such firm favourites as Willy Wonka, Evita, Blood Brothers and Peter Pan, to name but a few, were to make an appearance in front of appreciative audiences over the three evenings. One of those delighted with the group’s fifth production was Top Class Drama founder Lynne Ward. “the response was just amazing and the kids were so good, just brilliant,” she said. Top Class Drama currently have members in the seven to 15 age range and are always keen to welcome fresh talent.

Sammy’s good work with kids has place in history: A man who was a legend for generations of Buckpool kids has been honoured with his own street name. In the hamlet of Arradoul a previously unnamed road now proudly bears the name Turner Place in memory of Sammy Turner who passed away in the early 1990s. On hand to officially unveil the sign was his widow, Bunty (89) surrounded by generations of the family and neighbours. Mr. Turner is synonymous for his association with Buckpool Boxing Club and the Boys’ Football Club, which for years had their ‘home’ in the former 19th hole of Buckpool Golf Club. Sammy spent many hours working to keep the building wind and water tight so that it became officially known as Turner Pavilion with a board fixed on the gable. On Sammy’s death the building sank into such a state of disrepair that it was demolished with two houses built in its place.

Sept 20 **From Findochty to Siberia:** In the summer of 2001 during the Findochty Amenities Association Fun Day sack loads of bottles containing messages, as part of a fund-raiser were tossed into the North Sea including one by the then two year old Emily Plant. One of the bottles has just recently been found tossed up on the beach of Belly Island in the Kara Sea, off the northern tip of the Yamal peninsula on the edge of the polar circle. It was found by oceanologist Olga Koulikova who got in touch with Findochty Post office re Emily’s address on the paper inside the bottle. Emily, now a teenager was delighted that her

bottle had been found. She said that I got my dad to take them out on his fishing boat Accord and he put them in the sea. She and her sister Gayle Calder have been invited to attend the Arctic Circle next month where the governor of Yamalo – Nenetsky has offered to hand it back as a token of friendship.

Buckie Film Club: Buckie High's Film Club enjoyed a successful start to their tenth anniversary season. Last week saw a double bill of thrillers with The Constant Gardener on Tuesday- the first ever film shown by the club- followed by Bridge of Spies on Thursday. A good turn out was welcomed at both sessions, with regular attendees and newer faces turning out.

Pipe band is the talk of Kronach: Portsoy Pipe Band has returned from a successful trip to Kronach in Germany where they represented the Banffshire area by performing at various venues in and around the Franconian town. The ten day Freischiefen (free shooting) Festival attracts 260.000 visitors to the town. The band were invited to take part in the main parade and were cheered on by the crowds. The trip drew on links with the Historic Banffshire-Kronach Twinning Association which has arranged group exchanges for more than 40 years.

Dog Show bowled over by success: More than 10 dogs were put forward for judging at the Buckie and District Companion Dog Show which was held at the Community Hall, former Enzie Public School, in Clochan. Competitions had sections for both pedigree and novelty dogs and a total of 102 dogs were entered. Organiser Niamh Ballantyne said: "We raised £610 for Buckie Cricket Club, which exceeded our expectations. We are hoping to hold the show annually as it was a great day out."

Ramble on for library: A Buckie historian and writer has donated copies of his latest works to Buckie library. Allan Fraser, a retired geography teacher, was on hand recently to present two more windows on the heritage of the Buckie area. He said: "I was delighted to present copies of Through Buckpool and the Enzie on a Historical Ramble and Buckie and its Hinterland from A to Z. "Over the years I've donated a number of books and booklets I've written and I'm happy to keep up the tradition of doing so. Mr. Fraser also presented two booklets, one listing the titles of articles which have appeared in the Banffshire Advertiser over the years complete with the relevant dates, page and column numbers. He has done the same for poems that appeared. Among the titles of books he has donated to the library include A Doric Dictionary with a Difference, Peter Fairs of the Past, Bonnie Strathlene, An Abridged Census of the Enzie, The Building of St Gregory's Chapel Preshome.. This he wrote from a copy of notes given him that were written by Mr. Reid, priest at the time and discovered 200 years later in archives by Ian Bryce of Aberdeen. Poetry has also in Mr. Fraser's work, such as a collection of the verse of Mhairi Calder of Farnachty and a separate anthology of poems written by other local poets. His latest donation is a comprehensive historical study of a part of Buckie in a book with the title of Between the Brig and the Brae.

Sept 27 **Café boss's pledge to Chernobyl children:** A café owner who met Chernobyl children during their stay in Moray was so touched that he has vowed to help raise thousands of pounds to bring them back again next year. . The Friends of Chernobyl Children Moray brought 16 youngsters to the area last month, part of a five year programme to boost the health of children affected by the 1986 nuclear disaster. Stephen Coull, of Le Café Coull in Buckie hosted a visit by the children which he admitted was emotional for himself and staff." We made queen cakes for them and you would have thought we had given them a lap top," he said. It costs £1200 per child to bring them from Belarus to Scotland and Steven has contacted many businesses in the Buckie area to ask for help in running a series of raffles over the next 12 months to help raise the necessary money required to bring more children for a holiday in Scotland.

