

PORTKNOCKIE'S COAT OF ARMS RETURNS EVER "AYE AFLOAT"

The grandest celebration for many a year will be seen in Portknockie when the village greets the re-investiture of its coat of arms. Saturday 9th September is the day when the whole community will join honoured guests and former residents in welcoming back the coat of arms that reverted to the Crown in 1973 following local government re-organisation in Moray.

Community Council Chair, Alan Beresford says "It is rare to be able to institute something that everyone in the village, regardless of age, background or beliefs can relate to and take pride in." Pearl Murray, the Community Association Chair sees the event as "making yet another milestone in the history of Portknockie." She adds "It is a very proud moment for the village."



PORTKNOCKIE, THE PLACE TO TAKE YOUR SUMMER HOLIDAYS. ANOTHER THING TO BE PROUD OF!

This summer season seems to have been an especially good one for visitors to Portknockie. The holiday homes have been full and it has been a common sight to see French, German and Italian cars and camper vans passing through the village or parked down by the Bow Fiddle Rock. Many of our regular visitors have been seen at village events such as the Cream Tea and the Gala. The fine weather this summer has helped to show the village at its best and we have a reputation as a warm and welcoming place. Our fine floral displays during the season also please visitors.

VILLAGE NEWS & AROUND:

Mary Reid, the familiar face behind the counter in the village Paper Shop for the last 17 years, took retirement on Friday 21st July. Leaving a job she obviously enjoys was forced upon her by an impending knee replacement operation. Her farewell day was marked by a press photo call and a surprise presentation from grateful customers and shop colleagues. Mary's working career began in the Hill Street newsagent as a paper girl when it was run by Charles and Charlotte McIntyre. Her retirement many owners later took place in the same shop now owned by James and Ann Johnston. She was very touched by the generosity of the gifts she was given and the kind words said about her.

Kut 'n' Kurl

Of
Portknockie
840366

Kerry, Susan & Claire

We would like to welcome Joanne Anderson to our team. Joanne will be available for appointments on Wednesdays 9.30am – 2pm and on Fridays 9.30am – 5pm.

Black horse on the loose: On Tuesday morning 25th July a black horse was running round the field adjoining Mairs Street. Later in the day it was being chased across the field by the cemetery monitored by two Grampian police cars. It must have been an important horse! You do not get that for burglary!

Torrential rainfall and hail fell on Portknockie on Wednesday evening 26th July just as folk were leaving the McBoyle Hall after their cream teas. The force of the run off from Cliff Terrace washed away the steps by the Flagstaff (the third time this has happened in three years) and water flowing down Victoria Street damaged the new manhole cover in Patrol Road put in this year to improve surface run off. Earlier in the day, there had been a very severe lightning discharge over the village swiftly followed by the loud boom of thunder. Probably the result of global warming again!

Sarah Donaldson has gained a place at the Gray's School of Art in Aberdeen and she will be taking an Art/Photography course there in September. You can see an example of her photography work in the Library.

Minke whales were observed swimming off the harbour and across Cullen Bay during the middle of July. Aberdeen researchers have explained that such sightings were probably due to global - you know what! Start watching for turtles and crocs next!

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An E-mail from from Margaret Zadwornie (nee Mackie), Canada: The Portknockie website is wonderful – everyone must be very proud of the young man who must have worked so hard to do such a tremendous job in devising it. It's 12.40pm and I have not done a bit of work for reading the newspaper and checking out the website. I did mark that I wanted to have the K'nocker sent to me but nothing was indicated that it went through – I'll just have to wait and see. **Editor:** You first need to register with a user name and password then you can download the K'nocker to your own computer.

Flying high for Portknockie School: Kirsty Coull will be sky diving on the 23rd September 2006 from

St Andrews. All sponsorship will be gratefully received in aid of school funds and the School Support group at 2 Gordon Street (tel: 841129). Granny and Granda say “Good luck Kirsty, fly high!”

PORTKNOCKIE CHIP SHOP

Ron & Dee look forward to serving you with traditional fish suppers

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Mon-Thurs: 4.30-8pm, Fri-Sat: 4.30-9pm

Where was I? (an article in the summer issue). The directions were for customers to get to Dicksons' Car Showroom at 28/34 Carsegate Road, Inverness.

Portknockie Paddling Pool: A Big Thank you to the men who have filled and cleaned out the paddling pool so diligently throughout the summer. It has been enjoyed not only by our village bairns but those coming in from surrounding areas. The pool was used a great deal during the July heat wave and thanks are due to all those who contributed money for the replacement pump – a special thank you to Lynn Selwood for her very generous donation towards it.

Important reminder to dog owners: Would villagers please note that no dogs should ever be allowed in the vicinity of the paddling pool. There are notices up by the pool banning dogs and the Moray Environmental Health Officers have drawn our attention to the potential health risks from dogs using the pool. We are advised that the paddling pool could be shut down if the warnings are ignored. There are plenty of local places to walk a dog but the paddling pool area is not one of them.

Pulteney Street numbers extended: The Moray Council has altered the address of “The Neuk” to 27 Pulteney Street – previously it was numbered 6 Cliff Terrace.

Did any of our readers speak to Jann Gray? (from the summer issue). **Ian Mair** updates us:

“Jann is the daughter of my cousin, Elsie Mair who grew up in 10 Mid Street. Another cousin, Vera Mair, who lived in 31 Church Street but has now been in Vancouver for over 40 years, read my story, “Leading Lights” (in Summer 2005 issue) and realised it was about her Granda. Vera knew that Jann was keen to learn of her Portknockie roots.

Through Vera, Jann got in touch with my daughters, Nicola and Sandra, on the internet.

Jann visited Nicola and I in April and, as we knew in advance of her visit, Sandra had researched her Mair ancestry. Jann's Great, Great, Great Granda was Alexander Mair 'Shy' born in 1816. On the 26th June 1836 he married Portknockie girl, Margaret Wood and they had six children. Their second son, John, was Jann's Great, Great Granda and he was born in 1843.

John Mair 'Bobbin/Shy' married Portknockie girl, Catherine Mair Slater on 29th October 1864. They had ten children, five sons and five daughters. John, their sixth child was born on 6th December 1874 and he was Jann's Great Granda and my much loved Granda.

John Mair 'Bobbin/Shy' better known as John 'Spunks' married Cullen girl, Elspet Runcie (Elsie Bruce) on the 25th of November 1898. They had eight children, four sons and four daughters. Vera's Mam was Maggie, the eldest child and Jann's Granda was the next oldest born in 1902. My Dad, Francis, was their seventh child and third son. William the youngest was Portknockie's last Provost and later Councillor for Rathford.

Jann's Granda was known in Portknockie as 'Johnny Mairy'. Not he, but his father owned the drifter **Elsie Bruce**. He also owned the **Elsie and Nellie**, named after his two daughters and the **MFV Utopia**. The **Nellie Wed** mentioned by Jann (e-mail in the previous issue) never existed. Jann's Granda was decorated in 1940 by King George VI for his role as a civilian skipper of one of the little boats – probably the Elsie and Nellie, at the Dunkirk evacuation.

Jann left Portknockie with extracts of her forebear's birth, marriage and death certificates. She was delighted to have met her extended family and she is going to continue to keep in touch by e-mail."

Congratulations to George and Margaret Stephen joint winners of this year's Inchgower Quaich for the Moray Council Best-kept Garden between Fochabers and Cullen. The other winner came from Buckie.

Big thank you to the people of Portknockie:
"After losing my much loved and missed Mum and Dad last year, I felt I had to move away from our and my parent's home town of Livingstone – the memories were too painful.

I saw this lovely village called Portknockie on the internet and felt this was the place I wanted to move to. Well, was I right? Yes! The people here have made my family and I feel so welcome. Lauren has settled well into the school and is making lots of new friends. Zach is enjoying making friends at the local Playgroup in the McBoyle Hall where the ladies have also made me feel very welcome.

