

A VERY WARM WELCOME BACK HOME TO THE NEW HEAD TEACHER OF OUR VILLAGE SCHOOL

Welcome back home to Mrs Shona Idle, the new Head Teacher of Portknockie School. Mrs Idle is a native of these parts and commenced her own formal education at Findochty School before switching in P2 to Portknockie School where in 1971 she was awarded the Dux prize. She spent the next six years at Buckie High School then went on to Aberdeen University where she took an Honours degree in French and German. She followed this with a post-graduate teacher training course at the College of Education.

Her first teaching post saw her as acting relief Head Teacher cover for Mr Frank Reynolds back in Portknockie. From 1983 to 1999 Mrs Idle taught at the Hythehill Primary School in Lossiemouth before migrating with her husband for a period overseas in New Zealand.

There followed a short spell teaching in the Auckland area before finding a dream location in South Island, an hour outside Nelson. Here she began teaching in the little Lake Rotoiti School at St Arnaud. This was a pioneering time for the couple as they took on a 66 acre spread of paddock and native bush which they planted with trees and an orchard. They even found time to dismantle a house in Nelson, transport it to St Arnaud, rebuild it and connect it to a nearby stream for a fresh water supply!

By 2003 Mrs Idle had taken over the headship of the school gaining further experience... **Cont page 2 col 1**

TRADITIONAL GALA FUN MAKES A WELCOME RETURN TO PORTKNOCKIE ON THE 16 AUGUST

A 4 hour action-packed afternoon in the McLeod Park saw Portknockie at its best. The event began with a piper leading a parade from the Square with young and old in fancy dress and the delightful Gala Queen (Emma Siev-wright) and Princess (Nyah McKay) looking regal in an open-top model T Ford. After the crowning, the atmosphere heated up with the sensual swaying of a group of belly dancers. The action quickened further with a frantic five-a-side football competition in which the lasses wore the gear and the lads were hindered in dresses. In the McBoyle Hall ...**Cont page 2/3**

VILLAGE NEWS & AROUND:

Continued from the front page ... which has helped prepare her for this new challenge in Portknockie. She says that New Zealand and Scotland have both been following similar lines of development in Primary Education so she does not expect any great surprises in fitting back in the local community and working with the Moray Educational Services.

For a while, Shona's husband has remained in New Zealand selling their house but Mrs Idle is pleased to be back in Scotland to be closer to her family. She is looking forward to working with the children and their parents in taking Portknockie School forward to success. She is searching for a family house locally but it must have a big garden with plenty of trees and, maybe a stream!

Congratulations to Frank Reynolds and fellow musician, John Starsmore from Buckie on the launch of their CD, "The Best Bit of the Day". The 15 track CD featuring contemporary folk music, including favourites such as Frank's local hit, "Aye Afloat" was introduced at this year's Portsoy Traditional Boat Festival in July. The CD can be bought from our Newsagent's and also from Frank himself (841065)

for £10. You can also listen to it and download it on their website www.frankandjohn.co.uk

Kut 'n' Kurl
of
Portknockie
840366
Kerry, Susan, Claire & Joanne

Remarkable local weather: During the last week in July the Moray coast experienced high pressure with light southerly winds and gloriously blue skies and temperatures reaching the mid-twenties. This period of summer sun led to a good deal of splashing in the paddling pool and the harbour. August offered some misty, murky conditions with plenty of breezy and showery weather.

Congratulations to Neil Hedley for the splendid new website that he has designed for the Buckie Fishing Heritage Centre. Members of the group praised the first class support and the exciting features that Neil built into the new website. Neil frequently re-vamps our village online presence to the world through his website (www.portknockiewebsite.co.uk). The newest option is the Portknockie Forum which allows people around the world to chat to each other, put up ideas for comments, exchange photos and listen to music. It will be a very flexible and useful facility for planning and encouraging any Homecoming 2009 activities that we can set up involving the village.