'We want your views': A determination to listen to the community has marked the launch of a local community council. Last week Cullen and Deskford Community Council reformed after falling below the minimum membership level at a meeting in the village's Memorial Hall. Seven out of the nine seats available were filled, with Deskford representative Iain Grieve elected as the group's chairman. He was joined as an office bearer by Tam McLellan (vice-chairman), Esther Bruce (secretary), and Barry Addison (treasurer). Completing the team are Phil Lovegrove, Dennis Paterson and Stewart Black. Looking forward to a bright future for the group, Mr. Grieve told the Advertiser: "This is an exciting time and we want to move things forward for the community as a whole. I want to see to our communities fairly and impartially represented and to actively seek their views and listen to what they want and need. This has to be irrespective of a community councillor's personal opinion,"

Rathven in busy start: the first meeting of the new session saw members queuing up at Rathven SWI .There was a warm welcome for all from president June Milne. Trophies won at Keith Show were on display. The guest speaker was Susan Sutherland from Maggie's Centre in Aberdeen. She gave an insight into the work of the centre, which aims to give information and support for many of the physical , emotional, practical and financial issues faced by cancer patients, their families and friends. Tea was then enjoyed while the competitions were judged. Winners: Edible necklace-1. Margaret Sutherland, 2. Beatrice Williamson, 3. June Milne. Cup and saucer. 1. Marilyn Philips, 2. Irene Davidson, 3. Anne McKay. The meeting ended with a spirited rendition of Auld Lang Syne.

Watch and learn how to be thrifty: Buckie-based charity Waste Watchers held a successful fun-raising venture . A thrift shop held in the Episcopal Church Hall, Buckie, proved popular, with a steady flow of visitors picking up bargains. Karen Campbell, Waste Watchers project manager, said:" We are a self-funding charity. We held a very successful jumble sale earlier in the year and the thrift shop proved to be very successful too. It is something that I think we will hold regularly." Waste Watchers accept thrift donations but are keen to stress that the items must be clean and in good condition. Karen added:" We do receive a lot of rubbish. We are a recycling charity, not a dump. In the past

we have received food waste, dirty nappies, oil cans and cardboard, we do not want rubbish.”

£2.5k raised at Alzheimer’s walk: Walkers turned out in force to support an Alzheimer’s awareness event. The second Memory Walk, run by Alzheimer Scotland and supported by the Gordon and Ena Baxter Foundation, saw 50 walkers of all ages set off from Baxter’s Highland Village on Sunday September 18. It was to be the most productive afternoon, as Alzheimer Scotland’s community fundraiser Elma explained: “The Memory Walk went really well and the weather was beautiful Baxters were wonderful and excellent hosts once again, just fantastic. While all the sponsorship money isn’t in yet I’m confident we’ve raised in the region of £2500, which is a brilliant amount.

Oct 4 **Soap star to switch on Buckie’s lights:** There will be an extra touch of star quality at this year’s Buckie Christmas Kracker thanks to and Emmerdale (A BBC TV programme). The Kracker organisers have said Anthony Quinlan who plays Pete Barton in the prime-time soap will be joining the event for the day.

Cullen Bay bomber engine set for a new home at Moray air museum. A aircraft engine raised from the seabed of Cullen Bay is set to go on public display at a top Moray aviation museum. The engine, as reported in the Advertiser of September 6 was painstakingly moved by Brian Donaldson to Portknockie harbour some days before. It is now known that what was found is a Rolls Royce Merlin engine. He decided that he would donate the engine to the museum who were delighted with the offer. Last Saturday Kinloss-based aviation museum Moravia were at the harbour to collect the engine, not only to divine more about its history but to put it on show to the public. The engine in a Merlin X which was fitted to a number of aircraft, including the Whitley V and VII. The twin-engined aircraft was used by Operational Training Unit flying out of Kinloss and Forres with some 123 being lost during the four years they were based there. The engine could have come from an aircraft that came down well out to sea, but as Mr. Donaldson suggested had been picked up by some fishing boat in its nets then to be cut it loose later nearer shore.

Sensory tent for Teddy Bear Group: It has taken months of hard fundraising work, but it was all worth it when the Teddy Bear Development Playgroup unveiled their new sensory tent. The group, who are based at Lady Cathcart Community Centre and cater for pre-school youngsters with special needs, have been celebrating hitting their ambitious £6000 target. It has been achieved through the generosity of many individuals and groups as Pauline Riddoch from the Teddy Bear Group, explained. “We’ve done our own fund raising but we’ve also had quite a lot of generous donations too, Forsyth’s Ltd at the harbour have consistently been good to us while other people have done events for us. Hein Mijzen did a sponsored cycle ride from Rome to Buckie for our campaign, while Dot Bremner also raised a lot of money through her Dancecise event. Buckie High’s enterprise group also raised £1000 for us, which was wonderful.”

New Methodist minister Chris makes community his key priority:

Community is very much the clarion call for the latest minister to come to the Buckie area. Settling into the town is Rev. Chris Jackson- who has responsibility for the Methodist Churches in Buckie, Portessie, Findochty and Cullen – and his wife Joanne. It marks not only his debut in Moray but also as an ordained minister. “My main priority centres around the church and the community - the church is not separate from the wider community, it shouldn’t just be a place for meeting on a Sunday,” he told the Advertiser. “I’m keen to get involved with other organisations and work with the denominations active in the area, Working with other denominations is actually a big thing in the Methodist Church.”

