

2018

Jan 2

Honours for Buckie couple: There was a shock in store when two letters arrived recently for 1st Company Buckie BB Captain Alan McIntosh and his wife Jenny stating both of them were to be awarded the British Empire Medal (BEM) in the Queen's new year's honour's list. They are the only BEMs to be awarded in the Banffshire area. They have the unusual distinction of receiving the same award at the same time for identical reasons; their combined BB service of almost 100 years landing them the royal recognition

Zoe Geddes Memorial Trophy: Marl Gauld was the winner of the Geddes Memorial Trophy. It was presented to her by Zoe's Mum, Christine Geddes. The trophy is awarded annually to the most outstanding participant in the Buckie Thistle, girls' team in memory of the youngster who lost her battle with leukemia in 2011 aged 13. Also Present were Zoe's sisters Amy and Leah.

Warm Welcome for all at Riverside: For the sixth year running, Buckie Riverside Church opened their doors and arms wide to both individuals and couples who might otherwise have been alone on Christmas Day. There was a record turnout of people at the event, said Pastor John Coppard, who led a dedicated team of volunteers in putting on a three course meal plus entertainment. He said that 71 people came along on the day, the highest number ever. It was a first in other ways too; we did some home deliveries to people who wanted to come but couldn't make it and we also provided transport for those who needed help getting to church. Joining the serving team of volunteers were three volunteers from Buckie Tesco store – Shareen Gauld, Billy Craib and Michael Elliot. Tesco also offer support to the Riverside Church through the year with food for our soup and sweets.

Volunteers from as far afield as Forres and Duffus, joined members of Riverside Church. Those attending were treated to a feast of melon or broth, followed either by turkey with all the trimmings or a vegetable option, polished off with Christmas pudding and custard or trifle.

Firefighters collect bumper festive haul: The Christmas spirit of goodwill to all was out in force to meet Buckie's firefighters as they undertook a record breaking festive collection for charity. Stretching over two extra evenings this year, the retained team from Buckie fire station could be seen in the streets of the town, plus Portgordon and Findochty collecting cash for the Firefighters' Charity and other good causes in the local area. They were also collected over the course of two days at Buckie Tesco store as well as in Cluny Square and going round the pubs in the town. Their endeavors were to reap a handsome reward when the takings were counted, coming to an impressive £5387. Watch manager Alan Cruickshank told the Advertiser: "The total is around £100 up on last year and I think that's our biggest ever. People have been really generous, especially at a time when money is still tight for a lot of people."

Cash from last year's fund-raising efforts went to a diverse range of good causes in addition to the Firefighter's Charity, these included Buckie Christmas Lights, Portgordon Primary PTA, Findochty Christmas Lights and Millbank Primary special needs unit to name but a few.

Jan 9

Future of Fishermen's Hall? Passion, dedication and hard work, with these qualities, a packed public meeting was told, that the Fishermen's Hall in Buckie can be saved from closure. With the closure of the hall, as well as others across Moray, mooted in Moray Council's cost-cutting budget consultation, local community groups and individuals alike turned out in their droves to Buckie Community Theatre Group's Logie's Lane premises on Thursday evening to hear how the facility could be saved from the axe. Leading the meeting was Glen Campbell from the Theatre Group, who urged a united effort to secure the Fishermen's Hall's place "at the centre of our community."

Breach in

quayside, including a historic bollard, hangs precariously on the rim of the huge hole and is in danger of falling into the sea. The sea wall had been breached by previous bad weather with a contract already awarded before this latest damage occurred. Work was about to begin on Monday of this week.

Baby Harry

weighing 9lbs 8oz. Proud first time parents Amy Coull and Craig Ferguson, from Portessie, described the baby as "perfect". Baby Harry had been due on Christmas Day but held on to make his grand entrance. He has since made national headlines and is believed to be the UK's first baby of the year.

BBs on s

occasion, which saw not only a musical celebration of the festive season but the company's 70th anniversary honoured. Guest of honour for the evening was the Lord Lieutenant of Banffshire Clare Russell, who was accompanied by her husband Oliver. She was to read out Loyal Greetings from the Queen and later presented a framed copy to Company Captain Alan McIntosh.

Choir give

Choir were Buckie North Church Restoration Fund, Cullen Parish Church Restoration Fund, Buckie MS, and Alba Road Sensory Garden. A spokeswoman for the choir said: "We're delighted to have been able to again give donations to local good causes. Since we first formed four years ago we've now given away £10,000. Starting life with just 18 members Buckie Community Choir now boasts a total of 90 singers from all walks of life."

Jan 16

Harbour Log: Things were more or less back to normal at Cluny Harbour last week with six fishing boats putting to sea and returning to land their catches, which in total comprised 107 boxes of fish, prawns and squid together with 17 bags of scallops. The boats were, Summerton, Chloe Ella, Amaryha, Orkla, Alta and Saltire. No cargo vessels called.

January Newsletter: The latest newsletter of 1st Company Buckie Boys' Brigade included the following item. 'Jenny and Alan McIntosh would like to take this opportunity to say a sincere thanks for the cards, telephone calls, facebook entries, e-mails and many congratulations shown to both of us, even going along the 'town' Spey Bay hall, which has recently been refurbished, is struggling to stay open with only four members left to help run the facility on our recent BEM Awards. A huge thanks to all boys, parents, friends, helpers and of course officers who have all had a contribution in making these awards happen, We extend a very Happy New Year to all.'

BB's Five-a-side tourney: 1st Company Buckie Boys Brigade senior football squad made the best of home advantage to cruise into the finals of the Scottish five-a-side cup. The

games were played in the High School hall. The squad comprising Innes McKay, Finlay McKay, Brodie Christie, Tommie Marandola, Jay Flett, Evan Smith and Jamie Wood, won five games and drew one as they finished the day top of their group. Coach, Malcolm Smith said: "All the lads played extremely well and their commitment and sportsmanship was excellent. They had some really tough games but the fact that they finished undefeated is testament to their skill and character. I'm really delighted for the lads and once again they were a credit to themselves and to Buckie."

Coffee Mornings: With organisations holding fund-raising coffee/ tea mornings one is assured that the New Year is back in the swing, with two such events taking place on Saturday first. The Guild of Buckie South and West Church will be in their own hall while Buckie Bowling Club will hold theirs in the Episcopal Church Hall. Both events will run from 9.30am until 11.30am. There will be the usual sales tables with tickets costing £2.50.

Keswick in Buckie: A Winter Weekend Convention will be held in the Buckie Baptist Church on Friday, Saturday and Sunday 19 until 21 January 2018; commencing each night at 7.30pm; the speaker to be Rev. Dominic Smart, Aberdeen. All welcome.

Friends have help at Seafield: The Friends of Seafield Hospital made their usual rounds of the wards of the hospital at Christmas handing out their presents to those unfortunate enough to be in hospital then. This year, the members of the Friends including chairman Alistair Robson and long time member Betty Gauld had two members of staff from the TSB also a teacher from Cluny Primary School who brought along six pupils, three boys and three girls to help out. They went round the wards handing out presents and wishing patients Merry Christmas as they did so. It was noticeable how delighted patients, especially the ladies were to see the children, and it really made their day.

Another record for Harry: All in all it has been quite a year for young Harry Ferguson. Born at Dr Gray's Hospital in Elgin, a mere seconds into the new year, making him the UK's first baby of 2018, the Portessie baby has now claimed the accolade of Britain's youngest library member. While a sleepy Harry (a picture in the Advertiser shows him with his mouth wide open as he yawns) was registered at the Registrar's Office in Elgin by proud parents, Amy Coull and Craig Ferguson, he was also to benefit from the membership-at-birth library scheme, an initiative pioneered by Moray Council. Every child born in the region is automatically issued with a library card.

Jan 23

Harbour Log: Poor sea conditions had a measured effect on the number of fishing boats that went to sea to return to land their catches. The only one to venture out was the Saltire, which landed 11 boxes of fish, prawns and squid.

One cargo vessel paid a call. The M.V. Lyrika, registered in Lithuania came in on January from Hamburg with a cargo of malt weighing 2204.020 tonnes on board. She left again two days later, light, for the North Sea to await further orders.

Awards Available: The Banffshire branch of the NFU Scotland has a fund available to provide an annual award for individuals who wish to develop their agricultural knowledge. This can take the form of study, travel, research, etc. These awards are only open to applicants from Banffshire. Application forms are available from the Trustees, NFU Office, Ground Floor Mansfield House, Keith. Telephone 01542 882884. All forms must be returned by Monday, February 5, 2018.

Hall group make plans: The fighting spirit shown at a recent public meeting to save the Fishermen's Hall in Buckie from potential closure has sparked the formation of a committee aiming to take it into community ownership. Buckie Community Theatre Group's hall on Logie's Lane was packed out with local groups and interested individuals on January 4 to hear how a Community Asset Transfer could see the Buckie building escape the axe being wielded by Moray Council as it seeks to make £18 million worth of budget savings over the next year. Almost 100 people gathered on January 14 in the Fishermen's Hall for the inaugural meeting of the Friends of the Fishermen's Hall committee.

Joining Glen Campbell as chairman on the committee were vice chairman Alan Taylor, treasurer (vacant), secretary Linda Sherman and committee members, Juli Harris, Stephen Scott, Alison Durno, Mike Coull and Laura Campbell.

Jan 30

Harbour Log: Strong winds resulting in rough sea conditions once again last week played a major part in determining the number of fishing boats that ventured out from Cluny harbour. An intrepid trio, the Arrow, Saltire and Chloe Ella however did so, to return to land 101 boxes of fish, prawns and squid. Two cargo vessels paid a visit. The first to arrive being the British registered MV Victress that came in from Kilroot on January 21 carrying a cargo of rock salt weighing 2234.780. She had a quick turn about leaving the following day, light, for Ipswich. Thursday saw the second of the week the MV Derk, registered in the Netherlands, arrive from Rotterdam her cargo being 2700.000 tonnes of Soya/Wheatfeed. It was estimated that she would leave on Friday afternoon bound for the North Sea to await further orders.

Burns remembered: The anniversary of the birthday of Scotland's national poet Robert Burns was celebrated at Linn Coort, Home on Thursday afternoon last when a party of twenty men and women, consisting of residents and members of the weekly Lunch Club were royally catered for by the chef and other members of staff. The Selkirk Grace was well delivered by Nan Lawrence before all partook of a plate of cocky-leekie soup followed by the traditional meal of haggis, neeps and tatties helped down with a choice of wine or other drinks and then ending with a slab of cloutie dumpling or adorned shortcake. A dram of the crater was then enjoyed, being drunk after a resident gentleman gave a most appropriate toast 'To The Lassies'.

From 2pm until 4pm, Ann Lindsay of 25 Chanory Road Elgin (Mob. 07775456229), provided musical entertainment on the piano accordion. Ann was making her first visit to the Linn Coort but does play at different venues in Elgin. She played a wide selection of tunes, from those associated with Burns and her own choice to those asked for by her audience, ranging from fast to slow tempo. People showed how much they enjoyed the music, clapping their hands and singing cheerfully when they recognised the tunes. Ann's playing of the tune the Dark Island one thought was truly superb. The afternoon ended with tea or coffee being served and either shortbread or a piece of dumpling. There was universal agreement that it had been a most enjoyable afternoon all round.

The Kirk Shoppie to Close: The Kirk Shoppie that has operated from hall stage of the North Church since 2014 will again be open on Friday, February 2 from 10am until 4pm but this will be the last time. After a lot of discussion, it has reluctantly been decided to close down from this date. Since the Shoppie opened £2800 has been shared between Buckie North and Rathven churches. Sincere thanks are extended to the volunteers who have worked in the Shoppie and to all the customers who have supported it.

Feb 6

Children's park group awarded a monetary grant of £20,768, 60: A group striving to transform an area of wasteland in Buckie into a new playpark has been handed a five figure boost from Moray Council's Developer Obligation Fund. (The area can be notoriously wet and those of us who were members of Buckie Community Council many years ago may remember how Roy Shepherd had the same object in mind but this was turned down by Moray Council on these grounds.) One wishes the group well but one has to wonder what changes have taken place for the powers that be deem it to be a viable proposition now

No Charity Harbour Walk this year: Landslips have put paid to major Buckie fundraiser due to take place later this year. The organisers of the Six Harbour Walk and Cycle, which has attracted participants from far and wide, including abroad, have been forced to pull the plug on the event after landslips have rendered many sections of the path between Portsoy and Buckie impassable. The walk, which is organised and run by the Rotary Club of Buckie has become a firm favorite in the local calendar since it was first held in 1999.

Sheep killed by dogs near Drybridge: The police were informed that four sheep had died with a number of others injured after being worried, it is believed, by dogs. The loss of the sheep, pregnant ewes, not to mention vet's fees for those injured means a considerable financial loss to the farmer.