Making this move from Livingston to Portknockie was one of the biggest decisions we have made, uprooting all the family but we know it has been the right one. The floral displays around the village are amazing and being able to sponsor a barrel and put my Mum and Dad's name on it was very special to me. Thanks you, once again."

Brenda, Kevin, Lauren and Zach Forfar, 9 Church St.

VILLAGE IN BLOOM 2006:

The judging for Beautiful Scotland in Bloom took place on Thursday 20th July at 10am. The judges were Carolyne and Warwick Wilson from Aness. The village looked very bonny and the weather was fair. Compliments were paid to our colour scheme, the new grouped barrels, the variety of our floral displays and the strong community commitment to "Village in Bloom".

However, our optimism about a good result was ill-founded and we were not selected for the finals judging as we were last year. The main working team had received many words of praise from residents about this year's display being better than last year so it was something of a disappointment to fall at the first hurdle even if there was a lot of high quality competition in the Large Village Category of the competition.

The Community Association and the Village in Bloom team would welcome some advice from residents on whether we should persevere with this national competition next year. It is clear that our floral displays do a lot for the image of Portknockie and they certainly enhance the local environment but it does require major fund-raising and a substantial investment of time from the volunteers creating and maintaining the displays throughout the summer. What do people think? Planning and developing next season's display should start very soon in the autumn.

The Best-kept Village in Moray competition judging was on Wednesday 2nd August and we were judged by Cyril and Dorothy Wise from Dumfries. This year we are back in the main competition seeking top spot

in the “Large Village” category. Last year, you may recall, we were asked to accept a special certificate having previously won the top prize for three consecutive years. The awards this year are due to be announced at Elgin Town Hall on Friday 1st September.

After weeks of fine weather, the judging took place in windy, wet and very cool conditions. The judges were taken aback as umbrellas flew in the wind and the hanging baskets swung! Both judges seemed very impressed with what they saw and recognised the huge effort put in by the community to achieve such an expansive display. They praised the barrels, the quality of the flowers and the teamwork to keep the display watered and weeded throughout July. Sadly, we probably lost some marks when Cyril pointed out the burn marks in the plastic sides of the bus shelter! We hope the overall display was more than enough to ensure we regain the top position in the Moray large village group competition.

PORTKNOCKIE BEST-KEPT GARDEN CHALLENGE:

No arrangements were put in place this year to organise this activity. There appeared to be very little enthusiasm for it to happen and it has been suggested that a gap year be taken to rethink whether the community wants an annual best-kept gardens competition and how best it should be arranged. This will give us an opportunity to reflect on the organisation, the rules and the timetable and see what changes might be useful and desirable. If the competition is to continue you might want to consider some of the issues: do we want the division between Council and Private Gardens, do we want size categories, do we want gardens nominated by a third party or self entry, do we want the best gardens to receive cups and/or certificates or prizes, do we want outside judges and is August the best month for judging to take place? Send your thoughts and ideas to the K’nocker or make them clear to community representatives.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWS:

The Council now comprises: **Chairman:** Alan Beresford (840534/07790023983), **Secretary:** Janice Smith (842826), **Vice Chair:** Helen Sammon (841794) **Treasurer:** Gladys McKenzie (840542), **Press Secretary:** Pearl Murray (841087) with Lil Urquhart, Sam Muir and the two **Junior Councillors** – Ross Jagger and Laura Davidson.

Mrs Cathy Mills has moved house and resigned her membership of the Community Council. The May

meeting saw the Community Beat Officer in attendance to discuss ways of improving the working relationship between the PCC and the local police. Apparently 58% of crimes reported in this area are detected. The police feel that their relationship with local young people is good and that some of the vandalism which has occurred in the village has been the result of young people from Buckie coming out to spend their evenings in Portknockie and Findochty. Also on the agenda was the continuing threat of Primary school closure in the face of falling rolls and how the village could and should react to this issue.

In the June meeting the police reported on local complaints relating to the illegal riding of mini motorcycles, underage drinking, housebreaking, a maritime incident and badly parked cars in the village. Regarding the house break in, villagers are reminded that they should be very careful about locking doors given that there are rogues now in rural areas prowling around and on the look out for opportunist stealing possibilities.

Members who attend the Moray Save Our Schools Forum with the Portknockie Support Group reported back on the Moray Council Consultation Document questioning the status of the 60% trigger figure for pupil numbers which would set in train possible closure procedures for a local school. The PCC feels a figure of 50% would be more appropriate for rural schools. Questions were also raised about progress with the proposal to move the Portknockie Library into the school to make more effective use of Council resources.

Cllr Shepherd has reported that 20 mph signs are to be installed this summer for the protection of pupils crossing the road to the school – does this suggest the threat of closure is receding? The proposal by the PCC, backed by Cllr Shepherd, that the Seabraes development area on the east side of the village be expanded from 30 plots to 50 plots looks as if it will be acceptable as a change to the Local Plan. Any development of this area will include some units of affordable housing. No further housing development is expected along King Edward Terrace as the presence of the main sewage distribution pipeline and the Slack Burn make the area unsuitable for more housing. Replying to a resident’s complaint that the green bins should be collected more frequently during the summer Cllr Shepherd said there are no plans to take action on this at the moment. The PCC intends writing to the Waste Management Officer, Steve Williamson to explore this matter further.

High on the agenda this summer has been the Coat of Arms Project and making sure that this event, which climaxes on September 9th, is a memorable one and adds to the rich saga of Portknockie's heritage.

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NEWS:

Summer fund raising events included a Quiz night on 26th May, a sponsored walk on Sunday 25th June (walkers were thin on the ground) and a Cream Tea evening on Wednesday 26th July. This was a very well attended event, not by weight watchers and raised £500 for village funds. This was followed on Friday 28th by the annual Gala held this year in the Square. After the hot days of most of July the evening turned cool with a haer lowering temperatures. This did not deter a very large crowd supporting the event and a splendid £1 800 was raised. There were a variety of sales and raffle tables, good sales of burgers and kippers and an unusual but fun attraction was put on by Skip 2 the Beat, a very talented girls' skipping group from Portsoy. Visitors included Richard Lochhead, the Moray MSP and his family and our own local Councillor Ron Shepherd and his wife, Dorothy. Later in the evening The Seafield Inn organised a tombola and disco.

The Hundred Club draw for June: 1st Brenda Cowie, 2nd Catherine Ritchie and 3rd Harry Hawkes. **The July draw:** 1st Margaret Simpson 2nd Rose Jagger and 3rd Lynn Trodden. **The August draw:** 1st Donald Morrison, 2nd James Johnston and 3rd Irene Weir.

Committee members have been busy helping with the planning and organisation of the Coat of Arms Ceremony. Jim Urquhart, Eric Earl and David Field made all the arrangements for the plaque fixing and the flying of the flag above the Youth Centre.

Future fund raisers include a new calendar for Portknockie and a Tattie lunch on October 18th in the McBoyle Hall. Plans are in hand for the upcoming Christmas and New Year events. This year's Christmas tree lighting with a service and carol singing will be on Sunday 26th November.

The **AGM of the Association** will be at 7pm on Tuesday October 10th in the McBoyle Hall. All residents are welcome to come along to show their support and to become active in the work of the Association for the village. It is all about doing things for YOU, the community of Portknockie. Could you find a bit of time to come along and offer your help?



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PORTKNOCKIE COAT OF ARMS:

The festivities will begin on Friday evening 8th September at 7.00pm in the Church of Scotland when there will be a service of blessing for the new village flag that incorporates elements of the coat of arms. This flag will be raised above the Youth Centre (the old Burgh Chambers building) the following evening as part of the Coat of Arms re-investiture ceremony.