Buckie unites to help battle cancer:

People came in droves to the Fishermen’s Hall in Buckie on Friday to help battle cancer. It soon appeared that the title of the even - World’s Biggest Coffee Morning- was more than appropriate as people flocked to hand a huge £22,500 funding boost to Macmillan Cancer Support. Behind the event was Kirsty Munro and a group of her school pals, who were left amazed with the response to the coffee morning. Original plans to hold the event in the Victoria Park Function Hall had to be abandoned when it became clear it would not be big enough to accommodate it. “I think we’re all just overwhelmed at the response, “ she told the Advertiser. “I don’t think any of us thought when we started this it would turn out to be anything like as big. “

Oct 11 **Fish bar is frying high with award:**

Fochabers Fish Bar has been judged the best in Scotland . The High Street chip shop, run by Darren Boothroyd, will now represent Scotland as one of ten finalists in UK-wide National Fish and Chip Awards, organised by Seafish Mr. Boothroyd said, “ We’re absolutely over the moon and really proud to be the number one in Scotland and in the top ten in the UK. I never anticipated we’d be in this position when we took over the business three years ago.”

Grand boost for theatre group show welcomed:

A local theatre group are feeling just grand thanks to Buckie Area Forum’s Regeneration Group. Buckie Community Theatre Group were handed a cheque for £1000 by the regeneration group’s chairman Councillor Gordon McDonald at their weekly meeting on Monday night. They are currently working on their latest production Cinderella , which is due to hit the stage in February next year. Councillor McDonald said, “ We’re delighted to be able to sponsor the theatre group and their production of Cinderella. Glen Campbell, from Buckie Community Theatre Group said, “ We’re delighted to get this sponsorship from the Regeneration Group. The money will go towards costs of buying fabric for costumes and making them .”

Talk sheds fresh light on carnyx:

There was a chance to catch up on the history of an often puzzling Deskford artefact recently. Dr Fraser Hunter of the National Museum of Scotland was the guest speaker for the meeting and he went on to focus on the matter of the Deskford carnyx , the Pictish war trumpet discovered 200 years ago. The meeting was hosted by the Banffshire

Field Club, the society that keeps an eye on the history and antiquities and the cultural and scientific heritage of the area. The meeting heard that such war trumpets were not usually regarded as private treasurers, instead being handed down through the generations in the tribe. In keeping with this, the Deskford carnyx showed evidence of being repeatedly patched during its existence. When the time did come for them to be buried, it was interred in a boggy escarpment regarded as holy ground by the Picts of the time which was regularly visited but never lived on. For reasons as yet unknown, the carnyx was solemnly beheaded for burial.

Oct 18 **Vandals wreck garden project:** Heartless vandals have left the future of a kids' community project hanging in the balance. Youngsters at Buckie High School special education department have been working hard to create a wildlife garden by the side of the Buckie burn, an area often left strewn with rubbish, as part of their John Muir Award work. However, the first phase, comprising four wooden barrels used as planters, has been hit by two attacks in the space of a week. Mrs. Sharon Aitken PT special education department described the devastation. "The first attack occurred in the last week of term when we found one barrel had been thrown in the burn and the other damaged," she told the Advertiser. "However, the following week vandals struck again and two of the barrels have disappeared and the other two were upturned and damaged. The children were just devastated and in tears over the first incident and I can only imagine what it's going to be like telling them about this latest one when they return from holiday." Mrs. Aitken revealed that question marks now hang over plans to expand the garden.

Horror smash claims a life. A two car smash on a local road on Sunday past left a pensioner dead and two injured. The family of 77 year old Brian Lawrence from Cullen said they had been left devastated after the blue Rovers 75 he was driving collided with a silver Renault Megane at around 11.30 am on the A98 between Buckie and Cullen near the junction to Findochty.

Emily meets First Minister as epic message trip ends.: A remarkable journey which started with a message in a bottle from Findochty cast into the North Sea 15 years ago finally came to an end in Iceland. Emily Plant was just two when her bottle - purchased as part of a village gala fundraiser - joined three sackloads of other bottles being set loose on the sea. A decade and a half later Emily, who is now 17 and a student at Buckie Community High School was left stunned when she discovered her message had been uncovered by Russian oceanologist - 2000 miles away in Siberia, on Belly Island situated off the tip of the Yamal peninsula in the Kara Sea. Emily was invited to Iceland recently to be reunited with her message at the Arctic Council Assembly, being presented with the framed piece of paper by the governor of Yamalo-Nenets Dmitry Kolykin. A further surprise was in store in the shape of Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, who presented Emily with a signed message in a bottle as a memento and not only mentioned her story during her speech. Emily presented the governor with a bottle of whisky kindly donated by Glen Moray. She was accompanied to the Arctic by Mrs. Shona Conlin who

organized the message in a bottle fundraiser all those years ago as a member of the then Findochty Amenities Association.

Tributes for 'weel-kent' ex-councillor: A long-serving former local councillor has passed away. Sinclair Longmore, who represented the former Buckie East and Findochty ward, died peacefully on Sunday October 7 at Lythe Care Home near Cullen. He was 87. He originally served in local government in the days of regionalisation when he was an elected member on the then Moray District Council. Sinclair was described by former council vice convener George McIntyre as being, "was always such a cheery individual who was never afraid to speak up, especially on local issues. He was unfailingly polite and had time for everyone and was a well known figure in Buckie" Many other councillors and former councillors spoke about Sinclair in similar terms extending sympathy to his widow and family.

Dedication is honoured: decade of voluntary service was honoured at Buckie Red Cross Store at a special ceremony. The humanitarian charity's retail area manager Tony Golabeck was on hand to present James Cameron with a badge and certificate to mark ten years of hard work and loyalty to the West Church Street shop.