Feb 13

A great loss for Buckie: A Buckie charity stalwart whose passion was helping others is being mourned after his sudden passing. There was shock in the community when Bill Greig died last Tuesday aged 73. For the past 16 years, Mr Greig had been a stalwart member of the Rotary Club of Buckie and over the years became synonymous with the Six Harbour Walk and Cycle, of which he was convener for many years and the Rotary Christmas Post. The former event has raised more than £300,000 over the past two decades for a host of good causes, local and national. He was also the serving club's president, having previously held the post over 2013 - 14

Summer show organisers confirm it has been cancelled: Buckie Summer Show has emerged as the second major event in the town that will not go ahead this year. The event, which has been held around the beginning of May since 2015, has joined the Six Harbour Walk in stepping back from this year's calendar. The summer show in the centre of the town drew in crowds from far and wide with a mix of stalls, entertainment and popular displays of vintage cars, bikes and tractors. The Six Harbour Walk added to the mix when they decided to tie in with the show, with participants finishing at Cluny Square as opposed to the harbour. Chris Bremner, who was involved with organising the vintage tractor display said: "We've been linked with the Six Harbour Walk and it's worked very well, so when we heard that wasn't happening this year we thought we should maybe take a year out and look at what we should do next year. There has been a number of factors involved in the decision."

High School video follows the plan: Students from Buckie Community High School have produced a film exploring the planning issues they will experience in the coming years. The group of six senior geography and modern studies students looked at a range of issues including affordably housing and public housing. The film is now being shown at

a series of public exhibitions being run by Moray Council on how the area will develop over the next decade. Creation of the video was overseen by geography teacher Kate Murray and the pupils were briefed on the Local Development Plan by Moray Council planning officers. The film features images and photos captured by pupils as well as drone footage from Buckie-based Slater Sports.

Car Show hit helps charity: The success of a record-breaking classic car show in Buckie has driven an increase in donations to a north-east cancer charity. There were more vehicles and visitors at the August Buckie Classic Car Show than ever before and that additional interest translated into sales of its 2018 calendar providing a £1280 boost to the charity clan. The A3-sized silk and satin finished calendars were sold at £10. Recently a master cheque for this amount was presented to Clan cancer services, area manager Tracy Sellar, by Classic Car Show members, Steve Thornton, John Clark, Pene Huggins, Ian Wilson and John Thomson.

Feb 20

Dismay as festive Kracker is axed: Shock has greeted news that the Buckie Christmas Kracker, for six years a stalwart of the area festive scene, has been cancelled. The volunteer run organising committee announced last week that negative feedback from the 2017 event had forced them to take a step back and shelve the extravaganza planned for this year.

A digger crash awakens the neighbours: There was a rude awakening for householders in Land Street, Buckie early on Sunday morning when an industrial digger type vehicle crashed into two properties. The impact left the digger “embedded right up to the cab” at around 5am on Sunday morning according to one resident, with rubble strewn in front of the building. Two families were temporarily rehoused in St Andrews’s Court, with a third staying with relatives. A 30-year-old man has been arrested in connection with the smash and is set to appear in Elgin Sheriff Court to face a variety of road traffic charges.

The Fishermen’s Hall: A community group hoping to save Buckie’s Fishermen’s Hall from closure have officially begun the Community Asset Transfer process. The newly formed Friends of the Fishermen’s Hall Association have sent a letter of intent to Moray Council formally expressing their desire to bring this facility into community ownership

Feb27

Lady Cathcart Community Centre (former school): Plans to transform the former school which has been a community centre now for many years into a modern nursery school for local youngsters have left the drawing board with work commencing on the project. Moray based contractors, Darroch and Allan started on Monday to transform the building. Work will take place over a six-month period and includes the installation of new changing facilities, development of a family room and specialist provision for children with additional support needs. An outdoor learning area, space for messy play and modern garden will also be created as part of the £672,000 investment being delivered by Moray Council.

Son will make a gruelling tribute to his dad: A Buckie offshore worker will embark on a gruelling charity ride in memory of his dad and other people who died on the Piper Alpha oil rig almost 30 years ago. Stuart Cowie, accompanied by fellow members of the Moray Cycling Racing team hope to make the 200 mile trip from John o’ Groats to Buckie in a day. Proceeds from the endeavor are to go ‘Pound for Pound’ charity, which funds the

maintenance of the Piper Alpha memorial and rose garden in Hazelhead Park, Aberdeen. It will be a poignant ride for Mr Cowie (36) whose dad William (33) was one of the 167 men who died when the Piper Alpha rig exploded on July 6, 1988, in what remains the world's worst offshore disaster. Mr Cowie said: 'This is very personal for me, very special; I consider our family one of the lucky ones in that dad's body was found and we could bury him. £1000 was raised in just 17 hours after his JustGiving page was opened on Facebook.

Buckie Boys Brigade: The year 2017 was a special year for the 1st Company Boys' Brigade when a number of events took place all well covered by the Banffshire Advertiser, in this issue are copies of pictures taken of all sections of the Company; hard copies of these are sure to be treasured for a long time by those who appear in them.

Success for footballers of the BB's: The cup of joy was definitely running over for Buckie Boys' Brigade, senior football squad when they captured the National Five a Side trophy. Saturday, February 10 saw an even strong squad head for Grangemouth Sports Centre to see if they could land the silverware and book a place in the UK finals. Representing 1st Buckie were bothers Finlay and Innes McKay, Brodie Christie, Jay Flett, Evan Smith, Jamie Wood and Tommie Marandola. They were accompanied by officers Gordon Pirie and Malcolm Smith.

March 6

Some Crossing Patrollers to be cut: As a cost cutting exercise Moray Council aim to cut the number of Patrollers who see children safely across the streets. Among the Buckie area schools to feel the effects of the measures are Cluny, Millbank and Findochty primaries. Needless to say the plans have not been welcomed by parents of the schools affected who see their schools as being targeted.

The 'Beast from the East': The so called storm that emanated from Siberia and eastern Europe creating low temperatures and dumping uncommonly masses of snow on parts of Britain didn't miss the local area completely, but here the depth of snow varied quite significantly. Portknockie seemed to be more affected compared to Buckie with Elgin even less so while Lossiemouth experienced strong winds and an appreciable amount of snow was perhaps the worst affected, according to all reports. There was no wind in Buckie nor had there been for over a week past or more so there was no drifting here.

Rogue roofer's £30k OAP fraud: A roofer was said to have done such a bad job of two homes he actually made them worse for their elderly owners. The fraudster, with a postal address in Lochgelly charged nearly £30,000 for the substandard work. The person was going from door to door in Buckie touting for work when he met a couple in their 80s who were worried about broken tiles on the roof of their home in Highfield Road. He, together with three other men did other work which was sub stand and away over any reasonable charge. Two people, one, a woman suffering from dementia were well out of pocket as they had to pay to have the work properly fixed. Sentence was deferred until the end of March for the defense team to have an independent survey done to value the work.

Fochabers ice-cream shop wins for a third time: The Ice Cream Parlour on the High Street has struck gold again as its Belgian chocolate ice cream has been voted best in the UK for the third time. Owner, Sheila Gray spoke about how stunned she felt on discovering that she was national champion once again. People do seem to like it and

come from far and near to buy it even as far as Aberdeen and Inverness. I hope we are helping to put the village on the map.

St Peter's hails award: St Peter's Primary have plenty reasons to smile about of late after being honoured with a silver award as part of 'Unicef Rights Respecting School' scheme. The school, which has been working hard since becoming a rights respecting school in 2016 has now gained its silver status, with children being told during the school assembly a couple of weeks ago. It is part of a campaign by Unicef which works with schools throughout the UK to create safe and inspiring places to learn with children being respected, where talent is nurtured and pupils are able to thrive.

Mar 13

Village unites to save vital resource: The people of Cullen turned up en masse to discuss the transfer of the ownership of the village's community and residential centre from Moray Council. The centre, along with other community centres and halls across Moray face the axe as part of local authority budget cuts.

Politicians give backing group their backing for Bid: Douglas Ross,MP and Councillor Tim Eagle met with Alan Taylor and Linda Sherman, vice chairman and secretary of the Friends of the Fishermen's Hall recently. They heard from Mr Taylor the hurdles facing the CAT bid and were presently waiting for the Council to provide figures on running costs for the hall. He also told the two politicians about the groups that use the hall on a regular basis. Mr Taylor said the hall enjoyed a mix of users, from weekly hires such as the Ball group and the bowlers through to events held on less frequent basis, plus commercial hires. He said: 'We're not wearing any rose-tinted spectacles but we believe we can develop and improve the Fishermen's Hall.'

The last of the Zulus: A major milestone in local fishing history has weighed anchor in Buckie much to the joy of Buckie Fishing Heritage Centre Ltd. Less than a month before the centre is to open for summer. It has pulled off a coup in securing a model of the zulu fishing boat Muirmeag SY486, one of the last of her class to be built in the Buckie area. Heritage Centre, secretary Adam Robertson said: 'We're delighted to get the model, it's something of an honour and great privilege. The model was made by a retired gentleman, Peter Rogers, who resides in Orpington, Kent and he basically wanted to find a suitable home for her. It was a toss up between Buckie or a museum in Lewis with Buckie having certain attributes which swung things in its favour.'

Mar 20 Missing

Mar 27

Dog poo on Merson Park: A Buckie park has been left 'like a minefield' with dog's poo forcing a youth football club to play their games elsewhere. Coaches at Buckie Thistle Football Development have been left with no option but to pay to use the town's all weather pitch after discovering their usual venue of Merson Park had been left strewn with dog faeces. The Development coach and child and well being and protection officer Mhairi Robertson told the Advertiser 'The park is just disgusting at the moment; this is the worst it's ever been'.

More money to form play park: Well Road Play Park Committee were left celebrating when Buckie Common Good Fund announced they were awarding a grant worth £10,000

to the project, which is striving to turn an area of wasteland behind Well Road into a modern play facility for youngsters. The award follows grants from Moray Council's Developers Obligations Fund in January worth a total of £21,741,17, the latest cash boost pushing the committee over the halfway mark towards their £60,000 target. Committee chairwoman Rachel Cormack told the Advertiser, 'we're delighted to receive this, we're grateful to the Common Good Fund and the councillors for sanctioning this.'

Rathven Industrial Estate: The first phase of a £1.7 million project to develop Rathven Industrial Estate has been unveiled. Involving the construction of roads and service infrastructure to service the 27 acres of commercial sites for sale and lease, and the building of the first industrial unit is designed to support new and existing businesses in east Moray as well as the regeneration of Buckie harbour and the servicing of the planned offshore wind farms in the Moray Firth. A further 22 acres, acquired as part of the overall site is earmarked for more industrial space in the future.

Apr 3

Christmas Kracker: The yule time extravaganza which was in serious danger of not taking place this year because of adverse criticism will, it is understood, take place but only if the committee receive support from local businesses and the wider community. That was the stark warning last Thursday when the Buckie Christmas Kracker committee announced that the eagerly awaited festive event, which draws thousands of people into the town will go ahead in November.

Apr 24

He had a big stash of child porn images: A paedophile from Buckie has been caught with more than half a million indecent images of children. Xxxx Xxxx had spent eight years amassing his warped collection, which also included videos depicting extreme sexual acts with youngsters. These films had a total running time amounting to nearly five days,

Spey Bay hall future in balance :A community hall is under threat of closure if more members do not join the committee. Spey Bay hall, which has recently been refurbished, is struggling to stay open with only four members left to help run the facility

From the archives:The new Speybay hall which is to be opened on the 3rd September 1930 by the Duchess of Richmond and Gordon will be celebrated with a grand bazaar. The hall, which cost £1,600 to build and was completed in 3 months. The contractors were, Builders A.Milne and Sons, Buckie; Carpenters, A. and J. Slorach, Fochabers; Plumbers and Slaters, J.Barclay and Son, Buckie; Plasterer, George Packman, Buckie; Painters, R.Duncan and Son, Buckie, Heating, J and T.Campbell, Buckie.

From the Banffshire Advertiser of 26 January 1933 one could read 'A dance had been scheduled to take place in the Speybay Hall in aid of St Ninian (Tynet) Church Building Fund. Music to be supplied by Bill Geddes' Band.

A bus will run from Buckie at a fare of 1/-(The hall, which had only been opened three years before however was burned down this week to leave only a shell standing).

May 8

Generous gift for 1st Company Buckie Boys' Brigade: The Company were more than pleasantly surprised to receive a present of a £40,000 mini bus courtesy of local businessman Charles Milne, who owns Regency Car Sales in the town. In addition to handing over the bus, he also paid to have the vehicle road taxed and insured for three years. The surprise generous gift was welcomed by all connected with the Company especially so after pulling out all the stops to win a competition where the prize was a new minibus only ultimately to lose out after collecting nearly ten percent of the total amount of tokens. In an agreement with Mr Milne and the BB's, Buckie Cricket Club will have the use of the minibus for away matches when it is not being used by the BB's.