The big day starts at 6.45pm from the harbour head where the Buckie and District Pipe Band will lead off a parade that will include village youngsters and representatives from local community groups. The route will be along Harbour Road and then along Church Street, which will be closed off for the duration of the coat of arms ceremony. The parade will halt at the Millennium Garden where members of the Community Council and the Community Association will be joined by invited guests for the re-investiture ceremony. Those invited include the Ross Herald of Scotland, Charles Burnett who will present the vellum marking the return of the village's coat of arms, the Lord Lieutenant of Banffshire, Clare Russell and the Vice Lieutenant, John Fowlie, Angus Robertson MP, Richard Lochhead, MSP, the Moray Council Convener, Eddie Coutts, local elected member, Ron Shepherd and the Portknockie Church of Scotland Minister, Rev. Graham Austin.

The formal ceremony in the Millennium Garden will begin at 7.00pm with guests being welcomed by Alan Beresford, Chair of Portknockie Community Council. This will be followed by the hymn "Will Your Anchor Hold?" Then the Ross Herald will hand over the vellum marking the formal return of the coat of arms to Portknockie. A prayer of blessing will follow with the Lord Lieutenant then reading greetings to the village from the Queen. A reflection from the Minister will lead into the hymn, "To God Be the Glory" followed by prayers and a final blessing.

The coat of arms flag will then be raised on the former Burgh Chambers, now the Youth Centre, by two local members of the Boys brigade, Michael Leslie and Andrew Bruce, who are completing their Queen's Badges. They will be assisted by the two Junior Community Councillors, Ross Jagger and Laura Davidson. The whole ceremony will be rounded off with a rousing rendition of "Aye Afloat", a song penned by our own Frank Reynolds that has become something of an anthem for the village.

The evening does not stop then, however, as all are invited to a reception after the ceremony at the McBoyle Hall. From around 9.30pm celebrations will continue in the Seafield Inn and Victoria Hotel.

MORAY CITIZENS' PANEL:

The June survey dealt with Community Safety matters. Panel members were asked to comment on any local experiences of noisy neighbours, threats of violence, drug dealing, underage drinking, vandalism, graffiti, litter and dog fouling and to comment on the extent to which these problems impact on one's life. Other questions asked how safe one felt in Moray and what community safety initiatives would be welcomed by the public e.g. more local police, the wider use of community wardens, more crime prevention information and better street lighting.

Another section of questions tried to obtain a measure of prejudice and discrimination towards ethnic minority groups and incomers moving into Moray from elsewhere in Scotland and the UK. "There are too many people from outwith Scotland in Moray." Do you agree or disagree with this statement? "Speaking negatively about people from different ethnic backgrounds to your family or friends in private – would you consider this not racist, slightly racist or strongly racist?"

Other questions dealt with the performance of the police and fire services and what information the public would like to receive about how these services are improving. There were questions about one's knowledge of workplace health & safety policies and consumer safety and a final query - "Would you be in favour of actions to discourage doorstep sales?"

In July the Citizens' Questionnaire asked for views about the Moray Community Planning Process and sought opinion on the best ways to engage the public in consultation. Most public bodies now invite comment from users on their services and future plans. This survey asked "Do you feel consulted by the Moray Community Planning Partnership? Are

you aware of its existence?" Taking one of the big local issues of the year – "Do you feel informed enough about the issues concerning the future pattern of Primary Schools in Moray?" The questionnaire sought to clarify how best to keep the public informed about community issues – by public meetings, public notices in papers, radio broadcasts and TV or through websites. Does the public feel there is enough, too much or not enough consultation and do they feel it is good or bad value for the time and money it involves?

The Moray Community Plan has seven main themes – achieving a safe community, creating a healthy and caring community, building stronger communities, improving travel facilities and giving choice, investing in children and young people, protecting, enhancing the environment of Moray and working for increased prosperity by supporting local businesses, tourism, work training and careers guidance. The July survey sought to clarify how important each of the seven themes is for Moray and who should be consulted on how to take them forward? Moray is expecting the Neighbourhood Forums to be leading the community action on this so do you feel the embryonic Buckie Neighbourhood Forum will prove to be the best form of organisation for achieving local change and prosperity?

SCOTS WORDS – the Doric column:

Names of birds: a seagull is a **gow** or **pule**. A sparrow is a **spurgie**. A starling is a **stirlin**. A blackbird is a **Blaikie**. A stone-chat is a **steen-chackert**. A dove is a **doo**. The arctic tern is a **tarick**. A chicken is a **chucknie**. A cormorant is a **scrath**. A crow is a **craw, craa or hoodie**. A duck is a **deuk or dyeuk**. A lapwing is a **pee-weet or teuchat**. A magpie is a **pyot**. A plover is a **plivver**. A skylark is a **laverock**. A yellow-hammer is a **yaldie**. A turkey-cock is a **bubblyjock**.

The August weather: offered a variety of Doric speak. It was **dreich** much of the time. For several days the terms **smoocherin**, **smirr** or a **spleeter 'o weet** might have been more appropriate for the fine rain that was falling and on a couple of days it was even **fair dinging doon and affa breezy!** In other words the August weather here was **fair drabbly**.

Editor: Would readers care to nominate other commonly used local dialect or Scots words with examples of how the word is used.

HOUSEWIFELY SKILLS IN DECLINE:

How skilled are you at the essential skills of the housewife? A Scottish Women's Rural Institute spokesperson was quoted recently in the media that "A lot of young women now do not have the skills that women of their age would have had back in the 1950s." What do readers think? Are the essential wifely skills disappearing? What range of housewifely skills should a young woman possess in 2006? The SWRI can arrange tests for housewives in such practical skills as hot and cold meal preparation, baking, cake decorating, fruit preserving and flower arranging. Are there any Portknockie 'quines' who would like to brush up on these wifely skills? Perhaps we could start a village practical cookery group and hold skills tests and organise demonstrations and tasting sessions?

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"WILD ABOUT PORTKNOCKIE" - a series of local nature notes by Mary Thorpe:

I saw the most unusual creature one sunny afternoon in June and it was hovering above a flower with its extremely long proboscis reaching deep into the flower. It was a pale buff colour with a short stubby body and I had not a clue what it was. Then one day I was leafing through a magazine and read that June was the best time to see an unusual flying moth called the Humming-bird Hawkmoth, which can be observed during daylight hours. It went on to describe the very creature that I had seen so I went and checked it in my Collins Gem book on butterflies and moths and there it was! It feeds on bedstraws and so should be easy to find around the braes, as bedstraw is abundant there. **Editor:** Mary has since read that this is a rare find. These moths have only previously been reported as far north as The Borders.

I had to get my book out again for another butterfly in the garden that I was not able to identify. This was a pale orange butterfly with an eye on each wing tip. I identified it as a Wall Brown, which is very common from March until the autumn. I have since identified a White Plume moth but I am unable to name a similar shaped moth that was black with very narrow

wings that reminded me of one of those old biplanes. Birds are so much easier to identify!

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Talk about a birds-eye view! We had a pair of blackbirds nesting against the window on the ledge above the back door. We had noticed them perching up there at times and seemingly peering in at us but we thought they were just sheltering. One day when we opened the door we noticed a heap of dry grass on the step and surmised that they were nest building but there was nothing on the ledge to hold the grass in place. Carl then tacked up a couple of pieces of wood to help them (**Editor:** he is after all the village "helping hands" person!) but it seemed they did not think much to that and disappeared.

A few weeks later we returned from a couple of days away to see through the window a complete nest! Because the ledge is high up it was quite hard to see what was going on but usually we could make out a tail sticking up or a little face looking in. We stopped using the door while they were there but they did not seem bothered that they could see us walking about inside. We think they had one baby although, as I said, it was hard to see much at that height and then they flew away. The nest is still there as we are loath to take it down in case they come back again.

I saw hundreds of Gannets out to sea one Sunday when I was out walking. I did not notice them at first but when I used my binoculars they were just everywhere. They were all heading east and the line of them just kept coming and coming. On the same day there were a couple of pairs of Arctic or Common terns (I am never quite sure) just off the harbour diving for fish. For such a graceful and petit bird they have the most raucous call! Similarly, the Kittiwakes have a rather harsh sounding cry for such pretty birds. Their name comes from the sound of their noisy call, I believe.