Claire Devlin's Dolphin memorial seat at Scarnose Point vanished at the end of July. What really happened? The story in the Press & Journal featured it as a despicable theft with the thieves seen carrying away the seat to a white van. Some villagers were more inclined to explain the loss of the seat as yet another example of the vandalism that took place a few years back when the nearby Fulmar carving was tossed into the sea. In fact the mystery was solved by Sunday 3rd August when our Community Policeman e-mailed our Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator to explain that the seat had been taken away for cleaning by a local firm, at the request of the Devlin family.

The seat has been in place overlooking Cullen Bay for some ten years and the family regularly visit the village to place flowers. It is good to know that this much-loved remembrance seat is still safe and secure.

The Knocker team will sorely miss the reliable, long standing and cheerful support that George Donaldson so freely gave us in helping with the

delivery of this newspaper. Our sincere condolences go to all his family. We are delighted that Louisa Donaldson has taken over George's delivery round.

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JOINERY MANUFACTURE REPLACEMENT WINDOW SPECIALIST

GALA DAY continued from the front page....

the Dennis Murray pool competition was fiercely fought all afternoon culminating in the winner being David Hay (Thistle, Buckie). The younger children were jumping and tumbling on the bouncy castle with others trying their luck to win footballs by scoring goals in a blow up goal mouth. More leisurely interests could choose from admiring the classic cars on parade, talking to the Grampian Fire and Rescue Service crew from Cullen and listening to the fascinating fairground organ music coming from McDonald's Mechanical Music of Rothes. The bairnies were able to add face painting to their fancy dress outfits, ask Mum or Dad to buy a large balloon or take a chance to fish out prize-winning ducks floating in a plastic pool. Other opportunities to bag a prize or two were provided by the whisky trail, the raffles table, which included a sumptuous basket of fresh vegetables, the wheel of fortune, a shove 50p board for a special bottle of Aberdeen Football Club whisky and the offer of a subscription to the Portknockie Community Association 100 Club. The afternoon ended with the exhilarating Skip to the Beat group from Portsoy performing in the McBoyle Hall and a "Baby" in the pram race back to the two pubs in the Square.

Complimenting all this action, the sales tables sold out all their home bakes, bottles and fancy bags and the refreshments did a tasty trade in kippers and burgers outside and a truly delicious selection of cakes, teas and strawberries served inside the Hall. The compere and music maestro for the afternoon was Midge Middleton and the Gala Queen and Princess were crowned by Margret Wood and Bob Croucher. The whole event passed off in a good-humoured fashion and a number of the visitors from as far afield as Essex and the Shetlands expressed their pleasure at being able to join in such a delightful community experience. The free-spending crowd was greatly appreciated by the organising committee as was the tremendous help from so many volunteers.

The final bonus was the weather, a touch breezy for those at the sales tables, but no summer downpour.

The 2008 Gala raised some £1 600 which will be used by the Community Association to carry out essential maintenance repairs to the McBoyle Hall. The organisers, Portknockie Community Association, offer grateful thanks to all those in the community that donated so generously to the Gala and helped ensure that the day was a successful event for all.

Congratulation to Joanne Wood Runcie who has graduated with BSc (Hons) in Psychology from Abertay University, Dundee.

WORLD-WIDE WEB LINKS:

Ian Mair writes to thank Vera Mair and Margaret Chalmers for their comments on his article, "Portknockie Shoreline" which was a two-part feature in the Easter and Summer editions of the 2007 K'nocker. He writes:

"As I compiled this description of the sights between Cullen Bay and Findochty, I was aware that older generations would have known some of the places mentioned by different names. I decided to record our shoreline when I realized that my six grown-up grandchildren did not know the Toshers from the Tronachs.