Fishermen's Hall: The campaign to take the Fishermen's Hall over has proceedings now under way for the group to take over the lease of the hall next month ahead of their Community Asset Transfer. The Friends of the Fishermen's Hall Association confirmed that following a meeting with Moray Council the previous day proceedings were now under way for the group to take over the lease of the hall next month ahead of their Community Asset Transfer bid.

Buckie Rovers score with cash grant: A cash boost from an offshore wind farm community fund has provided Buckie Rovers FC with the spark needed to begin a major revamp of the club pavilion. SSE Beatrice Partnership Fund has handed the McBookie .Co. Division west £6000, with two projects earmarked for the cash, as club chairman explained. 'Our first priority is to revamp the kitchen and bring it fully up to modern standards. This will include putting in a new serving hatch. Also we are looking to put up a small enclosure at the side of the ground for the supporters to shelter. You're very exposed here when the weather's bad, so it'll be nice to get this in place. The award from SSE tops off a successful spell of fun-raising and sponsorship for the club. Tesco's Bags of Help scheme handed the Rovers £2000 for their training floodlight appeal while two very generous donations from Ian and Dawn Gauld, whose son Mikey is a Merson Park stalwart, have allowed the club to purchase two new sets of training goals as well as training tops for the squad.

May 15

Your Kracker needs you: Community urged to get involved with extravaganza or risk losing it. More people, more ideas and more input from businesses, these were the key planks of a new blue print for the Buckie Christmas Kracker thrashed out at a public meeting to discuss the future of the event.

Allan delves into the past: Teams by the name of Rovers have been feature of the Buckie football scene for many decades, and their contribution to local life has now been preserved for history in a brand new book. Allan Fraser, who has been actively involved with junior side Buckie Rovers since 1985, has just produced 'The Rovers F C - The Story of the Lilywhites', looking at the period between 1889 and 2016. Mr Fraser said: 'I've traced the history of the Rovers through various permutations, from its first mention in the Banffshire Advertiser in 1889 as Buckpool Rovers. Since then they have been known as Seatown Rovers or Ianstown Rovers, to mention another two.

Probus Club A. G. M. The Annual General Meeting of Buckie Probus Club took place recently in the Old Coachhouse Hotel. In his valedictory address outgoing chairman Alex Bruce spoke of his pride in fulfilling the role over the past 12 months going on to praise the support he had had from other office bearers and committee. He also paid tribute to the two members who had sadly passed away during the year - Bill Hunter and Jim Reid, on a

happier note however five new members have joined the ranks of the club. Taking over as chairman is Ronald Simm with Jim Hendry Smith as vice-chairman . Alex Fowler and Alex Smith, both agreed to continue in office as secretary and treasurer respectively with Alex Hay as auditor.

Cricket club to have use of minibus: An agreement has been reached between the Buckie Boys' Brigade, the donor of the minibus, Mr Charles Milne, Regency Car Sales and Buckie Cricket Club; this will see the cricket club having the use of the vehicle for away matches if not being needed by the Boys' Brigade.

May 22

First Buckie boat launch for a long time: Early on Thursday morning a new fishing boat, Caledonia III took to the water; the first Buckie registered and built boat in 30 years. The new vessel, which bears the number BCK 35 was built for local skipper, 46 year old Steven Clarke. He has followed on from his father who owned boats named Caledonia and Caledonia II. The boat was built by Macduff Shipyard who operate in Buckie from what was the former H & M. Shipyard.

Mr Clarke hopes that his new boat will be ready for fishing in July when he and his crew of eight intend to work in the West coast and land their catches at Scrabster.

People threatened by two rogue building 'tradesmen'. Two brothers Larry and Gerry Connors operating as Tayside Drives and Patios, appeared in Elgin Sheriff Court last week when they admitted a string of trading offences during 2015 including threatening to burn down the house of an old Cullen woman who refused to pay the money they demanded as their work was so sub standard.

Death of Hebbie Gray fiddle virtuoso: Tributes were paid by many, not least Buckie Community High School to the late Hebbie Gray of Keith who was known far and wide as a supreme exponent of the instrument (He was first taught to play the fiddle by well known music instructor of the time Kim Murray, Elgin, at the age of seven and he was probably one of the first to hear him play, as we were in the same class at the Green's School Keith, in 1937 when our teacher, Miss Gordon invited him to come and play.)

Hebbie began to play at the Christmas dances in Buckie High School in 1969 doing so each year through until 2014. A book of memories was opened specially in his honour. Hebbie died on May 11 at the age of 88. A Requiem Mass was held for him at St Thomas's R. C. Church in Keith last Thursday.

Local paedophile who amassed a 'horrendous' number of indecent images of children has been jailed for 22 months. Buckie man Bryan Reid appeared for sentencing in Elgin Sheriff Court last Thursday having previously pleaded guilty to possessing over half a million images, which he gathered over an eight year period. The 46 year old admitted possessing 521,000 indecent images, of which 5270 were of the most serious Category A. He also admitted having 1395 videos, of which 189 were category A.

May 29

Two years of hard work pays off: A two year community project to transform an overgrown wilderness into a historical viewpoint with stunning views over Cullen reached a conclusion on Sunday. The Cullen Past and Present Volunteer Group saw their hard work reach fruition with the unfurling of a new Royal Burgh of Cullen flag at Castle Hill by the Lord Lieutenant of Banffshire, Clare Russell. (report on page 1)

Work on the Keith to Aberdeen railway : As part of the multi million pound upgrade of the line a 14 week line closure between Dyce and Aberdeen is now in place to allow major improvements to take place, part of which will see a doubling of the track. While the work is taking place passengers will be taken from Dyce to Aberdeen by bus.

Bus gives Scouts a transport boost: A Moray youth group is revving up for an action packed summer after adding a second minibus to its fleet. The Fochabers Scouts raised more than £6000 to buy a reliable second-hand vehicle, with a further £3500 coming from the Gordon and Ena Baxter Foundation. The group has more than 90 members and transport is needed to travel to a wide range of activities. In addition, the bus is used by other Scouts from across Moray as well as around 25 other community groups and teams. With demand for transport increasing, they decided to start a fund-raising campaign and have now been able to secure a second vehicle.

June 5

Parro tribute: A sunshine celebration of football in Buckie was also a day when tribute was paid to a man who was passionate about grass roots football and his community. The annual Springbank tournament renamed for the day the David 'Parro' Findlay Memorial Football Tournament at Merson Park on Saturday, basked in glorious weather. David 'Parro' Findlay died unexpectedly in December while engaged in his work as an electrician. A heart attack was later said to have been responsible for his death

Cullen soldier laid to rest a century on: A decorated Cullen war hero from World War I has finally been laid to rest after his remains were discovered a century after he fell in combat.

Major Alexander Henderson Soutar MC was aged 30 when he lost his life in the third Battle of Ainslie as Allied troops fought desperately to repel the German spring offensive
(See report on page 3)

Bus service criticised: The bus service between Aberdeen and Elgin - the 35 - operated by Stagecoach came in for severe criticism from someone who uses the service on a regular basis. He slammed the firm for a litany of faults. The state of the vehicles was terrible, were for ever breaking down, running late or just not turning up.

New hope for Portknockie path: News that a popular path between Portknockie and Cullen badly damaged by flooding last year is to be repaired has been welcomed by Moray MP Douglas Ross. The path following the course of the former railway line has remained closed since landslips, which followed in the wake of heavy rain, made the route unsafe. Moray Council has pledged £1.74 million to fund urgent repair works and are coming together with Sunstrans to work out how they can repair or re-route the pathway.

June 12

Kevin saddles up for epic cycle ride: A Buckie dad is getting ready to cycle almost 1000 miles to raise cash for treatment and awareness of his daughter's rare neurological condition. September 8 will see offshore worker Kevin Addison (40) saddle up at Lands End as part of the Deloitte Ride Across Britain, which will take him and his 800 fellow riders 969 miles over nine days before finishing at John O' Groats on September 16. The inspiration for this mammoth endeavour is none other than his 20-month old daughter Demi, who suffers from a rare condition known as hemiplegia, a type of cerebral palsy

which has left her partially paralysed down her left side. Demi is one of only three under fives with the condition in Moray. The cyclists will be doing 100 miles a day for nine straight days, something which Kevin sees as one of the biggest challenges and something that he has been working on in training.

Harbour in line for cash boost: After years of languishing in the doldrums the economic future of Buckie harbour could well be looking up if an ambitious investment programme bears fruit. The town's three councillors have hailed the news that a six figure sum could be ploughed into the port, which, it is hoped, would benefit both fishing and other commercial vessels using the harbour, as well as attracting new boats to use the facility.

Horrors of Bosnia genocide laid bare: A Moray head teacher has endorsed a new education pack to help pupils learn the lessons of a mass genocide in Bosnia in the 1990s. Trish Cameron, of Milne's High School, said the resource would give young people a fresh perspective on what can happen when intolerance and prejudice takes hold. Many young Scots are unaware that more than 8000 people, mainly Muslim, men and boys, were killed in the town of Srebrenica by the Bosnian Serb Army in July, 1995, in one of the war's most infamous massacres. The education pack was produced by the Remembering Srebrenica Scotland charity, which is chaired by former Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, Very Rev. Dr Lorna Hood. Co-creating the education pack was Fiona Malcolm, a former principal teacher of History at Lossiemouth High School, who is now teaching in Polmont near Falkirk.

Buckie Radio is to tune into local talent in charity fundraiser: Radio Buckie is hoping to tune into some local talent at a fund-raising event at the end of the week. The evening of music and variety is set to get under way in Buckie Community High School's Highfield Hall in aid of Chest, Heart and Stroke Scotland in Moray. Leah Rossvoll, from Buckie Radio said 'We're really looking forward to our talent show-case, it's the first time we've done something like this and are really excited about it.'

June 19

Launch day for young boatbuilders: It was launch time at lunch time at Cullen Sea School for a group of Buckie High School students as they witnessed the fruits of their labours take to the waves. For the past few months four students from the school, Willow Daymond, Aiden Kennie, Joseph Mair and Callum Milne have been joined by Colin Ross from Opportunities for All in building the St Ayles skiff Canty. They were guided in their endeavours by retired shipwrights Bert Reid, Willie Henderson and John Wilson. The ceremony also saw the naming and launch of the sea school's very first mirror dinghy the Hope, which was built by Malcolm Hope and Norman Banks. The vessel was named by Marlyn Hope.

Phone used to film up lady's skirt: A Buckie man used a camera phone in his shopping basket to film under a woman's skirt while she was in a supermarket, a court was told. David Brien was shopping in the town's Lidl store when he carried out the recording. He was stopped when the woman's boyfriend realised what Brien was doing.

'Parro' would have been proud of Community Day: There was a poignant air at Buckie Community High School when this year's annual Community Alert Day got underway. The event saw P7 pupils from local primary schools make their way to BCHS for a varied day which aims to warn of the dangers of drink and drugs, while at the same time promoting healthy lifestyles.

It was the vision back in 2011 of Buckie football coach Dave “Parro” Findlay , who sadly passed away suddenly in December last year, and it was he who was very much in everyone’s thought’s last Tuesday

Catwalk cash boost for cancer: A Buckie man who won his personal battle with cancer has helped to raise over £125.000 for a north-east cancer support charity. Les Forman (59) known to many locally as the owner of Positive Appliance Testing, joined 23 others who had fought or are fighting the disease from the Brave catwalk event in aid of Friends of Anchor at Aberdeen’s Beach Ballroom on Friday, May 11. The Anchor unit at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary in the hospital’s cancer treatment facility which the Friends support in a number of ways, including providing items of equipment and comforts for patients, Les, who beat non-Hodgkins lymphoma in his sinus at the Anchor Unit told the Advertiser: ‘My wife spotted that the Friends were looking for people interested to take part in the second Brave Catwalk fund-raiser and filled in a form nominating me. Somehow I got selected and I’m glad I did. The event raised over £126.000 which is incredible, and I raised around £2400 thanks to the generosity of local people , businesses and customer.’

June 26

Merson Park Bid ‘just not fair on young footballers’: Moves to hold Peter Fair in Buckie’s Merson Park have provoked a wave of concern from groups who regularly use the popular facility. Horne’s Pleasure Fairs, who run the event, had applied to use the park after they deemed the traditional site at Rathven (Station) as no longer being fit for purpose and posing a health and safety risk.

The fears of those who are involved with primary aged kids fear that, were the big machinery be allowed to use the ground and that they damaged the ground (as had happened to the Linzee Gordon Park) that it hen the children, up to 200, would have nowhere to play.