Talking of birds that are named after their call, I mentioned to a friend that I could not remember the last time I had heard the call of a Cuckoo. She said she knew where there was one in the woods at the

Bauds so I accompanied her one day and was chuffed to hear a Cuckoo calling even if we did not actually see it. I was pleased to see a water filled ditch absolutely chock-a-block with marsh marigolds in those same woods. **Editor:** Cuckoos calling are a very common sight and sound around Zermeghedo, the Italian village my wife and I visit during May but in July they fly away.

It is turning out to be a terrible year for our visiting Martins and Swallows. High summer temperatures have caused metal roofs to heat up which has killed baby Swallows and also dried out the mud nests of House Martins causing them to collapse. The drought in some parts is also preventing the Martins from collecting more mud for repairs. Each Martin nest contains around 2 500 tiny pellets of mud! The numbers of these birds seem to be declining partly due to climate change, which is producing gluts of insects too early in spring so that when the migrants arrive here their first food source is already over. Also one of the stopping off points on their migration route, the Sahel region of the Sahara, normally a relatively fertile area, is suffering from drought and the spread of intensive farming practices involving the use of chemical pesticides that destroy the grubs the birds expect to find for food. House Martins can have a bad time when they arrive on our shores as their nests may be destroyed by householders because they make a bit of a mess. I do not think we really need to make it any harder for these birds after their epic migrations every year. Sadly, we do not have the right sort of eaves for them to nest on our house.

I was relaxing and enjoying the sunshine in the garden and being in a horizontal position was looking up at the sky watching the Swifts, I think they must be my favourite bird. They have a very wide gape and catch insects into a throat pouch from which they feed their young in the nest. When food is scarce the young can go into a sort of torpid state for days on end while they wait for feeding. Their flight is so effortless as they scythe through the sky with their young, once fledged, screaming along with them feeding on insects. To think that the first time the young will perch again will be in about three years when they start to breed. They sleep, eat, drink and mate on the wing and it never ceases to amaze me each time I think about them. If you look to the sky at dusk you will see them circling higher and higher to go and sleep in the sky.

Years ago I worked in a tall building and we were fortunate to have Swifts nesting in the eaves. I found one on the ground one day unable to take flight although it was not injured. Its hawk-like feet suited

only to gripping and not for walking on the ground. I took it to the top of the building from where it flew effortlessly away. Most of these birds will have left for Africa by the time this issue of the K'nocker comes out but I will certainly look forward to welcoming them back to Portknockie next spring.

ARE YOU FEELING LUCKY?

Apparently the Scots think they are the least lucky people in Britain. A survey by the National Lottery has found that only 57% of Scottish respondents felt lucky compared with some 83% of people living in NW England.

What about our belief in omens and portents of good and bad luck? Does the number 13 bother you, do you cross fingers or touch wood and do you have a lucky rabbit foot or four leaf clover tucked away somewhere in your house? Do you look out for and care for money spiders? There are quite a few black cats in the village. Do you feel, like the ancient Egyptians did, that when they cross your path your luck could change? Do you swiftly throw salt over your shoulder if you upset the condiment pot and do you think it is bad luck to open an umbrella indoors, walk under a ladder or pass someone on the stairs? Fishermen seem to be particularly superstitious about such things as meeting a woman before they put to sea and rabbits seem to bring them bad rather than good luck! Marjorie Croucher recalls as a child rushing to stand on any discarded Woodbine cigarette packet and singing "Woodbine, Woodbine bring me luck if you don't I'll tear you up." She also recalls that friends out walking would not pass either side of a lamppost because if they did they would be sure to quarrel later! Do you remember we also used special words when declaring a truce in our childhood games? In Liverpool it was "barley" while in London we said "fainites". Did you have a special word for this in Portknockie?

Some folk believe this whole business is quite irrational and linked to paganism but recent research by a team at the University of Bangor, Wales suggests that a high proportion of the UK population believe these traditional superstitions. What do you think? Are there any unique superstitious beliefs held in Portknockie?

HOLIDAY HOME HINTS:

This feature, introduced in the last issue, has not yielded any advice for visitors yet from residents so I am forced to take the initiative again by offering a few answers to some of the questions put to me as I

wander around the village. **Can any one use the Millennium Garden?** Yes, the Millennium Garden opened in 2000 can be used by visitors and it is a lovely spot in which to wait for the bus to arrive or even to have a picnic. **Where is the village car park?** We do not have a special area for parking although there are car slots marked in the Square and behind the Victoria Hotel. Large vehicles and coaches may find it easier to park opposite the Bowling Club. Otherwise you may park along any street bearing in mind not to block garage entrances or to park where your vehicle may create a traffic hazard in one of our more narrow streets. **Who looks after the floral feature behind the Chemist shop?** This is the village Remembrance Garden and it was set up in 1998. It had once been a rose garden and it was decided to offer the tiny plots, 55 of them, to residents who could plant something in memory of a relative or favourite animal. A list of the family memories that are being recalled by each of the numbered plots is attached to the side wall of the Chemist shop. Those who requested these plots have the responsibility of keeping them tended throughout the growing season. **Does the local council maintain the paddling pool in the harbour?** No this pool was created from funds raised by public subscription and volunteers, usually parents of the young ones using the pool, have the job of keeping it clean. **Is there a café here where we might rest, get a cup of tea and something to eat?** Now there you have a problem! The Newsagent's does now offer a coffee making service with cakes and ice creams.

This new feature did, however, bring a response from Mac and Anne who own the "Lismore" holiday home in Blantyre Place -

"We are pleased to see you intend to provide **Holiday Home Hints** in future issues of The K'nocker, we are sure that visitors to our holiday home will be very interested in them.

We have had many positive comments about Portknockie from our guests, especially about how friendly the local people are, how clean and attractive the village is, what hard working committees and volunteers the village must have to provide such wonderful floral displays each summer. The improvements to local footpaths and the erection of helpful signs have also been noted and commented on.

The K'nocker also gets mentioned for its mine of information on local activities, history, news and also the useful Directory of telephone numbers. We wish you success in all future productions."

THE PORTKNOCKIE DIRECTORY

Police: Emergency	999
Non-Emergency	0845 600 5 700
Doctors: (Cullen)	840272
(Buckie)	831555
Seafield Hospital:	832081
Dr Grays, Elgin: 01343	543131
Aberdeen RI: 01224	681818
Dentist: (Buckie)	831163
Chemist: (Portknockie)	840268
Optician: (Buckie)	832239
Plumber (Portknockie)	840052
Electrician: (Portknockie)	840066
Harbour Garage	840099
Hydro-Electric: (24hrs) 0800	300999
Gas leaks: (24 hrs) 0800	111999
Scottish Water Helpline: 0845 600 8855	
BT: (fault reporting) 0800 800	151
Coastguard: (24 hrs) 01224	592334
Environmental Incidents: 0800	807060
Moray Council: 01343	563000
Out of hours	08457 565656
Buckie Access Point	837200
Uplift service (after 10am) 01343	557318
NHS24 - Health Advice 08454	242424
Crimestoppers	0800 555 111
Neighbourhood Watch (J.Myles)	840 000
Travel Information telephone numbers:	

Bus & Coach:

Bluebird (Macduff) 01261	833533
First Aberdeen Ltd. 01224	650065
National Coaches 0990	808080

Airports:

Aberdeen	087004	400006
Inverness	01667	464000

Seaport: (Aberdeen)

Northlink	0845 6000 449
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Trains:

National Rail Enquiries	0845 748950
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Taxis: (Portknockie)	840875
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Portknockie Post Office	840201
Portknockie School	840244
Portknockie Library	841149

PUBLIC SERVICE MESSAGES:

Moray Council is set to impose a £15 charge on part of the bulky waste uplift service from October 1st 2006. White goods such as cookers, washing machines and fridges will still be collected free of charge but the new levy, to be paid in advance, will be imposed for the uplift of items such as old bicycles, microwaves, vacuum cleaners, ironing boards, prams, TVs, carpets and old household furniture. Items excluded from the uplift service include renovation materials, bathroom suites, shower cubicles, doors, tyres and pianos. The majority of Scottish Councils now charge for such special collections and Aberdeenshire Council levies £18 for up to four household items. It is eight years since Moray Council made the service free in the face of fears of increased fly tipping in the local countryside.