Oct 25 **Fundraiser boost is hailed for Cullen Castle Hill Project:** A newly formed Cullen Group has served itself up a helping of fundraising success. Cull Past and Present Volunteer Group enjoyed a profitable tea, coffee and cakes afternoon on September 24 in the Hall Church, in what was their first cash-generating event. Thanking all those who either came along or contributed, the group's treasurer Barry Addison said: "We raised over £390 which was a good result for our first fund-raising event. The group was formed earlier this year with the aim of enhancing local attractions for the benefit of the residents of Cullen and its visitors. A recently completed project was the removal of gorse and grass from Nelson's Seat, a cliff top point with wonderful views of the Moray coast. The area had become so overgrown that it was not easy to use the three benches put there for visitors to the beauty spot. The group has also carried out ground clearance work at the ruins of the castle on the town's Castle Hill, a site steeped in history and a Historic Scotland monument.

Ardach new faces welcomed: Staffing changes at Ardach Health Centre has seen many new faces added to the team. Two new partners Dr Duncan Green and Dr Marc Quinn, have been appointed following the departure of Dr Clare Hood and Dr Angus Gallacher, who had each served over 20 years at Ardach. Dr Green joins the practice from Moray Cost Practice in Lossiemouth. He has many years of GP experience with a specialist interest in respiratory conditions. Dr Quinn is a newly qualified GP who completed his training at Elgin Community Surgery. Dr James MacDonald and Dr Stephen Tobin have returned to the practice to continue their GP training. A six-months training period at Ardach beckons for Dr Tobin and Dr MacDonald will be in the practice for a year. Another trainee for whom the welcome mat has been rolled out at Ardach is Dr Daniel Paterson. He is a second foundation year

doctor and he will be in the practice for a four month period. Liz Anderson has taken up the post of health visitor. New faces also provide a warm welcome at reception with Tracey Cassie and Lauren Riddoch joining the administration team.

Dolphin watcher hailed: A Cullen man has been recognised for his dedication to assisting with the conservation of whales and dolphins in the Moray Firth. Graham Kidd (64) has become a regular at Cullen Beach where he records his findings for the Whale and Dolphin Conservation's Shorewatch and last week he conducted his 1500th survey. Shorewatch is a Scotland-wide programme which sees volunteers record dolphin and whale sightings. Katie Dyke of the Scottish Dolphin Centre at Spey Bay, said, "Graham has been volunteering for five years now and he ventures out in all weathers to take part. In the surveys. We have three volunteers who regularly from Cullen at various times. Around the Scottish coast there are 150 regular volunteers. From the findings we can see trends and use the data for the protection of whales and dolphins."

Nov 1 **Tributes to victim of horror smash:** Tributes have been paid to a popular Buckie High School student who was killed in a horror smash. Neringa Narustye (14) was heading back to her home in Buckie last Wednesday with friends when the black Vauxhal Corsa she was travelling in was in collision with a gray Nissan Terrano. The accident occurred on the B9016 Brae of Enzie road between Buckie and Keith near the farm of Ryeriggs. Around 1038pm. Another 14 year old girl in the Corsa has since been airlifted to Glasgow for specialist treatment to injuries described as life-threatening, while two other female passengers in the vehicle, aged 16 and 17 were taken to Dr Gray's Hospital in Elgin with serious injuries. Their condition has been described as stable. The 17-year old male driver of the corsa and the 42-year old man driving the Terrano received minor injuries. BCHS rector paid tribute to Neringa, who was a S3 student at the school.

Spikin' up to help others regain voice. : Verse will help give voice to people who have lost the ability to speak through neurological conditions. Caroline Fowler from Buckie and Linda Smith, Cullen, have helped raise £3050 for charity the Voice Bank Project. The duo raised the cash through sales of their book 'Ah'd Like tae Speak in Doric'... if it's a' the same wi' you! Which came complete with a complementary CD. All the poems were originals created by Mrs. Fowler and Ms. Smith

The Voice Bank project allows people with impaired speech due suffering from such as Parkinson's, to speak again in a human voice using their own regional accent. Artificial voices available tend to sound very robotic and impersonal.

Edwin's the king of the storytelling. 'When we were Kings' (book title is a warts and all account of life in the pub, offshore and on fishing boats. Buckie offshore worker Edwin Devlin has been retelling for a while on Facebook some of the stories he has been told and adventures he has had over many decades. He was encouraged to put them together in a book and this is the result. Edwin describes it as "cornucopia of poetry, stories and pictures of a

bygone era. A self-confessed mix of fact and fiction, Edwin covers school days, tattie howking, Hogmanay celebrations, Halloween and everything in between. He said: "The book is related to the fishing industry, the pub and the shenanigans that poured out of both. It is based on a lot of fact, sprinkled with a little fiction." Edwin (54), a rigger, was "brought up in house of books" so has always had a passion for writing in its various forms. The book is dedicated to his late father Albert. He thanked Peter Wills at Moray Desktop Publishing for his patience and support in producing an initial run of 200 copies. To order a copy email Mr Devlin at brahnseer@hotmail.com.

Nov 8 **House about that:** A Buckie area farming couple are celebrating after landing a near £1.2 million online bingo and casino windfall. Mandy and John Bowman will invest some of the money in upgrading their farm buildings before thinking about a belated honeymoon. Mandy (45) won the jackpot on Glossy Bingo's Major Millions slot game and the horse lover plans to spend some of her winnings on an indoor riding school and launching a livery. They will invest some of the money in upgrading buildings and machinery on the farm so that she and her husband John (40) can expand their operations and have a more stable future.