Growth of new town nursery centre hailed: The progress of a scheme to massively increase the provision of Early Learning Childcare in Buckie has been hailed. At present the Lady Cathcart Centre in the town is undergoing a major upgrade and refurbishment programme to accommodate a new nursery complex which is due to be ready in August of this year.

Institute cash boost to take centre stage: A funding boost for Fochabers Public Institute has taken centre stage quite literally. The community run facility has been handed a grant to the tune of £10.000 by the National Lottery, which has been earmarked for improvement to the stage area. Gordon Christie, chairman of Fochabers Village Association Ltd said ‘We are delighted to get this award from the lottery which will help us upgrade the likes of the sound system, lights and backstage rooms.’

Arradoul ‘Rural’s’ 100th birthday. Two long-standing members Mrs. Bunty Turner and Mrs Charlotte Forbes are seen in a photograph on page 7 helping Linda Retson, Chairwoman of the SWI to cut the celebratory cake. Membership has decreased over the years in 1951 it was 150 now it is 30. Said President, Colleen McKenzie ‘This is actually very good for a small SWI like ours’. She added: ‘The SWI has changed a lot in 100 years, including changing format to become the Scottish Women’s Institute as opposed to being the Rural Institute. It originally started up as a meeting to allow rural ladies to get together but later on fishermen’s wives started coming so took in the town as well.’

French honour for Buckie D-Day hero: A Buckie Merchant Navy man has been granted one of France's highest honours for his role in the D-Day landings in June 1944. Captain John Smith, who is originally from Findochty but now lives in Hanover Court, Buckie, was just two days passed his 18th birthday when he headed for the beaches of Normandy on June 6, 1944, on a ship, the Clermiston, loaded with ammunition to help supply Allied troops at Omaha beach. Seventy-four years later, aged 92, Captain Smith has been appointed to the rank of Chevalier in the Order national de La Legion d'honneur for what the French embassy in London described as his 'steadfast' involvement in the liberation of France. The honour established by Napoleon in 1802, is the highest French award for military or civilian merits. News he had received the award was a poignant moment for Captain Smith - he had been nominated for it by his daughter Helen, but she had sadly passed away before his medal arrived.

July 3

New Chapter for Fishermen's Hall: The campaign to bring the Fishermen's Hall in Buckie into community ownership took a historic step forward on Sunday when the lease of the facility was formally signed over. Taking possession of the keys on behalf of the Friends of the Fishermen's Hall Association was the group's chairman Glen Campbell. It is the first hall in Moray to reach this stage on the journey to the ultimate goal of complete ownership through a Community Asset Transfer.

Ribbon cut at Milne's Nursery: There was a multimillion-pound summer bonanza in store for Milne's Primary School as it brought down the curtain on the school year. Friday saw the eagerly anticipated new nursery and classroom extension to the school officially declared open as the sun blazed down to top a perfect day. The energy-efficient building features solar panels, under floor heating and air conditioning which adjusts flows through the classrooms. It includes staff rooms, offices, and quiet time and ancillary facilities which will also support increased nursery provision. The next extension also provides space for a multi-agency base room and links directly to the main school. By hosting two state-of-the-art school classrooms, it is hoped the close proximity of the primary and two nurseries, one council run, the other from a private service provider will make the step up to P1 an easier transition for pre-school youngsters.

There was a special moment to savour for two Milne's Primary School pupils when they cut the ribbon to officially open the £3 million extension to the school, P7s Hannah Stewart-Sutherland and Tavis Thomson did the honours, aided by the chairman of Moray Council's children and young people's services committee, Councillor Sonya Warren as well as council convener and local councillor Shona Morrison.

Cash boost for Clan thanks to BCHS duo: There was a four-figure cash boost in store for a north east cancer charity thanks to the efforts of two Buckie High School students. The finals of the school's Youth Philanthropy Initiative saw S2 duo Molly Murray and Megan Scorgie emerge triumphant after their presentation, extolling the work of the Clan won the approval of the judges. As a result, the prize cheque, worth £3000, is winging its way to the Aberdeen based charity, which has a branch office in Elgin and an outreach service in Buckie.

Record haul for charity contest: A fishing challenge co-founded by a Portknockie man has netted over £15,000 for cancer charities. Colin McLeish headed for the island of Uist where he worked for many years as an art teacher in Shetland for the annual Simmer Dim contest last month, an event which this year was to break records both in terms of cash

raised and number of entries. 'Thanks to the generosity of local businesses, individual donations and the proceeds of an auction held at the event Simmer 2018 has raised an incredible £15,540', Mr McLeish told the Advertiser 'their three nominated charities, Cancer Shetland, Clan Shetland and Shetland MacMillan Nurses will now all receive cheques for £5180 to help them continue the outstanding work they do for cancer sufferers and their families.

Milne's end of year prize-giving ceremony: Progress and improvement were at the heart of this year's prize giving ceremony and Milne's High School. The success of the past year were marked by staff, students and parents in the Fochabers Public Institute. Keynote speaker for the evening was Dr Kerry Cattenach, a former pupil of the school who was later assisted in handing out the prizes by Adam McLeod. This year's dux is Peter McHattie who was presented with the Sir Ashley Mackintosh Medal by the rector Trish Cameron.

Website seeks community news: Community groups and businesses in the Buckie area are being invited to contribute their news and details to a new community website set to be launched soon. Buckie Are Forum, in conjunction with the organisation's Buckie Economic Regeneration Group, is keen to receive contributions from a wide cross section of the community before the site goes live at www.buckie.co. 'BAF' chairwoman, Linda McDonald said 'This site will not just be for Buckie, it'll take in an area stretching from Portgordon through to Cullen and taking in the likes of Drybridge and Deskford, it will have a wide variety of content, ranging from community groups and business directory to local news.' Contributions to the site should be sent to Mrs, McDonald via email at admin@Buckie.co

July 10

Home beckons for ex-lifeboat: An important part of Buckie's RNLI history is coming home for a while when the former lifeboat Laura Moncur pays a visit, 34 years after she went off station. The 47ft long Watson class lifeboat which served the area with distinction from June 1961 to April 1984, is due once again to tie up at her former home port for a three-day visit. The vessel now belongs to Mark Waltham who is currently taking the Laura Moncur around the British coast. One of those delighted at the prospect of seeing one of Moray's iconic boats again was Buckie RNLI coxswain Alan Robertson, who revealed that the vessel which had rescued so many during her service had needed a spot of rescuing herself. The difference in technology between the Laura Moncur and the William Blannin is quite surprising, for example, the Laura Moncur could only manage a top speed of nine knots whereas the William Blannin can do 25 knots. For many years the Laura Moncur sat rotting out of the water at harbour near Great Yarmouth when she was spotted by Mark, who was looking for a boat to restore. He brought her back to her former glory after investing a lot of time, money and energy in her.

Arradoul "Rural" marks milestone: Arradoul SWI's June meeting was a special occasion when the group celebrated their centenary. President Coleen MacKenzie welcomed members past and present along with a few special guests, including the national chairwoman Linda Retson and federation secretary Lorna Milne. A special mention was made for those members who have passed away. After members examined a display of photographs, newspaper cuttings and handicrafts from times gone by, it was time to enjoy a buffet served by Silver Spoon Catering. There was also an opportunity to enjoy a specially baked cake by Miss MacKenzie and a poem written by Jessie Low commemorating the last century of Arradoul SWI (Rural). (The writer of these notes would

like to say congratulations to Jessie , someone he knows to have been a member of the "Rural" at Arradoul for many years, a regular winner in club competitions and exhibitor and winner at such as Keith Show.) Musical entertainment was provided by local groups Fine Fettle and Just the Two of Us and the evening was rounded off with Auld Lang Syne. Everyone went home with a commemorative glass to mark the occasion.

July 17

Golfers tee up record donation for charity: Seven days, two fund-raisers, a major fire and a record breaking donation to charity, just a simple week in the life of Buckpool Golf Course. The sun beat down on what was one of the hottest days of the year as a ten-strong team from the club carried out a golf marathon to raise cash for the Teddy Bear Developmental Playgroup in Buckie. Led by captain John Riddoch, the team of Eddie Clark, Sandy Clark, Dod Davidson, Shaun McIntosh, Chris Simpson, Brendan O'Mahoney, Stuart McLeod, Malcolm Innes and Kieran Turner took on the courses of Cullen, Strathlene, Spey Bay and Buckpool to raise funds. As well as the physical challenge that presented, they also had to deal with a major gorse fire to the immediately north of Buckpool, one that was so bad that one road was shut for several hours. However, the aching muscles and bleary eyes were all worth it, with £6,539 raised for the group that provides a specialised care service for youngsters with additional needs. Manager of the organisation, Pauline Riddoch, said everyone was 'overwhelmed' by the generous donation that came from the golf challenge. She said 'In the 33 years the group has been running this is the largest donation ever received'. A photo of the lads appeared on page one.

Portessie kids are quiz kings a queens after first Moray win: Portessie Primary rounded off the school year on a winning note when they scooped the Moray Library Quiz for the first time. The intrepid team of P6 pupils, Adelle Mair, Emily Stewart, Jack Duncan and Zoe Challenger were accompanied by their teacher Tracey Lees as they headed to Elgin library for the final. As the event was held in the evening it allowed parents, family and friends to make the trip with them and cheer them on through the rounds and to ultimate victory. A spokeswoman for Portessie Primary said: 'The final was quite a tense affair but Portessie lead from the start and emerged victorious'. It was no mean feat just getting to the final for the knowledgeable quartet, who had to fight their way through two previous rounds at Buckie.

Busy week at the harbour: Landings at Buckie harbour nearly doubled last week compared to the previous seven day period. A total of 18 vessels brought 1020 boxes of fish, prawns and squid ashore, as well as 195 bags of scallops. The boats were Illustrious, Boy Sam, Flourish, Saltire, Chloe Ella, Emmaley, Radiance, Summerton, Amaryha, Faithful, Camann, Rois Mhari, Selina Joy, Valonia, Defiant, Lily, Moray Endeavour and Blue Sky.

No cargo vessels called, their numbers being light of late.

Girls will glam it up for fundraising goal: A team of Buckie fundraisers hope a touch of Hollywood glamour can bring in thousands of pounds for a cancer charity. In September 2016 former school pals Julia Smith, Dionne McIntosh, Kirsty Munro, Rachel Clark, Lynsey McBain, Alana Sammon, Lisa Sutherland and Cheryl George stunned the community by raising more than £23,000 when they held the Macmillan's World's Biggest Coffee Morning in the Fishermen's Hall. Nearly two years down the line they hope to repeat their fundraising feat.

July 24

Laura's triumphal return: With flags flying proudly against the grey sky, an important part of Buckie RNLI's history returned home. Last Friday morning was one to remember as the town's former lifeboat Laura Moncur sailed proudly into the harbour, 34 years after going off station. It was a return little short of the miraculous for the 47-foot Watson class lifeboat, which served Buckie from June 1961 until April 1984. To welcome Laura Moncur to the berth from which she sailed to save dozens of lives over two decades, Buckie's current RNLI lifeboat, William Blannin, with coxswain Alan Robertson at the wheel made her way out to meet the returning heroine. She was joined by the skiff Morag from Findochty Water Sports Club. At around 7.55pm when the crew and other guests were sitting down to a meal in honour of retiring mechanic Gordon Lawtie, the pagers went off and the crew went out to assist a yacht 22 miles out which had to be towed back to Buckie. The crew arrived home at 1.30am.

The Laura Moncur is in the meantime on a tour of the stations where the lifeboat served during her active service. After leaving Buckie in 1984 she was to serve for a further four years in the reserve fleet before being sold in 1988. The man who bought her then stripped everything out but thanks to eBay, Mr Waltham managed to get all the parts required.

Mum's the word for new Buckie park: A little more than a year after beginning their ambitious fundraising, the campaign to bring a play park back to the Well Road area of Buckie is ready for the construction phase. A formidable target of £60,000 loomed for the return of Well Road Play Park Committee, which is now chaired by Rachel Cormack, but last Wednesday it was learned that this barrier had been breached and work is set to go ahead in the coming weeks.

Out of Africa and on to BCHS: A touch of Africa graced Buckie Community High School's library near the end of term with a look back into the continent's past. Led by learning officer Jen Kelshaw, a team from Elgin Museum dropped by on Monday, June 20 with a fascinating collection of more than 20 artefacts detailing various aspects of Africa's rich history. BCHS school librarian Stephen Leitch said: 'It was a fascinating event and we're very grateful to Elgin Museum for coming along with all those artefacts' The event was mainly aimed at history students to support them as they began to look at Africa and then the development of the slave trade. We were lucky to have our visitors from Mawenzi Secondary School in Tanzania in school at the time and their head teacher Christine Shirima was able to provide a wonderful in-depth insight into some of the artefacts.