Our Chemist shop reminds us that we should be careful not to horde pills and other medications, perhaps after we feel better and certainly not when they are past their sell by date. Bring the surplus pills back to the shop for safe, proper disposal.

HAME COOKING by SWRI members:

The recipe in this issue was recently seen and tasted in Sydney by a member of the SWRI. It is said the recipe was developed by a Mrs Lamington, a Scottish lady living down under in Australia. Is this true?

Steve's Lamos or Lamingtons: You will need 3 eggs, ¼ cup cornflour, ½ cup castor sugar, 1 teaspoon of butter, ¾ cup self raising flour and 3 tablespoons of hot water.

Method: Beat the eggs until light, gradually add the sugar, continue beating until the mixture is thick and the sugar is completely dissolved (10 mins). Sift the dry ingredients several times and melt the butter in the hot water. Sift the dry ingredients over the egg mixture, fold in then gently fold in the hot water and butter. Pour the mixture into a well-greased tray and bake in a moderate oven for about 30 minutes. Cook the cake the day before cutting and icing. Cut the cake into even pieces and hold each piece on a fork to dip into the icing. Toss each piece in desiccated coconut. Allow to stand on a rack until the icing sets.

To make the icing take 1lb (500g) of icing sugar, ½ cup milk, 1/3 cup of cocoa, ¾lb (375g) of desiccated coconut and 2 teaspoons of butter. **Method:** Sift the icing sugar and cocoa into the top half of a double saucepan (or use a pyrex bowl) add the softened butter and milk and stir to mix thoroughly. Stir constantly over hot water until the icing is of good coating consistency – it leaves a ribbon trail on itself

when dripped from the spoon. Keep the icing over the hot water while dipping the Lamos. If the icing becomes too thick, add a little extra warm milk or water.

Flowers by Donna

Arrangements – bouquets – button holes – wreaths for Christmas. All dried flowers. Orders also taken for wedding flowers

*8 Victoria Street
01542-841129 or 840554*

“ONE FIRTH VIEW” – by Margaret Dawson.

Owed to my computer – a Pome!!

My computer keyboard has 123 keys, more than double what my old manual typewriter had or rather has, because I still keep it in reserve. I have so many keys there are some I haven't the faintest idea how to use. Sometimes, I hit a combination by accident and discover some paragraphs of my work have become n+w l#ok l>k th?s. The delete key is my friend! And then there is the spellchecker, marvellous in principle but any letter clusters it isn't sure about, then the fun begins. I hope some of you will get some amusement from the following poem which was printed in a newsletter we read a while back. My son says that most of these mistakes have been tackled, supposedly by more up to date software!

“Ivor souper spelling chequer
It came with my Pea See
It plane lee marks for my revue
Miss steakes eye cannot sea.

Each thyme when aye have struck the quays
I weight for it to say
If watt eye rote is wrong or rite
It shows me strait away.
As soon as a mist ache is maid
It nose be four two late
And eye can put the err or write
As this rime demon straights.

I've run this poem threw it
I'm shore your policed two no
It's letter perfect in its weigh
My chequer tolled me sew!”

SHEAR DEZIGN

Hair by Lisa

Open Tuesday – Saturday with late night
Thursdays.

Phone 841711 for an appointment

POETS' CORNER:

THE HEID O' THE BRAE

To the passer-by perhaps
Just an old man on a seat
At the Heid 'o the Brae looking over the Firth
But he's more than the eye does meet
He's not just merely sitting there
To pass the time alone.
His view not only just the sea
But all the life he's known.

Rememberin' when he was a boy
On the beach there – down below.
The hours he spent so happily
On rafties, long ago.
He may smile in reminiscence
And he alone knows why
Rememberin' fondly courting days
Of young love long gone by.

By recalling names, or someone dear
Who sees the scene no more.
Whom God has called and now sails on
Towards the Golden Shore.

Thinkin' perhaps of Zulu days
Or drifters which he knew.
The years he sailed for Yarmouth
And West Coast fishing too.
Heeding the weather forecast
Just wind and sky
And reading the signs of nature
With long and practised eye.

He made a living independent
Of any Welfare State.
His calling was no sinecure
With dangers often great.
His kind are the very foundation
Of fishing towns we know today.
So respect and dinna tak' for grantit
The auld man on the Brae.

A. Mitchell from the Davie Mair Collection.

OUR LIFE

We met and we married a long time ago
We worked for long hours and wages were low
No telly, no radio, no bath – times were hard
No holidays abroad, no carpets on the floor,
We had a coal fire, and never locked the door,
Our children arrived, no pill in those days,
We brought them up with no state aids,
No vallium, no drugs, no LSD.
We cured all our pains with a cup of tea,
If you were sick you were treated at once,
No filling in forms and come back in six months,
No vandals, no muggings, there was nothing to rob,
In fact we were rich with a couple of bob,
People were happier in those far off days,
Kinder and caring in so many ways,
Milkmen and newsboys used to whistle and sing,
and a night at the flicks was a weekly held fling,
We had our share of troubles and strife,
We just had to face it because that was life,
But now I'm alone and look back through the years,
I don't think of bad times, the trouble, the tears.
I remember the blessing, our home and our love,
We shared them together, and I thank God above.

Sent in by a reader.

SEASONAL OBSERVANCES FROM OUR MINISTER by Rev Graham Austin, Church of Scotland, Portknockie

Summer's nearly over and very soon we will marvel
at the beautiful autumn leaves. Each season, of
course, has its own particular beauty and no doubt we
all have our favourites. I like the summer, because of
the long summer nights. I like the winter because of
the snow (of which sadly we don't get much). I like
the autumn for the reason above and I like the spring
because of the signs of new life.

People have seasons, of course, infancy, their teens,
middle age, old age and all ages in between. Each of
these seasons have their own advantages and, of
course, disadvantages but one important ingredient in
them all is the respect for one another and the
recognition that we can all positively contribute to the
wellbeing of a community.

In the Bible we discover some verses that have
something to say to the young about the old and to the
old about the young. Look at **Proverbs 20:29**: 'The
glory of young men is their strength, grey hair the
splendour of the old.'

In a number of places we see that young people like Jeremiah the prophet were told not to despise their youth 1:6 and that old people like Abraham still had much to do even at 75 years old! (**Genesis 12:4**).

Also in the New Testament we see Timothy being told by the Apostle Paul:

'Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.' (**1 Timothy 4:12**)

And there is the challenge for us all; can we live a life that sets an example the old to the young and the young to the old?

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BUILDINGS OF PORTKNOCKIE:

No 4 in a series.

Willie Slater's shop:

Pulteney Street, Portknockie 1928

I am eight years old, it is 1928 and I live at 14 Church Street, Portknockie. I like living here as all my pals and friends are around me, but alas it is going to end soon. I've just been told we are moving house down to Park Street and I don't know anyone down there. Here, I can sit at the gable window and see to the other end of Pulteney Street. On my immediate left is the Union Bank of Scotland managed by Walter Imlah who comes from Buckie where his wife owns a florist's shop. He has promised to give me a job in the bank when I grow up.

The building that interests me most is Slater's or, as the older people say, "Slater's Shoppie". Slater or Sclater is my father so we can go in and I will show you round. On entering we see shelves on either side of the door, those on the left are filled with jars of jam and marmalade in two sizes, one pound and two pounds. My father tells me he buys the 1lb jars for 1/2pence and sells them at the same price but when a customer buys jam they bring an empty jar which is returned to the manufacturer who gives a 1/2 penny

credit on your next order. On the top shelf which you need steps to reach, was where the sweets and chocolate was stored.