RNLI branch 'stunned' by £30k gift: Buckie RNLI have thousands of reasons to be thankful after receiving a massive donation. The local branch of the volunteer life-saving maritime charity was left stunned after a former Buckie woman donated £30,000 in memory of her late father Edward Stronach. Although now living in England, Ms Kathleen Stronach grew up in the town during which time the RNLI lifeboats were always a part of her life. She said, "My father would have been so proud knowing that this donation has gone to the RNLI and seeing our name on the plaque at Buckie Lifeboat Station. The gift was hailed by Buckie RNLI lifeboat operations manager Joe Herd and coxswain Alan Robertson. "We were stunned when we heard of this donation," Mr Herd said.

Cup win for Buckie Thistle: Buckie Thistle won the Aberdeenshire Cup on Saturday when they beat Cove Rangers in a penalty shoot out, despite being reduced to nine players in extra time. The Thistle team was - Salmon, Cheyne(Carroll), MacKinnon (Macrae), Munro, Dorrat, Low,(Copeland), K. Fraser, McLean, McLeod, Angus and Urquhart. Subs not used Scott, J. Fraser, Strong (G/K)

Kevin is the Mayne man: There was more success for a Buckie coach firm at a prestigious awards ceremony. Last Thursday saw Mayne's Coaches make their trip to Birmingham for the RouteOne Operator Excellence Awards with their sights set on two trophies - Medium Operator of the Year and, for company director Kevin Mayne, Manager of the year up to 150 Vehicles. It was not to be for the operator award but Mr Mayne was to get the call to come up on stage and receive his silverware. Mr Mayne said, "We were worthy finalists in the Medium Operator of the year category, though our congratulations go to Lakeside Coaches Ellesmere, who won the award. To say I was shocked to have been awarded a manager of the year award was an understatement.. I

dedicate to everyone that's been involved in the company since my great granddad Jimmy Mayne stated it in 1947.

Nov 15 **Young 'veterans' show their support:** An increase in the number of younger 'veterans' attending Remembrance Sunday's parade and service in Buckie was welcomed by organisers. Peter McPhee and Peter Reid of the Royal British Legion in Buckie, were pleased to see a healthy attendance by veterans, uniformed organisations and members of the public. Despite a drizzly and cold morning the remembrance service was well supported and was a fitting tribute to all local members of the armed forces who have made the supreme sacrifice over the years across a number of conflicts. Parade commander Mr. McPhee, from Buckie, said, "There are a lot of younger lads attending who have served in Iraq, Northern Ireland, Bosnia and other places like that. The former Gordon Highlanders, and 7th Battalion Royal Regiment of Scotland territorial Sgt. Major added that word of mouth among veterans has given the parade and service a boost in the last five years. Rev Jeremy Paisey led the service, Bugler Janet Winterbourne played the Last Post and Reveille while Buckie piper Rab Taylor played the lament 'Flowers o' the Forest' Members of Buckie Community Choir, led by June Murray, sang Amazing Grace while wreaths were laid at the war memorial. Remembrance services took place in communities across the Buckie and district area.

A double boost for Forces fundraisers. There was a double boost in store for a group of Portgordon fund-raisers when they were honoured for their work in aid of former Armed Forces personnel. The Portgordon Post aided by other community groups have raised £1000 over the past two and a half years for Erskine care homes – currently in their centenary year – who support former servicemen and women and this work has been marked by the charity with a 100 Heroes for 100 Years medal. The medal was handed over to Portgordon Post chairwoman Pringle George by Erskine community funding manager Michael Parkes who comments, "Erskine are delighted to award the Portgordon Post for all their amazing efforts." Their stalwart efforts are also to be commended in the Scottish Parliament thanks to a motion laid down by local MSP Douglas Ross.

Nov 22 **A cracking time had by everyone:** The Buckie Christmas Cracker had everyone feeling in the Christmas spirit with a huge crowd turning out for the annual festive extravaganza. The star guest this year was Anthony Quinlan, who plays Emmerdale's (a TV serial programme for them that disna ken) Pete Barton. He mingled with the crowds throughout the day and rode with Santa in the main parade, which this year followed a new route from East to West Church Street. A special meet and greet in the Kiss nightclub gave everyone a chance to meet the star and grab a photo on their phones. Youngsters were also delighted to meet the cast of the popular children's programme Paw Patrol. As darkness fell Anthony took to the main stage to push the button to turn on the lights and set off the impressive fireworks display. He also enjoyed a dance with the Cracker committee and the Paw Patrol characters as Ziggi and Toni provided the musical entertainment.

Katie has had a rich tapestry of life for 100 years : A Findochty lady has celebrated her 100th birthday. Katie Anderson who now resides in Dalgety Bay, Fife, was born at 4 Burnside Street, Findochty, on November 8, 1916, the third youngest of a family of six. To celebrate her birthday, Katie received a visit and gifts from Fife councillor Dave Dempsey and Fife's deputy lieutenant, Graham Bennett. Daughter Wilma Anderson said, "Mum still has lots of family in Findochty and the Buckie area. She always read the Banffshire Advertiser and would get it posted out each week. It was just at the end of last year she stopped receiving it as her eye-sight deteriorated. Mum has been in hospital for six weeks and she was discharged just the day before her birthday. She still lives in her own flat and she's just remarkable."