Pupils' high 25 for Pam from class P1/2 For a quarter of a century Pam Arbuckle has been a well-known and friendly face to the pupils and staff of Findochty Primary. However, the end of term also brought the curtain down on a total of 34 years in the teaching profession as she heads off to pastures new. It was the search for a job share 25 years ago that was to bring her to the picturesque fishing village, an option her then employers Highland Council did not offer. Mrs Arbuckle soon settled in at the school and is in no doubt what the main plus point of the job was. 'The best thing about the job is the children, purely and simply', she told the Advertiser. 'I love teaching them and I've been here so long now I'm on to my second generation with some of them.'

July 31

Event helps to raise an impressive £35K. Glam power has helped a group of former school friends raise tens of thousands of pounds for a cancer charity. The Fishermen's Hall recently played host to a Hollywood Glam night which raised an astonishing £35,000 with more cash still coming in. Raising so much money for a good cause is becoming something of a habit for Julia Smith, Lisa Sutherland, Alana Sammon, Dionne McIntosh, Kirsty Munro, Rachel Clark, Cheryl George and Lynsey McBain. Kirsty told the Advertiser: 'Two years ago we raised £23,000 when we held a Macmillan's World Biggest Coffee Morning and while we had hoped to equal this sum, we never thought we'd beat it by £12,000. We're over the moon, it's just fantastic I don't think it's really sunk in yet, we're still stunned'.

The eight strong team opted to hand the proceeds from the glam extravaganza to Aberdeen Royal Infirmary Oncology Research Fund, which works closely with the NHS Endowment Fund to provide money for cancer research and treatment at hospital

All guests present on the night were presented with a glass of prosecco before being given the opportunity to purchase a raffle ticket for some super prizes. A four course meal was held before the evening's entertainment got underway, which was compered by Jake Robertson. A game of head and tail followed and then a game of Hollywood theme tune bingo led by Peter McKay, Local band Current Affair also took to the stage to help the guests dance the night away.

Young folk key to hall's future: Youth was hailed as the future of Findochty Town Hall after Moray Council handed over the reins to a community run group. Council estate assistant Colin Sowden presented the keys to Findochty Town Hall Committee chairman Graham Cryer as the group signed a formal rolling lease. Mr Cryer said 'We've got a junior section and they've come up with a great list of ideas. We're hoping to follow their lead and look at bringing in things like film showings and a soft play area'.

Plaque dedicated to murdered 10-year-old: A murdered girl has finally had a fitting tribute paid to her more than two centuries after her death. A plaque remembering the short life of Elspet Lamb has been put up in the cemetery at Urquhart. It was erected by local history enthusiast Lesley Spangenberg who was shocked and saddened to discover that the ten year-old has previously lain so long in an unmarked pauper's grave. Lesley who lives in Fochabers, began researching the sad story several months ago. Shortly before discovering the whereabouts of Elspet, Lesley's investigations also led her to the spot where Alexander, the man who raped and killed her is buried. There is more to the story on page 2

Peter Fair took place again: In a report, minute compared to those of the past the Advertiser said there was relief that Peter Fair went ahead as planned last week after a row over an alternative venue looked to have scuppered the event for this year. The Fair took place as usual in a field near the former Rathven railway station where it has been held since 1885 despite a warning by organisers, Horne's Pleasure Fairs, that a rejection of their application to use Merson Park in Buckie could see them not return. However, pressure from various show people, plus a willingness for Charlie Horne to run the event, saw fairgoers enjoy a mix of rides under a blazing sun, not something that has always been the case. Mr Horne's son, Christian, warned that while this year's fair had been a success, the underlying issues had not gone away. I feel that I'm sounding like a broken down record but we still need a better one, that's fit for the purpose."

August 7

Project to remember refugees: The story of the Scandinavian wartime refugees who called Buckie their home until 1945 is to be the focus of a project which gets under way next month. A partnership involving Buckie and District Fishing Heritage Centre and Portgordon based, Robert Gordon University Professor Peter Reid will see an artist in residence make two visits to Buckie in a bid to highlight this part of the town's World War II history.

Church to mark major milestone: A century and a half of history is set to be celebrated later this week at a Portknockie church. The village's Church of Scotland, which has served the former fishing community since 1868, will throw open its doors this Thursday to begin four days of festivities to mark the milestone anniversary. A spokeswoman for the church said: 'From research it is 150 years this year since the granting of the lease to the church from the Earl of Seafield. It was decided to celebrate this occasion with a few events, the main one being a four day anniversary festival over August 9-12th'.

Buckie RNLI roll out the red carpet for young Moray carers: Moray carers from across Moray were given a VIP tour of the Buckie Lifeboat Station as part of a series of summer days out. The 12 youngsters, aged from nine to 16, were welcomed by crew members before being shown around the station and life-saving vessel, RNLB William Blannin. Donations from people across Moray have enabled Quarriers Carer Support Service to run the summer programme, which is now in its fifth year. There are several events planned throughout the summer for young carers, this was just one. These activities provide a chance for young people who have care responsibilities for family members the chance to put aside their worries and obligations and have a day of fun. A gift of £15, which can be made at www.quarriers.org.uk/summer-appeal will provide one child with a day out and donations of any amount are welcome.

Salmon jerky leaps into view: A Moray company has created the UK's first salmon jerky. Meatsnacks, which has factories in Forres and Grantown on Spey, created the snack for those seeking a healthier lifestyle. Wild West Salmon Jerky is available' in most Tesco, Aldi and Lidl supermarkets.

Portgordon's picture perfect: Portgordon Art Group's talent shone through like the summer sun when members held their annual exhibition of work. Spey Bay Community Hall was once again the host venue for the occasion, which ran over Friday to Sunday, July 27-29th. The opening evening on Friday was crowded and a busy weekend in all was recorded by the club. One of those impressed by the talent on offer was group vice-chairwoman and professional artist Alanda Calmus. 'We're all really delighted with this year's exhibition', she told the Advertiser. Artist Kitty Bell was photographed showing her seascape while Alan Wynne's paintings, it was seen had a nautical theme.

Aug 14

Good results for Fochabers and Buckie pupils : A group of nine students at Milne's High School were left feeling on top of the world after scoring either five straight A grades at Higher or six at National 5. Meanwhile in Buckie five young people had the A-1 feeling with six top grades in National 1. In Milne's one young man with a huge smile on his face was Peter McHattie who aced all his Highers. A picture on the front page showed four of the Buckie High pupils, namely, Jake Newlands, Amber Smith, Alex Anderson and Dylan Ralph. Missing was Lily Clarke. On page three four photos of four Fochabers pupils are shown - Peter McHattie, Callum Johnstone, Emily McDonald and Ellsa Young.

Community stalwart Mike dies aged 77: A former local journalist, author and community activist is mourned. Portgordon resident Mike George succumbed to illness on Wednesday, July 4 in Seafield Hospital, He was 77 and a native of Spalding in Lincolnshire. After a varied work life as a journalist he arrived north in the early 1990s when he became employed by the Northern Scot becoming editor of the Banffshire Journal. A full report of his life is given on page 2 of this edition.

'Victory Joe' marks his centenary triumph: A specially baked cake, cards, gifts and bunting were all the order of the day last Friday for Joe Smith, known as Victory Joe from his days in the fishing industry when he celebrated his 100th birthday in Parklands Care Home. Daughter Linda Simpson flew all the way home from Brisbane to be with her dad as other family members gathered round to help Joe celebrate his big day.

Harbour incident: Emergency services have been praised for their heroics attempts to save the life of a woman who fell into Buckie harbour. Last Monday saw a full-scale rescue operation swing into action just after 7pm when a woman, identified locally as a 63 year old eastern European living in Buckie, fell into the water at the north pier area of the harbour. Two volunteer coastguards jumped into the water to keep the woman afloat until she was plucked from the water by the lifeboat's Y-boat and taken to the lifeboat station where she was treated by two ambulance crews. She was later airlifted by helicopter to Aberdeen A.R.I where she was later pronounced dead.

Big send off following promotion for Buckie firefighter: A move up the promotion ladder has seen a local firefighter bid a fond farewell to his colleagues at Buckie fire station. Station manager David Hendry (36) who was formerly watch manager at North Anderson Drive fire station in Aberdeen will now take charge of firefighting training across Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire and Moray. Mr Hendry's promotion brings to an end to a 16year association with Buckie fire station and he was keen to praise the efforts of his colleagues there.

Cash support for Buckie Dog Show Organisers: Recently the organisation applied to Buckie and District Community Council for financial support and were rewarded. The group became the first community organisation to receive a £250 'micro grant' from the community council thanks to cash made available from the SSE Beatrice Partnership Fund. The council has a total of £2,500 to dispense in grants up to a maximum of £250. The cheque was handed over to John Wilson from Buckie Dog Show by council chairman Steve Thornton in the presence of other council members. A picture of the presentation appeared in the Advertiser.

Kirk celebrates 150th anniversary: A century and a half of serving Portknockie came under the spotlight last week when the village Church of Scotland marked its 150th anniversary. The festivities got underway last Thursday when the church threw open its doors and issued an invitation to all to come in and have a look round, a commemorative display featuring snapshots from the years since 1868 when the lease was first granted by the Earl of Seafield.

A full report is given on page 9 with also a picture of locum minister Murray Campbell together with members of the festival anniversary team as they admire the varied display of artefacts inside the church.

Aug 21

Fond Farewell after 15 year of service: Ian Cowie is seen in a photograph at Buckie Fire Station holding a presentation fireman's axe given to mark his retirement from the Fire Service after 15 years. As a retained firefighter. At the age of 42 Ian decided to call it a day. Prior to becoming a firefighter Ian was a crew member of Buckie RNLI. The decision was forced on Ian when his work as plumber with his firm Thistle Plumbing in Buckie had increased to such an extent he felt that he could give the time to the fire service.

Aug 28

Buckie lass has her 105th birthday. A Buckie woman who ventured Down Under to start a new life in 1958 has reached the grand old age of 105. An eagle-eyed reader who has relatives in New Zealand spotted an article on Elizabeth's big day. A picture of Elizabeth with five generations of Elizabeth Forbes' family gathered at The Puke Country Lodge, Bay of Plenty, New Zealand to celebrate her birthday. This is shown on page 3 of this edition.

Elizabeth and her late husband Alex Forbes with two sons first settled in Perth, Western Australia after setting off from Southampton on the Castle Felice to sail half way round the world. The couple stayed in Australia for three years before moving to New Zealand.

Classic fun at car show event: The sun may not have shone on Buckie Classic Car show 2018 but there were plenty of gleaming vehicles on display to draw crowds in. Celebrating its second year at Cunninghames Industrial estate, motor enthusiasts of all ages turned out to take a walk down memory lane. Exhibitors from the local area were joined by those from further afield, including Montrose and Lancashire.

Choir's cash to save lives in Findochty and Portgordon Members of a Buckie choir have put themselves at the heart of two local communities with donations that could save lives. The Buckie and District Community Choir handed out more than £3000 to fund the provision of public access defibrillators in Findochty and Portgordon. Last Wednesday the first of those was unveiled at Findochty Town Hall. Choir chairwoman Kathleen Thomson said: 'We recently made the decision to distribute some of our funds to support the wider Buckie community'.

Sept 4

Big step forward for Cullen Centre: A new chapter in the history of the Cullen Community and Residential Centre unfolded on Friday when Moray Council handed over the lease for the facility. The centre, which was at one time the village school, will now be run by the Three Kings Cullen Association on behalf of the community as part of longer-term Community Asset Transfer process to take over full ownership of the premises. One of those delighted to have reached this point in the process was chairwoman Brenda Gifford. saying: 'I can hardly believe this point has arrived, it's been a long process, as it's a complicated project.'

Buckie motorcyclist dies after crash on road near Fochabers: A motorcyclist has died after a crash on the Fochabers to Cullen road on Friday evening. The man named as Stuart Smith (35) was involved in a collision at the Deer Park Forest area around 6.40pm. Police officers were called to the crash between a motorcyclist and, a silver Vauxhall Astra, a red Audi A3 and a dark grey Vauxhall Corsa. .

Drugs raid nets £5k haul of cocaine: Two people were arrested after a drugs swoop by police netted around £5000 worth of cocaine. A 32 year old woman and 44 year old man were charged in relation to alleged drugs offences following the recovery of the drugs as part of an intelligence-led operation in the Letterfourie Road area of Buckie on Friday August 24th. The pair are local to the Buckie area. Sergeant Phillip Wu, who led the operation, said: 'Information from the public is key in our activity to tackle the misuse of drugs.