On the right hand side of the door we find bars of soap, yellow and yellow with blue marbling. These are usually cut up into six pieces. "Sunlight" and "Bodyguard" soap came in packets of two tablets, but is mostly used for garments needing careful washing. Lastly we find soap flakes, the ultimate luxury. Soft soap can be bought loose by the pound or ready packed in round tins. On the bottom shelf are other household items like one penny tablets of black lead for cleaning grates and expensive tins of Zebo, Vim and Monkey Brand which boldly states "won't wash clothes". Chloride of lime and washing soda are on the floor.

The east gable is lined with shelves for drapery, not clothes as such but the necessities to make basic rudiments like two rolls of flannel for making men's (for want of a better word) vests. These are made at home and look it! Net for window screens and some printed cotton for women's slips i.e. overalls, but most of the space is occupied with different types of knitting wool, any colour you like as long as its navy blue the colour used to knit fishermen's jerseys, socks etc. The counter at this end has two deep drawers need for holding men's caps ranging in size from 6 1/2 to 7 1/4. All the same style, all checked patterns and all at the same price.

The top of the drapery counter had a glass case which holds "Ingersol" watches at 5 shillings (25p) luminous ones are five shillings and nine pence; small clocks, alarm clocks and some crystal dishes.

At right angles to the drapery counter is the main grocery counter which starts off with the medicine cabinet (this description should not be taken too literally). It contains a collection of the most obnoxious concoctions imaginable, such as "Iceland Moss" which will cure any cough, chest, nose or throat complaint; "Chemical Food" is the answer to every stomach ache or loss of weight, over-weight, anaemia and a few other ills; "Beecham Pills" (worth a guinea a box); "Doans" backache and kidney pills; finally we have large jars of thick Brown Malt. Now you know why we have no doctor's practice in Portknockie!

The next space on the counter top is given to a display of tins or packets of any bargains of new products. A space of two or three yards at the counter is left so that two people can serve, with the till at the end. The ham machine comes next and then some

more goods on display. The counter has drawers for its full length which holds all the cereals. These are bought in bulk, i.e. one cwt bags. At quiet times the assistant fills them into one pound paper bags for handiness when they are busy. The wall at the back of the counter holds all the tinned goods, mostly pears, peaches and pineapples and some of tinned corn-beef. On the shelves on the same level as the counter are the sweets, caramels and chocolate.

On a Saturday evening between 6 pm and 9.30 pm, about sixty percent of the household shopping is done. For anyone on a weekly wage Saturday is pay day and if you are a fisherman, the wife is so busy cleaning the house for Sunday, she can't get 'dressed' in non-working clothes till after tea time. On a Saturday there is a box of "Cupid Whispers" or "Conversational lozenges" placed on the counter and every customer gets a handful of these sweets in their shopping basket. These 'dry' sweets are bought from Keiller's in Dundee in 14 pound wooden boxes. They cost sixpence a pound to buy from Keiller. Further along are where the cheese and butter is kept. The cheeses are American. I don't know if it comes from America but that's what it is called. Gouda and Edam comes from Holland. Also there are Kraft, which comes in small rectangular boxes of about five pounds and Gorgonzola. Sometimes a farmer's wife will bring in a home-made cheese to sell.

Now we have reached the door which leads into the store where goods which have been bought in bulk are stored, i.e., in the autumn twenty or so cases of American Delicious apples, two wooden barrels of English cooking apples. These barrels are usually opened and a nail is dropped in. If it goes all the way to the bottom and you hear it when it lands, it's a sign there are not many rotten ones, otherwise they will have to be tipped out and the bad ones removed. Next comes a few bags of onions. Bananas and oranges of course cannot be stored. Standing on its own is a fifty gallon drum of golden syrup which is sold loose by the jam jar full. On the side table a side of bacon is waiting to be boned.

From here we enter the paint store which also holds the paraffin tank, twine and cotton string for mending herring nets and making fishing lines called "temets"; and one or two pumps for blowing up net buoys. We will now go to the back of the shop and go upstairs. Up here there are three tables running the length of the shop, two of which carry china tea-sets, 18 and 24 pieces. I don't think very many people buy them for their own use, but they are popular wedding presents. The other table has cooking utensils, pots, pans etc. Under the middle one there are herring baskets of odd white cups. These are very easily broken but quite

cheap so there is a never ending demand for them. At the end there are cutlery sets boxed of course, another popular wedding present.

LAST ISSUE THE K'NOCKER SOUGHT FEEDBACK:

We did not receive anything in the way of clear suggestions for change. Does this mean you the readers are quite satisfied with how things are as far as layout, design and the frequency of publication are concerned? On the question of expected increases in production costs again you have given the editorial team no guidance. Are you prepared to keep subscribing if the cost goes up to £4 for four issues? Those who buy single issues at a time might have to pay say £1. 25. Another source of revenue could come from re-thinking our arrangements for adverts – at present these are accepted free of cost if you have an annual subscription. This issue features 14 adverts and a charge of say £10 for a year's issues would bring in perhaps £140. With a production run of 300 each issue this should cover all likely future increases in production costs and still leave a common good sum for use by the community. No action is necessary before the next subscription is due, the March issue 2007, so please let us hear your views on the publication and pricing of the village newspaper .

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Portknockie.library@moray.gov.uk

Harry Hawkes: 18 Church Street, 01542-841291 840718 or e-mail hrhyic@yahoo.co.uk

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WHAT'S ON IN THE PORT:

Church of Christ Sunday School will resume on Sunday 3rd September 2006 at 2pm. All children are welcome

Community Association: Come along to the AGM meeting on Tuesday 10th October at 7pm in the McBoyle Hall to show your interest in what is being done for you and the village. For a fun feed and get together look in on the Tattie Lunch in the McBoyle Hall on Wednesday 18th October.

Portknockie Seniors Group: Regular monthly meetings will commence again on **Tuesday 19th September**, which will be Seniors' joining night. All residents in Portknockie over the age of 18 years are very welcome to join. The Merry Minstrels will be providing the entertainment. The October meeting on 17th will feature Sandy and Andy and the Christmas Party this year will be on Tuesday 12th December.

Seafeld Women's Rural Institute: The SWRI website is now in place at www.swri.org.uk It contains a lot of interesting information. The Editor tried to access the SWRI on www.swri.com instead of org.uk and found himself instead the Scottish Whisky Research Institute!

The annual bus run took place on 22 June to Fortrose. Members, their friends and non-members enjoyed a visit to The Jewellery Factory with a fly cup, then on to Dow's Diner in Inverness for a super high tea. The fine weather made it a lovely day out. July and August are holiday months, but a few members decided to show off their Rural skills at the local shows. There was a good entry in the WRI section of the Keith Country Show where Mary Sutherland won a First prize for a Crochet Baby Bonnet at her first attempt. Well done Mary! There were successes at Keith Country Show, Aberchirder and Deskford shows for Mary Sutherland, Margaret Greig and in particular Karin Rose with a first prize at Deskford for her beaded bracelet, a skill she learned at the WRI sewing guild classes during the winter. Hopefully more ladies will join us next year. Mary and Margaret would like to thank Isobel Mair for her help setting up our exhibits, we left home at 7.30am one day. Thank you Isobel!