Buckie firefighter honoured for long service: A firefighter from Buckie was among those honoured for a combined 430 years service in protecting the public. There were 16 men and women presented with six long service and good conduct medals, nine 30-year long service medals and one 40-year long service certificate during a ceremony in Aberdeen on Tuesday night. Three other firefighters received a Chief Officer Commendation for their actions when they attempted to save a woman and boy from drowning in the sea at Aberdeen. Watch manager Dougie Annand from Buckie received a 30-year long service medal. Crew managers Steve Kerridge from Inch and Gary Michie from Huntly received 20 years and 30 years service medals respectively. Fellow crew manager Bruce Souter from Portsoy was given a 20-year medal.

Nov 29 **Club stalwart recognised for significant contribution:** Buckie's Mr Cricket was bowled over to be named as the recipient of a top prize at the 2016 Sport Moray recognition awards. Ian McDonald was presented with the Scottish Association of Local Sports Council's local service to sport award ceremony at Elgin Town Hall last week. Mr. McDonald said: "this is the first award I have received and it is a real honour. It was nice to learn that I had been nominated. but it's just something I enjoy doing, I don't do it for the awards." For more than 20 years Ian has been groundsman, club secretary, junior convenor, junior coach, child protection officer, first XI scorer, spectator and player at Buckie Cricket Club.

Landmark is all lit up and ready for Christmas: A bonny picture in this edition of the Advertiser shows the Cullen viaduct all lit up for the first time as part of the town's Christmas lights display. The photo was taken by David McCubbin from Cullen.

Nappy days after a pram-tastic victory: Buckie businesses made a great effort to enter the Buckie Christmas Cracker Christmas window display competition. The Pram Boutique was crowned the winner with its winter wonderland themed windows after gaining 460 votes from the public poll. The design in baby blues and pinks was created by Arlene Aitken and proprietor Sally Walker in a joint effort. The five businesses receiving the most votes were the Pram Boutique with 460, Too Cute 404, Pozzi's 235, The Red Cross 179 Blythwood 170.

Nicola's idea welcomed by schools: An enterprising Buckie parent unveiled a box of Christmas tricks to raise funds for local youngsters. Nicola Belcher made boxes full of goodies for Elf on the Shelf ideas and sold them to parents at Millbank Nursery and Portgordon Primary. A total of 767 pounds and 23 pence was raised from the venture. Mrs. Belcher said: "Folk were speaking about how they were running out of idea for their elf, so I decided to make up the boxes and sell them to raise funds for the new garden at the refurbished Millbank Nursery. I made 130 boxes for Millbank and 48 for Portgordon."

Author's fairytale story: A Buckie ex-pat has released a fairytale adventure book which all the family will enjoy. Author Karen Reid (53) always enjoyed reading fantasy and spiritual books as a child and was inspired by her own children to write her own tales. My Adventure with Fairies the story of a teenage girl who encounters fairies and has an exciting and thought-provoking adventure with her new found friends. Mystery, thrills, and spiritual gems will change reader's minds about how they view their own environment. Karen has lived in Buckie all her life and only recently moved to Spain. Karen said: "It was my lifelong love of writing that inspired me to write My Adventures with Fairies. I want to help youngsters to use their own imagination,"

Milne's drama gets audiences hooked: A Drama performance by first year pupils at Milne's High School Fochabers, sent a strong message warning of the dangers of drugs misuse. The Hooked musical, now in its seventh year, tells the story of Steve, who after a night out, has an out of body experience where he meets his conscience, Dev and Connie. They show Steve how dangerous drugs can be, trying to influence the decisions he makes. The acting is interspersed with dance routines and some catchy songs that deliver some hard hitting messages about drug misuse. Taking on the lead role of Steve was Hugh Allan. His good conscience was played by Rory Milne and Heidi Ferguson and the role of the bad was taken on by Ryan Coy and Katie Lyall. Librarian Kelly Dawson said: "the pupils have been working tirelessly over the last few weeks to produce the performance that was given to P7 pupils from Milne's, Mosstodloch and Lhanbryd and to family members."

Dec 6 **Rural stalwart Jessie takes national cloutie title:** Served with custard, ice cream or just a cup of tea, you can't beat a good cloutie dumpling. Proving that hers is the best in the nation, Jessie Low (81), a member of Arradoul WI, won the Anne Wallace sugar sifter trophy at the SWI national final of the small cloutie dumpling competition. Judges at the housewives' handicraft conference and exhibition held in Perth, judges gave Jessie's cloutie dumpling full marks, receiving 5/5 for appearance, 7/7 for texture and 8/8 for flavour. Jessie said: "I was just amazed to find out that I had won. It took me three and a half hours to make and it was a real difficult task as the competition rules stated that it was to measure no more than four inches. It was difficult to cut the recipe down to size."

The Anne Wallace sugar sifter trophy made its way to Arradoul Rural in 2012 also when Coleen McKenzie received the top prize for her border tart, so they have reason to be very proud of their members.

Big win for Buckie Primary School: Millbank Primary School has been awarded a #12000 (pounds) donation which will be used to purchase state-of-the-art outdoor play equipment for the pupils to enjoy. Customers at Tesco stores in Buckie, Keith, Huntly, Banff, Turriff and Fraserburgh were asked to vote on three outdoor projects through the store's Bags for Help scheme, which distributes money raised from the 5p plastic bag charge. Millbank Primary took the top prize, with the Loft in Keith and Aden Country Park, Mintlaw finishing in second and third place, receiving #10.000 and #8000 (pound) respectively. Millbank Primary's acting deputy head Kirsty Moneagle said: "We were over the moon to learn we had won the top prize."