Les Miserables call music to Ryan's ears: A talented young Buckie musician has been left celebrating after securing a place with the West End's longest-running musical. Ryan MacKenzie (23) who moved to London last year after graduating from the Royal Conservatoire in Glasgow, is set to go on the road later this year with the crew and cast of Les Miserables. During performances he will be playing the piano

Staff room welcomes a dozen fresh faces: While staff shortages have often hogged the headlines when it comes to education in Moray, Buckie Community High School have started the school year by rolling out the welcome mat for no fewer than 12 new teachers. Taking their places in their respective departments for the autumn term are: Gary Harper PT math; Andrew Gardner, modern languages; Gemma Geddes, science technician; Stewart Clelland, acting PT philosophy and religious, moral and philosophical studies; Jo Roberts, home economics; Kimberley, NQT English; Kay Copland, music; Charlotte Bye-Jensen, technical; Charlotte Stewart, Chemistry; Rachel Stewart, PT geography; Susan Rowley, English; Bill Young, business subjects. Welcoming them all on board was BCHS rector Neil Johnson.

Sept 11

Lady Cathcart is in need of a logo : The search is on to find a budding artist to help design a logo for Moray's newest Early Year's Centre. As the Lady Cathcart Nursery (formerly the Lady Cathcart School), which opened as part of the Scotland wide Early Learning and Childcare expansion is not linked to a school it does not have its own identity, logo or colours.

With a view to remedying this, the nursery is seeking help from the Buckie community to inspire a logo. The competition is open to anyone of any age or artistic ability, all that is required is enthusiasm for the task.

New nursery manager at Lady Cathcart, Gill Hearn said: 'We're well aware here at Lady Cathcart nursery that Buckie folk have a real connection with the building as well as the town and its heritage. It wasn't that long ago that it was a school, as it was intended to be when it was originally built in 1869, so we know that many people in the community will have links to us and we invite them all to share their ideas of a logo and suggestions for school colours'.

Millbank mural reinforces the feel-good factor: There is little chance of youngsters at Millbank Primary forgetting the core values of their school which went through a £4.6 million refurbishment last year, thanks to a new mural. The mural which was erected by local sign writer Ed Lamont, urges pupils to be comfortable within themselves to do the right thing and above all be to be generous and kind to others. Head teacher Rosemary Garitty said 'It's been a long road to get to this mural, we've done a lot of work on the school's values involving pupil, the parent council, staff and the wider community.'

Pupils win a a Unicef award:- Milne's High School has joined the ranks of thousands of schools across the UK in becoming a Rights Respecting School. Students and staff returned from their summer holidays to hear tha the school had attained the bronze level of the award, which is run by Unicef. A team of pupils from what were last year's S2 year group through to S6 were led by teacher Mairi McLennan, who has since moved on to a new post in Edinburgh. She said: 'We are just delighted to get the bronze award, the official notification came through just before the summer holidays'. Taking over the reins from Ms McLennan will be teacher Murdo McLeod. Next on the agenda for the Milne's team is the silver Rights Aware award.

Panel launch drive to recruit volunteers: A recruitment drive has been launched to get more people to sign up to become a member of Moray's Children's Panel. The Children's Panel is a group of volunteers who make decisions regarding vulnerable children and young people. They are joined by a group of interested parties and social workers. According to Jim MColm (60) from Moray who has been a part of the Children's Panel for three years after taking early retirement due to a serious health problem, the first thing you need is to have an interest in children, but the most important thing is to have empathy.

Sept 25

Hoping to make a real difference: The campaign to improve men's mental health and tackle the high levels of male suicide has received a boost in Buckie. Unused buildings off Newlands Lane in the town are to be transformed into a facility where males of all ages can meet, socialise and undertake a range of activities. Behind the scheme is Portgordon Community Church with their pastor Willie Aitken, keen to drive forward the initiative. 'Our main aim of this outreach service is helping men who've got mental health issues. While we're not a part of the men's shed movement many of our principles are basically the same. I saw a statistic recently from the charity the Campaign Against Living Miserably that said 84 men a week in the UK committed suicide because of mental illness, for me that's a shocking statistic. I personally feel that what these guys in that position are looking for is hope, they feel they have nothing to live for. The Christian life is saying: 'We've got hope'.

Members to benefit from uplifting experience: Fochabers Men's Shed found themselves going up in the world. A £5000 donation from SSE'S Beatrice Partnership Fund has enabled the group to install a chairlift in the Fochabers Public Institute to allow members with poorer mobility the chance to easily access the first floor base. On hand last Monday morning to officially declare the chairlift open was Moray MSP Richard Lochhead. He said; 'I was absolutely delighted to open the new Fochabers's Men's Shed at the Institute and it was good to try out their new stairlift. The group has worked incredibly hard to transform the upper floor of the Institute into a practical work space and to ensure that the space is accessible for everyone.

Diver tells of Thai cave rescue exploits: A former Moray student returned to his old school to share the story of his role in an international cave rescue. Connor Roe was one of 11 divers who worked alongside Thai Navy Seals to help save a football team and their coach who became trapped in a flooded cave system. Connor (26) was called out to Chiang Rai province to assist with the final phase of the operation by the British Cave Rescue Council. Connor returned to Gordonstoun School recently to give a talk to secondary pupils from across Moray. The Army vehicle engineer, who is stationed in Bath said being involved in the rescue was surreal. 'I was staged roughly half way to the children, he said: I was helping to assist and guide them through, carrying out air changes

and a bit of welfare if required to give the primary carer a break because it was quite an intense experience. It was surreal turning up and seeing everything. Nothing can prepare you for going into something like that. The trapped boys, aged from 11 to 16 were all safely removed by July 10 - more than two weeks after they got stuck in the Tham Luang Cave.

A marvelous time was had by pupils! The life and works of the UK's most renowned children's author was celebrated in style at Buckie Community High School. Students and staff came together to mark Roald Dahl Day with several events, including a George's Marvelous Experiments session and an inter-house quiz, both events taking place in the school library at lunch time.

Light it up Red for WW1 heroes: A call is being made for people across Moray to illuminate their buildings in red to mark the 100th anniversary of the end of WWI. Poppyscotland is running the national Light Up Red movement and is calling on mass involvement from schools, churches, council buildings, monuments, statues, and landmarks. Light Up Red will run from November 5th to 11th as a national thank you. Gordon Michie, head of fundraising at Poppyscotland said: 'It's fantastic to know that Scotland will be lighting up red once again for the Scottish Poppy appeal, and we continue to be amazed by the country's support'.

Oct 2

SNP minister gives seal of approval to new nursery: There was ministerial approval for Moray's newest nursery when the revamped Lady Cathcart Centre in Buckie was formerly opened. Monday morning saw the SNP Minister for Children and Young People Maree Todd MSP in town to set the seal of approval on the new facility, which has undergone a £672,000 refurbishment. The revamp forms part of the Scottish Government's national programme to expand Early Learning and Childcare provision for all three and four year olds, plus eligible two year olds to 1140 hours a year by 2020. MS Todd unveiled a plaque for the occasion after meeting the children in the nursery and receiving a guided tour by the nursery staff.

Findochty pupils do their bit: Children at Findochty Primary School have been doing their bit to help mark the end of World War 1. The youngsters were left moved when they heard about the 'There but not There' campaign, which is run by the charity Remembered. This urges people to buy silhouettes of World War 1 British 'soldiers-called Tommies' and place them wherever there is a roll of honour. In order to do their bit, the Findochty kids have been making their own poppies to fund-raise for the charity. P5/6/7 teacher Caroline Ferguson told the Advertiser: 'The children have been learning about World War 1 as part of their topic this term and have been focussing on the impact of the war in our local area, particularly as it affected women. The children are keen to mark our fallen by raising funds to purchase our own Tommy for our own war memorial and have formed an enterprise group to do this'. To start their fund-raising the children have decided to sell wooden poppies, which they have painted, to the community. The children need to raise £750 to achieve their target and hope to offer the wider community to buy their poppies by offering an ordering service.

Open Day: An open day at the community-run Buckie Fishermen's Hall made a big splash and showed the scale of success achieved by the group since saving the facility from closure. Friends of the Fishermen's Hall Association put on the event where visitors were able to enjoy a coffee morning and a soup and sweet while having the opportunity to see

for themselves what the committee had achieved in such a short space of time. It proved to be a very successful event with the sum of £1000 being raised.

It was stressed however that there was a real need for more volunteers. Said Glen Campbell chairman: 'We have a very active and dedicated committee who work credibly hard but we do really need more hands to man the pumps.'

Oct 9

Buckie man swims Channel in aid of charity: Chester-based pharmacist Neil Stewart (37) braved the chilly water of the English Channel to help raise £3000 for the charity Pharmacist Support. With two companions they swam the 21 miles plus, due to wind, tide and other factors in a time of 11 hours and 58 minutes. The trio had two aims to raise money for charity and to do the swim in less than 12 hours; they did both, a massive achievement and were delighted. They had been training hard for a year.

Mr Stewart revealed that his ultimate goal is to swim the Channel solo, a feat he hopes to achieve on August 10, 2020, the year he celebrates his 40th birthday. This is a dream, he said, since swimming lengths of Buckie swimming pool.

Fundraising firefighter stands down: It was over and out for one of Buckie's longest serving firefighters and fundraiser when he hung up his uniform for the last time. Exactly four decades on from October 1st 1978, when watch manager Alan Cruickshank joined Buckie's retained firefighters as a raw recruit, he said a poignant farewell to the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service at a special ceremony in the town's fire station.

As well as saving lives and helping those in danger, Mr Cruickshank, along with a dedicated team of fundraisers at the station have helped raise £50,000 for the Firefighters Charity and a great many local good causes. Mr Cruickshank joined the fire brigade at the age of 22 and has retired at the age of 62 having served for a total of 40 years. He received a number of gifts as well as a commemorative plaque on behalf of the Buckie crew by Buckie fire station manager Dougie Annand.

Cluny Square floral beds: A newly formed group, The Friends of Buckie Square and Memorial Group have been working hard to get the north-west quadrant of Cluny Square in tip-top shape already and look forward to things really blooming next spring. The group members have been bowled over by the response from the local community. One of those behind the band of volunteers is Meg Jamieson, who said that discontent over the appearance of the square was the spark that ignited the inspiration for FOBS. Speaking to the 'Advertiser' she said: 'We started after a lot of folk were ranting on Facebook about the state of square, there was a lot of negative feelings going about'. On the day that a photo was taken, apart from Meg Jamieson, others seen busily planting were Archie Jamieson, Christine Allan and Morag Stewart. The group have received support from many firms and organisations, also Millbank Primary School

Oct 16

Tree Festival to take root in Fochabers: Three sites in Moray are to take part in the first ever Scottish Tree Festival. Gardens and woodlands across the country will be part of the inaugural celebrations which are set to run until December 2. Behind the event are Discover Scottish Gardens, Gordon Castle Walled Garden, Logie Steading and Brodie Castle will all be taking part in the festival by show-casing displays or hosting tree walks and activities. There will be a celebration of the best in fresh seasonal garden produce at

the Walled Garden with flower and wreath demonstrations, hands on displays from local artists and a children's play and garden trail.

Big landings at Buckie: It was a busy time on the landings front at Buckie Harbour last week. A total of 33 vessels landed 16661 boxes of fish/prawns and squid. Up from the previous week's tally of 1356 boxes. No scallops were landed in either week, On the cargo front MV Lyrika, registered in Lithuania, came in from Hamburg with a cargo of malt weighing 2166.48 tonnes on board. She left two days later for Rye with 2213.46 tonnes of pebbles/cobblestones as cargo.

V & A ahoy for Buckie artist's work: Work by an artist and designer, formerly of Buckie has gone on display at the newly opened Victoria and Albert Museum in Dundee. The multi-million pound attraction - Scotland's first museum of design 2 specially commissioned Edward Smith to create three models of ocean-going liners for one of its opening exhibitions. Edward, who now lives in Fochabers but grew up in Buckie, spent periods teaching art at Buckie High and Elgin High School fashioned all three out of redwood pine, one of his favourite working materials. The 75 year old has been creating models for decades. Edward is also an extremely accomplished painter, he had an exhibition of his coastal scenes at the Aberdeen Maritime Museum a couple of years ago entitled Hard Graft on the Grey North Sea. With regard to his boat models he told the Advertiser that they weren't like Air-fix models — they are not identical copies of the original boats. They're quite free interpretations which attempt to show off the work that these vessels used to do. Two of the vessels were built in Scotland, the first RMS Carpathia, the second RMS, Empress of Britain which as it happened both were sunk by German U-boats the Carpathia in 1918 and the Empress of Britain in 1940. His third model is of the ocean liner RMS Scythia, which he has described as being a fine-looking boat.