The 2006/7 season begins on Thursday September 28th the annual subscription will be £6. New members will be made most welcome - please come along. Our meetings for the year will be:

September 28:- Representative from Asda - a talk on healthy eating. Competition is a cold pasta dish

October 26:- Dr Susan Morrison - speaking about growing older. Competition is a Greeting card
November 23:- Kathleen Carter. Competition is a Knitted square

December 14:- Members Xmas fun night
January 25:- Burns supper. Donald Barr with Strathspey Fiddlers. Competition is a Scottish decorated candle

February 22:- Party night - venue to be decided

March 22:- Philip Banks - his experiences of voice-overs. Competition is 4 muffins - (any flavour)

April 26:- Downies Fish Whitehills, Tasty fish bites. Bring and Buy. Competition is Buttonhole or corsage

May 24:- Pat Fraser and friends - Doric poetry and music. AGM

Date for your diary - **Saturday 18 November 2006.** The Fishermen's Hall Buckie. The final of the WRI Variations on a Theme (Work) Competition. Banffshire Federation has an entry, please come along and support them. Open to all

Bowling Club Notes: This has been a very enjoyable summer season – the lovely summer evenings seemed to make the bowls run better. The condition of the green this summer has been very pleasing, particularly with so many visiting clubs playing. With extra watering the grass has stood up well to the high temperatures.

It has also been a busy season. In June we hosted our annual Open Pairs Competition – this was spread over several days and was ultimately and deservedly won by Portknockie members, Kathleen Rennie and Albert Farquhar. It was especially nice to see this open trophy stay in Portknockie this year. Also in June a club competition took place to play for the Willie Hay Cup, kindly donated and presented by Isobel Hay. Willie was a good friend of the Club and the competition will be an annual one. In some very fine sun and after some very fine play Irene Weir and Jim Clark emerged as worthy first winners.

In July, with the final being part of the village Gala celebrations, the annual competition for the Alan McLean Cup took place on the 28th. This was the third year for which the Cup has been played, with the winners (Zander Mair and James Wyness) coming from the Portgordon Bowling Club. As it happened, the runners up pair also came from the same Club thus making a clean sweep for Portgordon. The cup and the trophies were presented by Kyle McLean and the Club is most grateful for the continued support and generosity of the family.

As I write this report our record in the Buckie and District League in which we play has been consistent – unfortunately we have been consistently losing! However, by the time this appears in print things will surely have changed! Congratulations to Portknockie stalwarts, Linda Wood and Wilson Weir who recently brought back silverware from the annual Rothies Open Pairs Competition.

Support for the Club this summer has been good and there have been some large attendances at our HAT nights on Mondays and Thursdays. However, there is plenty of grass and the end of the season is still a long way away so old and new members are always very welcome to come along.

Portknockie Bowling Club Ceilidh: A Ceilidh is being organised for the evening of Saturday 7th October in the McBoyle Hall from 7.30pm to midnight. Tickets cost £7.50 which includes stovies. There will also be a licensed bar. Entry will be by ticket only limited to only 110 in order to leave sufficient room for the dancing!

The Bowling Club provides the village with a wonderful amenity, including the tennis courts, which members and visitors can enjoy from April to September and, through its programme of competitions, club members help to maintain the vibrant profile of Portknockie to the fore in the surrounding area. However, many residents may not realise that the facility is now wholly operated by the Club members and we do not receive any external funding or support from outside bodies such as Moray Council. All the running costs, maintenance and improvement programmes must be met from funds raised by Club members themselves.

The October Ceilidh represents the Club's major fund raising effort for 2006 and it is hoped that everyone will support the event by coming along on the 7th October. Tickets can be purchased from Club members or by ringing John Bell on 841065.

The Ceilidh promises to be an innovative event, even by the standards of recent Ceilidh held in the village. We have managed to secure the highly versatile **Over the Moon Ceilidh Band** from Northumberland. They are a five-piece band which includes a "caller" who will be able to lead even the least co-ordinated of us through a programme of dances, some familiar favourites and some Northumbrian derivations, new to us, but sure to be fun. The band has to date wowed audiences in Northumberland, Cumbria, Ireland and France. What's more they are giving their services to us for free!!

The band members like to organise a weekend away for themselves once a year, and through family and musical connections to John Bell and Frank and Joannie Reynolds, they have decided that Portknockie would be a good place to visit for their 2006 weekend away. Frank is hoping to arrange a special music night at the Victoria Hotel on the Friday night, if circumstances permit. Moreover, it is hoped the Band and the local Ceilidh suspects, Frank, Alex and Madeleine Green and John Trodden will be able to share a set or two to create a fusion of Northumbrian and North East traditional music and dance. It should be a great evening's entertainment and a truly unique village event. Most of all, however, it should help a very resourceful and well deserving club hold its head above the financial waters for yet another year. Please come along and support us.

Neighbourhood Watch: Neighbourhood Watch is simply watching out for one another – one for all and all for one - although in a fairly close knit village like Portknockie it is a fact that many residents do naturally watch out for one another, whether or not they are members. There has been a Neighbourhood Watch in the village since 1997, and many of the residents are members. Should you wish to join, confirm you are already a member, or would simply like some further information, contact the **Coordinator - John Myles on 840 000**. And as a money saving footnote, some insurance companies will give NW members a small reduction on their annual insurance premiums.

1st Portknockie Brownies who meet in the School hall on Mondays between 6-7.30pm are looking to welcome new members.

Library Opening Hours: 5-8pm Tuesdays; 2-5pm & 6-8pm Thursdays; 10-12noon on Saturdays.

Library News: The past few weeks have been very busy in the Library with the Reading Mission for the children, my apologies for any inconvenience to readers during the Thursday Missions – this summer 28 children took part in what is now an annual event. New stock is arriving weekly with a fine selection of Large Print books which issue well.

Would anyone in the village like to take IT taster sessions for complete beginners? There are 4 x two hour sessions on offer costing £5 per session. You can take either Introduction to basic computing or Introduction to WORD or Introduction to the Internet and E-mail or Introduction to Files and Folders.

Contact Margret or Eleanor at Buckie Library 832121 for more information or to enrol.

Fishing: The squid season was late this summer. The main activity was in August. It is fine to watch the boats fishing offshore again this year – 8 boats were counted on the 16th August including the local boat “Moray Endeavour” skippered by Fraser Smith.

A new under 15 metre build in Denmark, the “Scotia” will soon be joining the local fleet for the Robertson family. Many large passenger cruise ships have been seen passing Portknockie the last few months 46 in all from April to August this summer. Crystal Serenity, Rhapsody, Black Watch, Saga Ruby and many others.

Portknockie Toddlers: all parents and their pre-school children are welcome every Thursday morning 10-1130am at the McBoyle Hall.

**CATHERINE ' S
CREATIVE**

CERAMICS

A few places free for learning to paint original and beautiful pieces of ceramics at

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Portknockie
01542-840554

Orders taken for Christmas

Seasonal Greetings Christmas & New Year 2006/7: Would you like to send family or friends seasonal greetings this year? Maybe you plan to be away from the village over Christmas and the New Year and want to send greetings to your neighbours. You can do it in the next issue of the K'nocker out the first week in December. Aim for no more than 25 words and hand your message into Margret at the Library who will keep a folder in the weeks running up to the next publication of the village newspaper.

JMK

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Buckie
AB56 1HA
Tel/Fax 01542 835665
Mobile. 07900 931 905
Email: juliemckay@btconnect.com

Well done Lil Urqhart & Donna Coull and the other helpers for running the Thrift Shop on Tuesday and Thursday mornings during the summer months.

Thanks to all those who have been using it, the money raised goes to benefit village activities.

Village Website: Remember you can always advise relatives and friends to download a copy from Neil Hedley & John Smith's village website at:
www.portknockiewebsite.co.uk

Portknockie Primary Parent support Group has held various fundraisers this year. In March we organised a fashion show with Mackays Store, a talent show in May which was very successful and the School fete was well attended in May. Mr Ian Runcie organised a darts tournament in July and all the profit went to the school, we would like to thank him very much for all his hard work.

Now the new school year has started we are busy organising a country dance in the McBoyle Hall sometime in September and, hopefully, a jumble sale later on in the year. The Group would like to thank everyone in the village for their continued support at our School fundraisers, it is greatly appreciated.