I also knew the beachies/shories west of the harbour as the Linn Links. On a survey before our harbour was built, this area was named as the Lang Links. On a 1950's survey it was recorded as the Long Links. The name may have originated as the Lang Links which became Lan' and then Linn. The Scots word, **linn** means a waterfall or pool on a burn or river but neither of these occurs in the Linn Links. Vera's brother, Maxwell must have spent many a happy day there as 'Max' can still be seen painted on the rocks. Vera, who is my cousin, also recalled memories of our granny and Lizzie Legge. I grew up in our grandparent's home which was opposite the Legge farmyard and was one of my playgrounds. Many a rainy night was spent sitting in a cairt as the rain drummed down on the corrugated iron roof. Also in the farmyard were a pigsty, where two piglets were reared, and the henhouses. The hens attracted lots of doos and catchin' doos was a popular pastime.

The hens wore different coloured rings which became very collectable. Hens were trapped by placing a piece of bread on the street opposite a gap in the palin'. When the hen stretched out for the bread a foot poised above the gap would come down on its

neck. An accomplice would jump the palin' and remove the ring. One day it was decided to take the captured hens home. Granda was out and the hens were let loose in his living room. He came home and shouted up the stairs "Thiv fult the hoose wi' hens." The hens proved to be a lot harder to catch in the living room!"

Charlie Slater has continued to send memories of Portknockie by e-mail to Harry Hawkes. In one he recalls the first Coronation Parade (1953) which started from the War Memorial and proceeded by Church Street, Cliff Terrace, the Heid o' the Brae to the Seafield Hall where there was a presentation of prizes and a dance. In the parade, Charlie was on horseback, dressed as an Indian Brave and struggling to control the horse fazed by the sound of bagpipes!

He also recalls a village football team, before the Seafield Albion, which played on the Cullen links below the 'Wembley Hotel' (now Cullen Bay Hotel). Their strip was black and gold squares on the shirt and he names players such as the goalkeeper, a Mair who lived below Calder, the Baker in Park Street, Davie "Dites", his brother (Zander?) and Ira Slater. Davie (Dites) Wood went on to play right back for Buckie Thistle.

When Charlie played for the Seafield Albion team their best sponsor was the Victoria Hotel, which at that time (he thinks) was being run by Charlie Thompson, a retired dairy farmer. Charlie recalls receiving a 'fiver' from Charlie Thompson when the village team won the Cup. Each player's fiver was autographed by the other members of the team so if any of them still exist they ought to be worthwhile collectibles.

George McKay Mair, Arbroath Harbourmaster has e-mailed in response to Charlie Slater's childhood memories about Portknockie trawl skippers in the Summer 2008 issue of the K'nocker.

He recalls that his late brother, James Mair, telling him that, at one time, there were 27 trawl skippers in Aberdeen that belonged to Portknockie. James, himself, was an Aberdeen trawl skipper for a long time on "Star of Aberdeen", "Star of Scotland" and "Rowanlea" to name three. George remembers sailing with him and fishing at the Faroos and getting ashore at Klaksvik with the cook who had suffered a scalding accident. This was during his summer break from school when he was 12 years old.

An Arbroath retired skipper, John Swankie (Polar) who is in his eighties, has told George that he spent a

lot of time in Portknockie when he was younger, having relatives and friends there. This confirms George's brother's estimate that there were some 25 trawl skippers from Portknockie sailing from Aberdeen. This was quite an achievement having that amount of skippers sailing (just from Aberdeen) from a village population of around a 1 000 people.

George, himself, was born in Park Street and bought his first fishing vessel, "Ability", BCK257 – ex "Resplendent" of Peterhead in the 1970s. He also built a new "Ability" (BCK47) at Jones Shipyard, Buckie in 1984. He retired from the fishing in September 1998 having seen his profits slowly declining each year from 1993 onwards. He has been the Harbour Master at Arbroath since 2000.

From Vera Findlay née Mair in Canada - Ah the memories brought back via the K'nocker. All the loons would have had a home-made 'peterie-dick' as shown in Charlie's drawings. It wisna a quine's toy but my brothers would give me a shottie of theirs. A sledge, home-made, was essential for winter sports. It would be hard to imagine today with so much traffic but Station Road down to Church Street was another favourite sledge run. The only for sure traffic was Alexander's buses at 10 to the hour, one going east the other west. As the 10 to 7 bus went past the Kirk on Sunday evening it was a signal to the minister to 'draw to a close'.