A helicopter fit for a prince: Moravia the aeronautical museum at Kinloss now has a helicopter named after Prince Andrew, who as a naval pilot flew one during the Falklands War. Chairman of the museum, Mark Mair, who hails from Buckie told the Advertiser something about the helicopter an award the museum was to receive. He explained when we first learned during the summer that we were going to be awarded the Queen's Award for Voluntary Services I went to London to represent the museum at a garden party. Whilst there I met the prince and told him we had just added an old Red Wessex helicopter to our collection. I then asked his permission to name it after him, Prince Andrew consented but then added that he was already due to come to Moray on September 17th. This gave us only seven weeks to get everything g done. The helicopter had just arrived at Moray from Gloucestershire where it had been resting up and rusting for several years. However Moravia doesn't win awards for nothing — when the prince came to call on Monday the team had managed to completely transform it. The Duke of York was now gleaming in the red and dark blue of the Royal Navy. The colours were chosen in recognition of the prince's own military career.

Oct 23

The forgotten men of history given a voice. This is the heading to an article written on the front page of the Banffshire Advertiser of this date and refers to a project that is now taking place concerning the Norwegian who lived and worked in Buckie during the years of World War II only what is said is not totally correct.

The Banffshire Advertiser of 19 September 2000: carried a story on its front page in which we were told that a Norwegian author was in the process of writing a book telling the same story. I would presume that this book was produced and on sale. (It does seem strange that Norwegian artist Eyvind Gulbrandsen who was present at a recent meeting in the Centre was not aware of this book when he had declared an interest.) The author was present at the Heritage Centre at one point and met a number of people who were intimately associated with Norwegians I was also present, invited to attend as I had done some research on the subject myself. Allan Fraser

Funding for this present project Hame Fra Hjem is being held in partnership with the Heritage Centre was sourced by Portgordon-based Professor Peter Reid from European Year of Cultural History Grants.

Buckie and District Community Choir - Money raised by the choir at a recent sell out concert has been used to help support communities in the wider Buckie area and last Monday Portgordon took delivery a community defibrillator unit. In addition to the donation of the defibrillator the choir also funded emergency life support training from the charity 'Lucky2bhere' for 25 local volunteers with school children in the village also set to have an input. Portgordon Fireworks Committee have also provided a CCTV unit at the Lampie Hoose where the defibrillator will be stored to provide extra security.

Oct 30

There was to be no fireworks: High winds of up to 35 mph saw the organisers cancel this year's fireworks both on the Friday and reserve date Saturday at Portgordon, which would have been the 25th anniversary; of the display, disappointing for some as likely though no doubt cats and dogs with their owners might have been relieved.

Charles Milne is now a deputy Lord Lieutenant of Banffshire. A local business man, who owns Regency Car Sales in the town who has been a stalwart supporter of community groups was formally presented with his commission by Lord Lieutenant Clare Russell at a special luncheon given at Pitchroy Lodge, Ballindalloch, last Wednesday afternoon.

Buckie War Memorial: will be bathed in red light this week to mark the centenary of the end of World War I. Friends of Buckie Square and Memorial, a volunteer group, formed to make Cluny Square more inviting, are behind the event. Part of the national 'Light Up Red' campaign to light up public buildings and monument to highlight the work of the charity Poppyscotland, the honours will be performed by two Millbank Primary School. They will be accompanied by two standard bearers from the Buckie branch of the Royal British Legion.

Book of music: A book of music has been released by acclaimed Fochabers musician James Alexander. The book was released as part of the latest Arc sessions in the village recently, which saw James and friends play to sell out crowds. There has been 500 copies of the book printed, with already 150 copies sold at the two night event at the Fochabers Institute.

Nov 6

Buckie War Memorial Lit Up: The community of Buckie turned out in force to witness the town's war memorial bathed in red light to mark the centenary of the end of the country to

join Poppyscotland's 'Light Up Red' campaign ahead of Remembrance Sunday on November 11 - the exact day 100 years ago when the guns fell silent in the Great War. A large crowd gathered in Cluny Square for the event, which was organised by the Friends of Buckie Square to see P7 youngsters from Millbank Primary School who have been painting poppies on crosses to be displayed on Armistice Day - press the button to activate the red lights. Poignant notes from a piper added to the atmosphere. Joining the ranks of the crowd in the square were representatives from the Buckie branch of the Royal British Legion, the military and emergency services.

Local Ford Dealership changes hands: The future of a local car dealership has been secured after a Buckie businessman stepped into the breach. Ford dealership Moravian Motors has now been taken over by Regency Car Sales, owned by Charles Milne, and is looking forward to a future of opportunity and expansion, which will include the starting of more apprentices.

Firms sparkle in Buckie Christmas lights appeal: Buckie businesses have stepped up to the challenge of helping keep the town's Christmas lights in first class condition. The Christmas Lights committee found itself facing a £32,500 bill to repair damaged displays and invest in new ones to replace those which had reached the end of their working life. However, a letter to local business people from committee member Charles Milne has seen firms answer an appeal for £395 each over two years to help foot the bill, their donation backed up by support from Moray Council, Buckie Christmas Cracker and the Beatrice Partnership Fund. There was a 90% positive response to the appeal, which Mr Milne declared to be excellent. The money given up front when added to that from the Cracker and the Beatrice Fund raised the required £32,500 in six months - quite an achievement, it was said. The lights will be switched on around 5pm on Saturday December 1 as the finale of the Christmas Cracker.

Moray Labour Party: Moray's Labour Party has elected a new executive committee. Jo Kirrby was elected as chairwoman, with Marion McLennan as the deputy. The secretary is Dr Stuart McLennan, treasurer Alan Burgess, women's officer Kate Imlah, trade union liaison officer Larry Easton and youth officer Alasdair Keith. John Divers remains Moray Council Labour Group leader.

Moray's Sacrifice: is the title of a new book which has been published detailing the lives of many of the Moray servicemen who died in World War 1. Moray Sacrifice is the culmination of more than 10 years of research by Jill Stewart. Since August 2014 Jill has been contributing weekly articles to the Northern Scot about the conflict. She said 'On a number of occasions over the past four years I've been contacted by people who have seen their grandfathers, uncles, or great-grandfathers, great uncles mentioned in the newspaper. Some were aware of exactly how and where they died in the war but some were not. Quite often it's the first time they've ever seen a photograph. It's obviously very gratifying when that happens. About 1800 servicemen from Moray, as well as two nurses and three munition workers died during the course of the conflict. The numbers are so huge it's hard to imagine how devastating it must have been'.

Nov 13

Buckie Remembers: On the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, the community of Buckie joined with those up and down the country to remember the moment exactly 100 years ago when the guns fell silent in World War 1. A large crowd, as one has ever seen, turned out on a what was a sunny morning to pay tribute to those who fell not

only during the Great War and World War 11, but the numerous conflicts, which have claimed the lives of armed forces personnel since 1945. Taking the salute was Grace McIntosh, the daughter of George McIntosh, Buckie's sole holder of the highest award for gallantry in British armed forces, the Victoria Cross. He was awarded the medal after single-handedly taking out a German machine gun nest on July 31, 1917, near the River Steenbeck in Belgium. He was decorated with the medal at Ibrox Park, Glasgow, later in the year by King George V.

Wreath laid on behalf of police: A local policeman was at the Cenotaph in London on, a soldier was killed in 1917 at the battle of Passchendaele. Sunday to remember his grandfather's three brothers who were all killed in World War I Alistair Stewart from Portsoy was selected by Police Scotland to represent the force at the ceremony to mark the 100th anniversary of the end of the war. He comes from a long line of fishermen who lived in Burghead. Two of the brothers John and Alex were Royal Navy Reservists, the oldest John while serving aboard a Buckie fishing vessel signed up for the war effort. The third brother Joseph.

New play park unveiled: The transformation of an area of wasteland lying between Well Road and Wallace Avenue into a play park was completed at an opening ceremony at the weekend. On Saturday the playpark was officially unveiled by the chairwoman of 'The Return of Well Road Play Park' group, Rachel Cormack, bringing to an end a grassroots campaign, which saw more than £60,000 raised. Speaking to the Advertiser, Ms Cormack said: 'It's absolutely fantastic to see this just 18 months after we started the group. We can't thank everyone enough who supported us'. Secretary Michelle Gauld and treasurer Gail Imlach were also present to the park declared open.

Financial backers were: Buckie Common Good Fund; Buckie Developer Obligations; Beatrice Partnership fund; Scotmid; Landfill Tax Fund; Bucks4Buckie; Buckie Classic Car Show, Special thanks were also extended to the three local Moray councillors, Buckie and District Community Council and Tracey Rae of Moray Council's Community Support Unit.

Target beaten: Another bumper year looks to be on the cards for a charity which seeks to put a festive season smile on the faces of some of the poorest people in Europe. Volunteers were hard at work last week in the Buckie Baptist Church hall as part of the Blythswood Care Shoebox Appeal, packing boxes bound for Romania. The response to this year's appeal has left Buckie Blythswood organizer, George Flett delighted. 'We set ourselves a target of 1500 boxes, last year's total, and we've already passed that,' he said The boxes contain items for both adults and youngsters in the former Communist country, ranging from toys to toothpaste and hats.

Knight cash boost for festive lights: The Christmas Lights team of volunteers took a break from their labours refurbishing the lights and preparing the new display to accept a cheque from Kenny Lawtie on behalf of Buckie Knights Templars.

We will remain open till mid December: Whale and Dolphin Conservation's award-winning Scottish Dolphin Centre at Spey Bay is set to extend its opening season due to the growing demand, with members of the public now able to visit until mid December. More than 90,000 people have passed through the centre's doors but opening hours have usually been restricted to warmer months. The increase in opening hours during the winter has been made possible by the installation of a new biomass heating system funded by the Beatrice Partnership Fund. The centre has also unveiled new interpretation

boards, which focus on the winter wildlife, which visit Spey Bay and the history of Tugnet fishing station, funded by the Gordon and Ena Baxter Foundation.

North Church: To mark the 100th anniversary of the ending of World War 1 some members of the congregation worked hard to present a display worthy of the occasion with self-made poppies in great abundance. A model of a trench with steel helmets was one of a number of such features. A poignant feature was copies of pages of a book compiled by David Fowler concerning men of the town who gave of their lives in World War I. Through long hours of research David had found or been given not only photographs but lots of information relating to each individual and wrote this up in a very tasteful manner. The pages, all laminated and attached to a block of wood were spread around the church with one being placed at the ends of each pew where they might be read. The minister, Rev. Isabel Buchan in her address paid tribute to everyone who had helped to provide such a wonderful display

Nov 20

A new base for charity: A charity which began life in Buckie returned to its roots when it opened its new Moray HQ in the town. Last Friday saw Moray Reach Out formally unveil its new base in the former Cruickshank's store on the town's East Church Street with an open day, which included the group's brief AGM. Founded in Buckie in 1996 by the parents and carers of adults with learning disabilities, the charity has gone on to provide training opportunities with a range of such conditions through the likes of Waste Watchers and Yarns and Crafts, formerly Buckie Yarns in the town and other sites throughout Moray. The new MRO HQ will house Yarns and Crafts, a thrift shop, a brand new spinning project with plans to provide workshops for the public

Portknockie garden: Three years of hard work and £16,000 of fundraising came to fruition for Portknockie nursery when they unveiled their new activity garden. Tuesday morning saw staff, parents and children gather to see a ribbon cut by former nursery committee member Simone Evans, Thea Evans(5) and Emily Smith (12). Speaking before the event, nursery manager, Margaret Eunson said 'This is a really special day for us all. I'd like to say thanks to all the committee members for their work over the years of this very long project, especially Simone for doing the initial spadework. Sixteen thousand pounds is a huge amount for a group this size to get in donations. A huge thanks also goes to all the groups who supported us and the wider community. I hope everyone is happy how we've spent the money we certainly are.' The nursery received £10,000 from the National Lottery, £4000 from Tesco's Bags of Help scheme and £1000 each from Buckie Co-op and the Historic Wheels Club.

Nov 27

Christmas Lights: A quite staggering response has seen Buckie's old and worn Christmas lights replaced two years ahead of schedule. The town will look better than ever thanks to the generosity of the community when the big switch on takes place this Saturday. The original hope when the Christmas Lights committee got to work in June was to raise £24,000 over the course of the next 36 months - but that initial target has been smashed. Such has been the feedback that £32,000 has already been donated. A total of £5000 has been donated by the community fund associated with the SSE Beatrice offshore windfarm. The numbers speak for themselves. More than 50 businesses and groups from around the town have each sponsored a light. The cash has gone towards replacing 52 lights with new ones while 36 lights have been repaired and turned LED to

save on energy. What's more over 60 volunteers have been lending a hand fixing and fitting them. Electrician Andrew Murray, who is on the committee said: 'There's a lot of people who have a lot of pride in their town. The community has really come together over this. Virtually every light in the town - about 95% - will either be new or will have been repaired.