PORTKNOCKIE SCHOOL:

Notes by Mrs Moira Cooper, Head Teacher

A warm welcome to everyone for the new school session 2006/7. We have 12 Primary one pupils this session and they are all settling in to school with great enthusiasm. Our school roll is 70 pupils.

School Term Dates:

Autumn Term started Tuesday 22nd August 2006.

Autumn Term Ends Friday 13th October 2006

Autumn Holiday Monday 16th October to Friday 27th October 2006

Winter Term commences Monday 30th October 2006.

In Service Closure Monday 20th November 2006 and Tuesday 21st November 2006.

Winter Term Ends Friday 22nd December 2006.

Christmas Holidays Monday 25th December 2006 to Friday 5th January 2007.

Spring Term Commences Monday 8th January 2007

Occasional Day Holiday Friday 16th February 2007

Mid Term Holiday Monday 19th February 2007.

Spring Term Ends Friday 30th March 2007.

Easter Holidays Monday 2nd April 2007 to Friday 13th April 2007.

Summer Term Commences Monday 16th April 2007

May Day Holiday Monday 7th May 2007

In Service Closure Thursday 24th May 2007 and Friday 25th May 2007

Occasional Day Holiday Monday 11th June 2007
Summer Term Ends Thursday 5th July 2007.

Scholastic Book Fayre: There will be a Book Fayre in school from Wednesday 20th September 2006 to Monday 25th September 2006. Pupils, Parents, Guardians and the wider Community are welcome to come and browse/ purchase books. The Opening Times- 2.45pm-3.45pm every day except for Monday 25th September 2006, when it will be open from 5.30-7.30pm.

Harvest Service: There will be a Harvest Service led by Class P1/2 on Friday 13th October 2006 at 2pm in the School Hall. All are welcome to attend.

Staff News:

Headteacher, Miss Moira Cooke, married Wing Commander (Retired) Ian Cooper M.B.E. on Friday 28th July 2006 at Seafeld Arms Hotel, Cullen. The wedding was lovely and was made even more special by a surprise visit from some pupils and parents who came over on the day to see the bride and groom. Mr and Mrs Cooper would like to thank everyone for their kind wishes.

School Year Ahead:

This is an important year for Portknockie Primary School. We are aiming to improve attainment and achievement. We are going for our 'Green Flag' in Scottish Eco Schools. Working together this can be attained. Portknockie Primary School has an open door policy. If any parent/ carer or member of the wider community wishes to discuss any aspect of the school please do not hesitate to contact the school directly. All contact is via the Headteacher in the first instance as a matter of course.

New Club



The school has several projects in place for improving the school grounds and if anybody would like to help please contact the school. We are looking for help with our new Gardening Club which will be every Friday 3.20-4.20pm.



We Need Your Help:

We are collecting 2litre plastic bottles to make a greenhouse! No, it is not a misprint. We are asking that anybody with empty 2l plastic coke/ lemonade and such like bottles brings them to the School so that we can build our very own greenhouse.

PORTKNOCKIE BOOK CLUB: Our original ten members still meet each month at "Mizpah", Seafeld Terrace.

Last autumn we managed to obtain a grant from 'Live Literature Scotland' to part fund a writing workshop. Each month we enjoy analysing a book and we thought it might be fun to explore "writing". We were aware of a very talented Scottish writer, Anne Macleod who had given a very successful writing workshop in Buckie last year so we contacted her. On a dark and stormy night in February she duly drove over from Aberdeen to meet with us. She works part time as a Dermatologist in the Aberdeen Royal Infirmary and she is also the sister of Ali Smith the 2006 Booker Prize winner with her book, "The Accidental". Maggie Roberts wrote up the evening:

"After introducing ourselves we began to loosen up with "hot writing", then we paired off for a story telling/listening exercise, retelling our partner's story. Next we wrote a poem about one of the stories that had appealed to us. Then it was take your pick by randomly choosing numbers and colours and making a poem out of that. We were encouraged to share our efforts which all, but one, bravely did. The time flew by and the evening came to a lovely conclusion when Anne sang us a Scottish song. At 10.30pm she had to drive all the way back to Aberdeen in a howling wind and heavy rain." Everyone enjoyed this workshop.

Apart from reading novels during the year, we have also had one evening when we discussed what we like about our favourite books and another evening when we chose and shared our two favourite poems from the BBC publication, **The Nations 100 Favourite Poems**. These were both very interesting and spirited evenings and gave us an opportunity to know each other's tastes in prose and verse. I think I speak for everyone when I say we are all looking forward to another pleasurable year of reading and sharing our thoughts on what we have read. Janet Crease.

LATE EXTRA:

A letter from Buster following Dot Pool's moving piece about Hamish in the last issue of The K'nocker:

"I am ten years old and this year I am embarking on an OU course in English literature – who says you can't teach an old dog new tricks?"

My mistress started reading to me one day when her youngest, Timmy, started school. She was cleaning

out the toy box and came across a copy of “Spot the Dog” by Eric Hill and just for fun, I expect she was missing Timmy, she sat me on her lap and read it to me. I was fascinated and, despite only being a pup, I was spellbound. She began to read to me every day. As my first book, Spot the Dog was a favourite, I could say I cut my first teeth on it both literally and metaphorically. I still have it dog-eared and bitten round the edges.

From this first book we progressed to “101 Dalmations”, then “Lassie Come Home” and “Greyfriars’ Bobby”. I must admit early on, I particularly enjoyed books about dogs. The excellent publications Dot Poole talks about, which must have had their author laughing all the way to the bank, were not then written. I soon learned to pick out words and then I was reading in no time at all.

Where did I get this academic trait? I have no idea! My mother is a Jack Russell, her ability to quarter ground and flush out game is second to none but she has no academic ability. I did not know my father; he leapt over the dyke when my mother was in season. I don’t think she knew much about him either. When I asked her about him she said “Eager, nice cold nose, bigger than me, Heinz 57 type, blackish and that’s about all.” My two sisters and I are bigger than our mother and we all have blackish patches – are you out there Dad?

A little blip in my education occurred when I was in my adolescence. I became very cocky and developed, to my mistress’ embarrassment, the habit of leaping onto visitor’s legs to give them an enthusiastic welcome. The last straw was when the Minister was visiting and I leapt on him when he was not expecting it and he shot a cup of scalding tea into his lap. His response was far from vicar like. So, I found myself at the Vet’s getting the snip. Even here my education continued as under my water bowl were a few pages of the Buckie Squeak and I amused myself reading “Hatches, Matches and Dispatches” and this was my first introduction to poetry – albeit very poor poetry!

Soon after this I learned to use the computer. I tried to avoid making mistakes as pressing Alt, Control, Delete was difficult as it involved using my nose which made a bit of a mess of the keys. Then it was on to exams in English, History, Spanish and French and Highers in History and English Lit and now ... the OU! The world has become my oyster!.

So who knows where a simple idea of reading to your dog will take him? It would be interesting to hear

from other readers or their pets about their achievements in future editions of the K’nocker.”

Signed: Buster.

A letter to the community from Stockton-on-Tees:

I spent a very enjoyable 7 days on my annual visit to old friends in Buckie, returning home on the 26th July. The weather being perfect we toured around and re-visited the many favourite points and places.

The flowers at Portknockie were mentioned and so we visited one evening. What a sight! This proved to be the high point of my week’s visit. The sight of the main street be-decked with flowers in hanging baskets, pots of all kinds and even the wheeled cart outside the newspaper shop is one that I shall never forget. The whole place was truly magnificent.

I was told that this was the result of the voluntary efforts of the residents and it is, therefore, the much more commendable. Please convey to all concerned my most sincere congratulations and thanks and wish them all the very best of luck in the future – they deserve it all. I hope, please God that I shall return again next year and, I know it is asking a lot, but will there be a similar show there?

With the very best wishes,

Signed: J McKeon (21st August 2006). **Ed:** Makes all the Village in Bloom effort seem very worthwhile.