A question to David Pirie who wrote in the Summer issue on John Innes - "Fa's yer fowk"? Aye I well remember John Innes and his Sunday night sermons at the heid o' the brae. In my memory it was a pan drop that we got if we lasted the time but I am a wee bit younger than David. His 'service' time was somewhere between 4 and 5.30pm either before or after Sunday Tea. Services at the Kirk, the Meeting or the Baptist were from 6 - 7pm. It was a brave preacher, minister who kept his flock past 7pm.

John Innes also wrote poetry.. I came across some when I was about 8 or 9 years old but sadly have no idea where they are now. One in particular I memorised and recited it at the Baptist Christmas Soiree. I remember only the first verse:

“You can only have one Mother, patient
kind and true.

No other friend in all the world will be so
good to you...

John Innes lived with his mother at 9 High Street, two doors along from my grandparents. Aye I well recall

the word 'goren'. If it was really bad it was not necessary to add 'wi bleed'.

For an Internet update on the “Aye Afloat” Scottish Country Dancing Collection devised by Catherine Ritchie's cousin, Margaret Zadworney go to Youtube.com and watch a video of the Bow Fiddle Medley danced by the Braemar Dancers of Canada.

NEW PEOPLE TO MEET AND GREET:

From 1st September Shirley Wood assumes ownership and the running of the newsagent's. The shop last changed hands in the autumn of 2003 when James and Anne Johnston took over. Since then they have transformed our newspaper and magazine shopping experience offering a very wide range of top quality goods with excellent, friendly service.

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A PATRIOTIC PORTKNOCKIE FAMILY written by Sandra Skelton.

On the 10th May 1917 the Banffshire Advertiser ran the story of a proud Portknockie mother whose six sons, four grandsons and a son-in-law were all on naval service serving their King and Country. Some of her offspring were onboard the three Portknockie drifters, “Betsy Slater”, “Helena” and “Trustful” which has been requisitioned for war service. These boats were employed as minesweepers and as anti-submarine net vessels.

The proud mother was Isabella Wood née Gifford, a Torry girl who married K'nocker, George Wood on January 11th 1862 and who were my great, great grandparents. George was a son of Alexander Wood and Ann Sutherland, possibly the ancestral parents of the Portknockie 'Park' dynasty.

In 1880 Isabella was widowed when George died aged just 40 after a four year illness. Isabella was left to look after six sons, Alexander 19, William 16, George 11, David 9, Joseph 7, Andrew 4 and daughter, Margaret Jean aged 2. In the 1881 Census Isabella was described as a pauper but by the 1891 Census she was a working fisherwoman.

Their fifth son, Joseph was grandfather of my Granny Maggie. He was known as Granda Joe by my Granny and Dad who visited him and his wife, Annie at their home - 6 Harbour Place. Joseph was 44 in 1917 while serving aboard HMD Trustful. He died in 1954 aged 82. Isabella, the proud, widowed mother died on February 12th 1921 aged 79.

I have always thought of myself as a Mair and I am very proud of my 'Bobbin/Shy' ancestry. Now I am equally proud that I am also descended from the Wood 'Parks' of Portknockie.

Editor: It is always pleasing to receive family histories such as this to help illustrate the links that have made Portknockie the community it is today.

VILLAGE IN BLOOM SUMMER 2008

Portknockie was not entered in "Village in Bloom" competitions this year and community funds were not spent on costly bedding plant displays; yet all was far from drab and bare – despite the lack of summer sunshine in this year. The plants offered by The Moray Council were spread across the village and provided a bonny show of hanging baskets in the Square, the Millennium Garden and the Ship's Wheel in Church Street and filled the two trains at either end of the village. There were enough plants to highlight some of the permanently planted features like the Beach and to fill the barrels outside the school.