Cullen Skink: A chef who runs a cafe in Cullen has been fittingly crowned the Cullen Skink world champion for 2018. Lynne Watson of Lily's Kitchen used her mam's recipe to create the traditional soup, and described taking the title as a "complete shock." This was the sixth year in succession that the competition has been held in Cullen bay Hotel where the judges were ,Alistair Fowlie, depute head of curriculum at Moray College, Peter Cook director of food, drink and agriculture at Opportunity North East ,Jimmy Buchan, trawler man of the Amity Fish Company and TV fame, Clare Russell, Lord Lieutenant of Banffshire and Louis Paterson who runs Cluny Fish Company in Buckie.

Forsyth's of Buckie a first: The world's first mobile malt whisky distillery has been made in Buckie and will be sent to the other side of the world for Japanese whisky lovers. The pioneering portable 13m by 13m development was constructed by Moray based Forsyths Limited in a modular design and is bolted together in blocks Forsyth's senior project engineer Kenny Gilchrist said 'We predict that this will be a game changer in the global spirits industry.'

The portable design not only means that the distillery can be used in any location but also creates the possibility of making different spirits in different locations be that bourbon, gin, rum or brandy.

Dec 4

Buckie Christmas Kracker: A surge of public support helped make Buckie's Christmas Kracker a fun-filled family event to remember. Thousands packed the town centre for Saturday's celebration and official switch-on, which was undertaken by a star from the TV programme, Emmerdale, James Hooton who plays the part of Sam Dingle.

Crowds were treated to a spectacular parade, attractions, competitions, entertainment, a fun fair and fireworks as well as the new festive light, purchased thanks to a groundswell of local support. Chairman and local councillor Gordon Cowie said the dry and relatively mild weather helped to make the day. He added: 'I would like to thank everyone who helped out in the run-up and on the day for giving of their time, because this year we got a lot of extra help it was among the best yet and everyone seemed to be having a really good time. It really was a good atmosphere. Our committee is very small and everyone on it worked so hard to make the Kracker a success'.

North Church success: The congregation of the church played their part to make the Kracker a success and helped themselves into the bargain. The church was beautifully decorated with a variety of displays, including one to George McIntosh VC and Christmas trees, the usual big one but also smaller ones on which people had made and hung hand made cards on the branches. Teas, shortbread and mince pies were served in the hall with the quite sum of £1.300 being raised for church funds.

Local assets handed over: Leisure facilities in two of Moray's communities have been handed over to local people. Community Asset transfers for Portknockie Bowling Green and Tennis Courts and Marine Park in Lossiemouth were approved by coucillors last Tuesday.

The Portknockie group submitted their (CAT) request in June with the aim of developing and upgrading the Seafield Terrace facilities to increase participation in bowling, tennis and other indoor and outdoor sports.

Buckie winning window display: A local charity's store tribute to the centenary of World War 1 has seen them come out tops in a UK wide poll. Buckie Red Cross store found themselves voted the Best Remembrance Day Display 2018 on the CharityshopVM website, which aims to celebrate the merchandising talents which exist in charity shops the length and breadth of Britain. Their winning window display was split into two halves, one featuring a red dress surrounded by a fountain of poppies while the other featured a black silhouette of a 'Tommy' a British soldier infantryman of the time. The display was a team effort involving shop manager Jane Murray, Sybil Wilson, Jacquie Cowie and 400 hand-made poppies by Margaret Cowie. Pictures of the display were shown on page 4 of this edition.

Funded groups say 'thanks a million.' A charity that was established by a famous Moray food manufacturer is celebrating after awarding £1 million to organisations in Moray, the Highlands and Islands and Aberdeenshire. The Gordon and Ena Baxter Foundation recognised the funding milestone by extending a special invitation to local causes to apply for a share of another £1 million funding pot. To mark the special occasion, the Foundation hosted a 'birthday party' at the Fochabers Institute earlier this month for awardees, coinciding with what would have been the 100th birthday of charity founder Gordon Baxter. The Foundation's pledge to donate a further £1 million to community projects was described as a great opportunity for good causes by Foundation manager and trustee Kay Jackson.

Local butchers recognised: A trio of Moray butchers have been recognised on the national stage. Darren Anderson of Anderson Butchers in Buckie, Lisa Dunbar and Hamish Jones of John Davidson's of Elgin were named as finalists in the annual Scottish Craft butcher training awards 2018. Darren was a finalist in the training mentor of the year category, having been nominated by apprentice Jordan Heanan. Assessor John Farquhar said; Darren is very positive in relation to progress that Jordan is making. He appreciates the effort that Jordan puts in and in return puts 100% effort back into guiding and advising him.

Buckie kids go to great lengths: Buckie schools topped the medal tables at the Moray schools swimming trials held in the Forres pool. Cluny Primary won three golds, and a silver to emerge as the most successful primary while Buckie High's haul of 13 gold, six silver and three bronze was the best secondary medal collection.

Dec 11

Holocaust survivor's message of hope to pupils : The pupils of Buckie Community High School were treated to an inspirational tale of survival against the odds from a Holocaust survivor. Joanna Millan (76) was sent to a concentration camp when she was just a baby, barely a year old, but survived. She and her mother were interned after her father had been arrested to subsequently die in Auschwitz. When her mother died of tuberculosis she was only 18 months left an orphan only to survive by the kindness and sacrifice of other inmates often at great risk to themselves. After the camp was liberated in 1945 she was taken to the U K and adopted by a Jewish couple. She later married and now spends her time visiting schools to tell her story and hopefully prevent history from repeating itself. Mrs Millan said how the story of the 1930s is happening again today, harking back to the days when people would report on their Jewish neighbours and take

their property when they were deported. She said 'I suppose it is human nature to fear the outsider and think they are lesser than you; suddenly they become unacceptable to society, they're taking our jobs, houses, places at our schools and there is a backlash. . Can we change, can we learn? If I didn't believe that I couldn't do what I do, going round the country speaking to schools and groups. Some will take it on board for life and go out and spread the word. It's up to all of us to act. Education is so important, we must learn not to fear those who are different or are mavericks and encourage them. Without these people, we wouldn't have had an Einstein or a Van Gogh'.

Fundraisers are named as citizens of the year. Three Portknockie women have been honoured for raising thousands of pounds to save the village's paddling pool. Following the switch-on of Portknockie's Christmas Lights, local community council chairwoman Diane Anderson revealed the latest winners of the John Addison Memorial Citizen of the Year Trophy were Kirsty Farquhar, Donna Coull and Lil Urquhart from the Paddling Pool Repair Group.

Idle dredger doubts remain: Questions are being asked about why the Buckie dredger is idle yet again. The MV Selkie has not been out to sea for the past three months due to 'staffing troubles' which have not been made public by Moray Council. The vessel, which cost the local authority £2.4 million, was launched with great fanfare back in April 2016, has since spent far more time holed up in Buckie harbour rather out on open water or involved in the type of work for which it was designed.

Donation towards life-saving kit : Fochabers businessman Michael Burnett who runs MB Cars in the village has added a £250 gift to the pot. The life-saving kit will be installed by the banks of the River Spey. A fun-raising campaign has seen the community come together to support the purchase of life-rings and the housing they will be installed in. The location of the rings and ropes, it has been planned, will be near the part of the Spey popular with children and others swimming during the summer months.

Dec 18

Pub collection allows the purchase of life-saving kits: Last November saw local bar 'Pub in the Square' barmaid Lynda Murray perform life-saving CPR on a customer who suddenly took ill and stopped breathing. It was to herald the beginning of a fund-raising campaign to buy public access defibrillators that has so far garnered £3,010. Now the bar has not only unveiled its own defibrillator but has also given one to the Friends of the Fishermen's Hall. A further donation to the Sandpiper Trust who are supplying the machines will help pay for training costs. Glen Campbell, chairman of FOFH said how his group were delighted to receive the donation of a defib. 'It's such a kind donation and we can't thank Lynda and the patrons of the bar enough for their generosity', he said.

Leisure review is 'madness'. Plans which could see outside consultants hired to conduct a review of Moray Council's leisure estate have been branded "madness." Buckie Conservative Councillor Tim Eagle accused the council's SNP administration of "runnin round in circles" He continued "Only three months ago the full council agreed a way forward for the leisure estate and staff spent a lot of time progressing that with a review due early in 2019. However, despite an outcry by Conservative members they agreed yet another internal review for the estate and potentially spending £50,000 on an external consultant cost to do the same work which has already been done. This is simply madness."

Gala cash boost for community: More than £7,000 was ploughed back into the Fochabers community at a bumper cheque handover ceremony. A recent meeting of Fochabers Village Association Ltd's gala and events committee saw a total of 20 cheques presented to local groups, plus two donations. The cash was raised during this summer's hugely successful gala, which broke all records.

Friends chairman stands down: Last Thursday saw the Friends of Seafield Hospital on hand to present Christmas gifts to the patients in what is an eagerly awaited annual event; joining the team this year were a group of youngsters from Cluny Primary. There was also a poignant moment to this year's present-giving as the Friends wished their chairman Alistair Robson all the best as he stood down from the post he had held for 15 years. Alistair told the Advertiser how he had become involved around 16 years ago after going through 16 operations at Dr Gray's Hospital in Elgin. 'They treated me very well and I thought to myself 'It's payback time , I've got to do something to help them.' A photograph shows Alistair receiving a parting gift from a Friends founder member Mrs. Betty Gauld.

First ever school re-union: Former pupils of a school which closed around 40 years ago held their first ever reunion. Friday, June 20, 1986, saw the Richmond School at Clochan, which served children with Additional Support Needs close its doors for the last time. The pupils studying at the school were moved to a newly created base at Buckie High School where it has remained. The reunion came about thanks to the determination of a former pupil with the help of current PT Special Education Department, Sharon Aitken. Mrs Aitken told the Advertiser 'Peter is a former pupil and when he heard that there had never been a reunion he said he thought there should be one. Peter worked very hard to get in touch with as many of the former pupils as possible and the event was held in the Royal British Legion Hall, with a disco provided by Adam Chisholm. Peter's family provided a buffet for everyone, which we all enjoyed. 'We were delighted to welcome a very special guest in former staff member at Richmond, Doris Murray, Portgordon and she and Peter cut a special cake.

Centre now has a sense of identity: Buckie's latest nursery has a new identity, thanks to the winner of a competition to design a new logo for Lady Cathcart Centre. Amy Smith, formerly of Buckie, recently visited the nursery to be presented with a certificate of thanks from the children. Now an architect who splits her time between her business in Aberdeen, PQ Design and Buckie, Ms Smith has fond memories of the odd discos, after school clubs and sports activities at Lady Cathcart and is delighted to have her design chosen. Nursery manager Gill Hearn said of the logo: 'We're delighted to have a bright and contemporary design for our new logo. The children appreciated the bright colours of the rainbow and the sea, while the design links Lady Cathcart nursery to the heritage of Buckie perfectly. Ms Smith's logo was chosen from 14 other entries by the children in the nursery, Minister for Children and Young People, Maree Todd MSP and Early Learning and Childcare staff.

Service reflects on lost loved ones: There was time to pause and remember those loved ones who are no longer here to celebrate Christmas at a special service in Buckie. The town's South and West Church witnessed a good turnout for the Reflections at Christmas Service. Supporting the event were Buckie Rotary Club, 1st Buckie BBs and Buckie and District Community Choir. Following the service, a time of reflection and prayer was led by Rev. Brian Bain around the Christmas tree. Memory stars to hang on the tree could be purchased from the Pram Boutique or local churches at a cost of £2. A collection was also taken for the Teddy Bear Development Playgroup.

Dec 25

Choir brings festive joy to shoppers: There was a jolly festive first for Buckie on Sunday when Cluny Square rang out to songs of the season. From 2.30pm through to 4pm Buckie and District Community Choir held shoppers and bystanders entranced with their inaugural Carols in the Square concert. People of all ages stopped by to join in or simply to enjoy the singing. In addition to the singing, Santa and his little helpers were on hand much to the delight of younger visitors to the square. Many shops in the centre of Buckie remained open during the afternoon. The lack of this kind in the town was to provide the spark of inspiration behind the concert as choir chairwoman Kathleen Thomson explained.

New Buckpool sewer complete: Scottish Water has completed a £700,000 project to reduce the risk of flooding in Buckie. Months of upheaval and road closures in and around the St Peter's Road, St Peter's Terrace and Sutherland Crescent finally came to fruition in the last weeks on November. Delivered by Scottish Water's Alliance Partner, Aimey-Black & Veatch the main aim of the project was to improve the sewer network by increasing the capacity of the sewer pipe and reducing the risk of flooding. The scheme involved the installation of 250m of new, considerably larger diameter sewer pipe, which began at St Peter's School, along St Peter's Terrace across Land Street on to St Peter's Road to the final connection point in Sutherland Crescent.

Poppy Appeal record. A record £26,250 was raised in Moray for the Poppy Appeal during the course of 2018. With this year marking the centenary anniversary of World War 1 people dug deeper to assist the cause.