Milne's High School baker is a winner: A school cook rose to the challenge of a national baking competition. Diane McIntosh took the second prize in the final of the Big School's Bake Off Scotland competition. She impressed the judges with her delicious spiced carrot and orange muffins. School cooks across the country were set the task of developing and producing a homebaked product suitable for school meals which met with Scottish Government criteria. Diane said: "The competition was exciting and great fun. It was well worth entering. "To reach the final we had to develop a product, complete with costings and meeting all the required criteria. It was at the final stage that we had to bake it. She was presented with a kitchen aid mixer, #50 (pounds) voucher and a signed copy of Jo Wheatley, winner of the Great Britain Bake Off in 2011 and a Big School Bake Off apron.

Picture of the week in the Advertiser was a photo of the Craigmint Bridge taken by Allan Fraser some years ago with a camera lent by Jack Johnston then proprietor of the Banffshire Advertiser. The shot was taken from the surface of the Letter burn before the vegetation was less rank than it is today.

Portknockie is lit up: Portknockie celebrated the start of the Christmas Festivities when its lights display was switched on last Saturday night. There was excitement in the village as not one but three primary school youngsters got the opportunity to switch them on. Logan Bowler, Lauren Cowie and Alex Farquhar had the honour of illuminating the display in the Millennium garden. A new feature of the display this year is a traditional Nativity scene which is an attractive addition to the garden. The Nativity is floodlit at night which makes a fantastic scene with the darker nights.

Mither Tongue is alive: Youngsters from Buckie and surrounding communities proved that the mither tongue is still alive and thriving when they competed in a Doric poetry competition. The Buckie Blethers primary school's Doric competition now in its third year, saw P6 -7 pupils take to the stage at Buckie High School to recite their poems to an audience of parents. Judges Iren Manson and Hazel Lister had the difficult task of choosing the winners from a strong entry. The winning written poem was by Courtney Clamp, from Cluny Primary School in second place, also from Cluny Primary was Finlay Wood and Edin Wojcik from Portessie was third. In the reciting category the winner was Brodie Hutcheson from St Peter's. The points were close and in second place were Zara Gill and Robbie Gauld, both from Cluny

Primary. In third place was Eve Walker from Millbank. Helen Sandison, chairwoman of Buckie Blethers said: "The standard of the poems was excellent. It is not easy to learn a whole poem but the pupils did really well."

Dec 13 **Charities get donations from Choir:** Four local groups were singing the praises of a Buckie choir after thousands of pounds in donations were handed out last week. Buckie Community Choir's sell out concert on Friday evening saw £500 cheques handed out to 1st company Buckie boys' Brigade, the Teddy Bear Development Playgroup, Crossreach Counselling Moray and the Buckie Seamen's Memorial Chapel. The funds were raised over the course of the year through the choir's concerts and coffee mornings. Choir leader Jane Murray said: "This year we decided to let our audiences decide who the money should go to and we asked them to vote at our performances. We're delighted to be able to support more local organisations again. This is the third year we've been donating to good causes, with the first year seeing us give £1500." Although Buckie Community Choir are currently full to capacity they have always promoted an inclusive approach, with the focus on the group members enjoying themselves and bringing joy to others through their performances. The choir have members drawn from all walks of life as well as seeking to attract those from a wide range of age groups.

A brew up for a record: Fifteen staff members from Buckie Tesco are getting their urns at the ready as they prepare to make an attempt on the record for the longest ever coffee morning. All Saints Church Hall will be the venue for the bold bid, which is set to get underway at 12.30pm this Thursday and run through until 12.30pm on Saturday. One of those set to make gallons of tea and a raft of buttered pancakes is the store's community champion Sam Thomson. She said: "We had originally planned to hold an event where we invited along elderly folk and others who might want a bit of company at this time of year for a pancake and cuppa. Things grew from there and we became interested by the chance of going for the record at the same time, so our coffee morning went from two or three hours to 48."

Market fun for lights switch on: A touch of Victoriana heralded the festive season in Portgordon at the weekend. Saturday afternoon saw the centre of the village turned into a Victorian Christmas market from 1pm as the excitement built ahead of the Christmas lights switch on at 3.20pm.. Stall holder peddling a wide range of wares, including art, jewellery, gifts, scented candles and food items to name but a few could be found in both the square and village hall. The hall also played host to two demonstrations of turning fleece wool into wool by Sheeley Jones from Touchwood creations. Ms Jones was left impressed by the inaugural market event. Little Iantha Mitchell had the honour of switching on the lights.

I'll take your used stamps: A Buckie youngster is to continue her fundraising efforts on behalf of an arthritis charity. Cluny Primary pupil Kaydee Cowie (9) is for the third year running collecting used stamps for the Scottish Network for Arthritis Children.. her efforts have so far raised £404.77 for the organisation. Kaydee is only too familiar with arthritis as her mum Fiona

explained" She has juvenile idiopathic arthritis , which affects her knees and uveitis which is eye inflammation which can lead to blindness.

Top honour for Buckie seaman: Over two decades of dedication to training young Royal Navy Reservists has seen a Buckie man honoured. Lt. Christopher Cameron has committed large swathes of his spare time over the last 24 years to the Royal Navy Reserve (RNR) unit at Bristol University, a commitment which saw him presented with a Certificate of Meritorious Service from the Lord Lieutenant of the County and City of Bristol Mary Prior MBE. The former Buckie High student and Aberdeen University graduate, who works for Babcock and also lectures for the MoD in electronic engineering, was left stunned at the news.

Dec 20 **Was it the longest lasting coffee morning?** A fifteen strong group from Buckie Tesco rolled up their sleeves ,put the kettle on and got buttering rollies from 12.30pm last Thursday through to the same time on Saturday in their bid to shatter the world's longest coffee morning record. It was also an opportunity to raise money for two good causes - Diabetes UK and the British Heart Foundation- with kind hearted visitors to the event held in the All Saints Church Hall weighing in with contributions of £1200 One of those battling the need for sleep to keep the coffee flowing was Buckie Tesco community champion who told the Advertiser:" It was really, really good, much better than any of us ever imagined it would be." It may be up to 12 weeks before the Tesco team hear from the Guinness Book of Records as to whether their bid was successful although Ms Thomson said she and her colleagues were" quietly Confident" they had done enough to be in with a realistic shout.

Buckie firefighters go fundraising : Members of the local team of firefighters as well as their festively decorated fire engine were to be seen on the streets of Buckie, Portessie, Findochty and Portgordon with their collecting buckets as they made their annual festive street collection. Said watch manager Alan Cruickshank : " Thanks to the generosity of local people we've raised £4000 from this year's street collection. This is up on last year's total of just over £3700." The cash raised will be divided between the Firefighter's Charity and local good causes.

Val is new Portknockie top citizen: Over two decades helping and encouraging youngsters in Portknockie has seen a local woman honoured by the village. The recent Christmas lights switch on event saw Val Donaldson presented with the John Addison Memorial Trophy for Citizen of the year.. The award was presented by Portknockie Community Council vice-chairman Andy Dewar. Mrs. Donaldson , who is a classroom assistant at the village primary school was handed the award for her tireless work with young children , not only at school but through the Portknockie Church of Scotland Sunday School and Thursday Club.

Wreath stolen at Portgordon: A wreath honouring those who gave their lives in the Merchant navy in two World Wars has been stolen in Portgordon.

Donated by Alistair Rhind and his wife Katrina, the wreath was laid at the recent Remembrance Sunday service in the village. The shocking discovery was made by Portgordon Post chairwoman Pringle George and her husband Mike.

Dec 27 **Friends of Seafield- Hospital** As the members of the Friends led by chairman Alistair Robson paid their annual visit to the hospital to hand out presents to the patients they came in with much praise from the staff for supplying an amazing amount of equipment over the course of the year. Included in the #27,000 contribution were pressure mattresses, three Innov8 beds, patient handling equipment and bedside units. Senior charge nurse Jim Brown described the Friends' efforts on behalf of Seafield as amazing. "It's been just astonishing what the Friends have done, really amazing," he told the Advertiser. "Not only have they given us everything we've asked for, they've insisted we get the top of the range equipment.. "It makes a huge difference to the quality of life for our patients – it's difficult to express fully in words just how much this generosity has meant for us here." Mr. Robson said he was delighted that the donations had made such a positive impact. He continued; "The money to pay for the equipment came from the generosity of the community so it's only right it should go back to benefit the community.

Christmas Day at the Riverside Church: For the fifth consecutive year Riverside Christian Church offered an afternoon of food, fun and friendship for a total of 60 people of all ages. The team of volunteers, drawn from a number of churches in the area, were kept busy serving festive fare before keyboard player Linda Sandison took centre stage to provide some Christmas themed entertainment and the opportunity to sing along to carols. Riverside's Pastor John Coppard said: "It was wonderful and we welcomed people of all ages from teens right up to an 88 year old along for Christmas Day. Everyone seemed to thoroughly enjoy it and it was a very successful day overall. It couldn't have happened without all of the volunteers, including a team from Buckie Tesco, a guy who cycled all the way from Lossie to help in the kitchen and another lady who came from Duffus, I'd also like to thank those who donated food - all of our food was donated - or helped. This has definitely encouraged us to hold another event next Christmas

French connection made at Fochabers: The Auld Alliance between Scotland and France is alive and well at Milne's High School thanks to Si Modern Languages students. A link has been forged between the school and the College Jean Rostrund near the French city of Bordeaux and the youngsters have been busy sending over information not only about themselves but also about Scottish culture and heritage. The scheme is the brainchild of PT Modern Languages teacher Lynsey Lyall who joined the Milne's team in November 2015 and soon set about creating links with a range of businesses across the north in order to demonstrate the practical applications of learning a language as well as bringing the subject to life in real situations. Finding the class topic a bit dull, Ms Lyall had the initial idea of creating a video about Milne's and sharing it with a partner school across the Channel.

Tributes paid to veteran of fire service: Four decades of selfless service to the local community was honoured at Fochabers Fire Station. Watch manager James Kilpatrick(65) finished his last shift on December 10 to bring the curtain down on his four decades as a retained firefighter at the station. Along with the certificate he received colleagues past and present gave Mr. Kilpatrick a sendoff to remember as he contemplates a life not being at the beck and call of his fire service pager. He said:” It’ll be a big change - fire’s been my life for quite a long time now. We are right in the middle between Elgin, Buckie and Keith and if they need an extra engine then we will go out to them I wont miss getting up in the middle of the night to go out and find an automated fire alarm has gone off but I will miss the camaraderie and the craic with the boys.”