This year more residents than ever before have set up fine displays in window boxes, hanging baskets and pots – particularly in Church Street, Mid Street, Park Street, Victoria Street and at the Seafield Inn and the Victoria Hotel. This display showing Portknockie at its colourful best both for residents and visitors alike is especially welcome. It is a sure sign that a lot of the community feels genuine ownership of Portknockie as a village in bloom.

Special thanks should go to all the members of the Community Association Committee who set out and then maintained the Council-provided plants and to the individual residents who volunteered to care for displays such as the tubs in the Square, the boat at the north end of Admiralty Street, the Ship's Wheel and the displays in front of the school, by the Haig Street and Slater Crescent circles, the Dolphin, Cliff Terrace, the tubs by the Seafield Hall, the train in Station Road and the Remembrance Garden feature.

The middle bed in the McLeod Park has been tidied up and re-laid with a weed-resistant membrane and bark paid for by the Church of Scotland. It is hoped

that over the autumn period folk who have surplus spreading plants in their own gardens might offer cuttings that can be planted in this bed to compliment the permanent display in the two adjoining beds.

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COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWS:

The Council comprises: **Chairman:** Alan Beresford (840534/07790023983), **Secretary:** Karen Campbell, **Vice Chair:** Helen Sammon (841794) **Treasurer:** Gladys McKenzie (840542), **Press Secretary:** Pearl Murray (841087) with Lil Urquhart, Sam Muir, Cathleen Harper and Angela Mair.

The Community Council has welcomed the proposal that efforts be made in the village to set up activities and events as part of the national Homecoming 2009 celebration in Scotland. The PCC is backing local MP, Angus Robertson's campaign against the closure of rural post offices and it has written to Stagecoach Bluebird to complain about its recent decision to cut out the bus route No 10 stop at Aberdeen Airport.

Our elected Moray councillors have been asked by the PCC to check out the poor upkeep of the old part of the cemetery and the state of the local footpath to Bow Fiddle Rock. A proposal that had been under consideration to set up a local twinning arrangement with Europe has been dropped for lack of interest by neighbouring communities.

PCC Members have expressed pleasure with the appointment of Mrs Idle to the vacancy of Head Teacher at the school and a letter of welcome has been sent in time for the start of the new school year.

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NEWS:

This village group, formed in 2000 and recognised as a Scottish Charity (No SCO30090), has the job of looking after our village hall, The McBoyle Hall. The members currently are: Jim Urquhart (**Chair**), Bob Croucher (**Secretary**), Celia Going (**Treasurer**) with Lil Urquhart (**Bookings**), John Myles, John Bell, John Going, Gladys McKenzie, Harry Hawkes, Helen

Field and Cathleen Harper. Rachel Munro stepped down from the Treasurer's position on July 22nd to prepare for the arrival of her baby. The PCA group appreciates the organisation of accounts that Rachel carried out so efficiently over the past two years.

Lil Urquhart is managing bookings for the village hall and supervising the volunteers carrying out the cleaning while Jim Urquhart manages a plan of maintenance for the McBoyle Hall. It is hoped soon to get together a group of volunteers, including local professional decorators, to give the village hall a fresh coat of paint. It is at least 20 years since it was last painted and it would help brighten up the village for the 2009 Homecoming visitors to see our McBoyle Hall glistening in the sun.

The summer fund raising total was boosted by re-introducing Bingo sessions in the Seafield Inn on a Wednesday evenings from June 25th. The evenings have been well-supported and participants enjoy the venue and the sandwiches! The new season's "100 Club" was launched in July to commence with the first draw in September. Subscriptions are still available to take up and remain at £10 for twelve monthly draws with half of the income being used for the prizes. Clearly, the more of you that sign up for the 100 club, the bigger the prizes you might receive. It would be really helpful to have to change the name to the "200 Club"!

As the planning for this year's Gala was beginning, the Banffshire Advertiser published a 25 years ago report on the July 26th 1983 Portknockie Gala. This was run by the Portknockie Amenities group and raised the large sum of £1 700. At the time, the Hall had just been extended from the old sports pavilion, at a cost of £45 000, and the community was trying to raise £10 000 as its share of the total costs. The parade from the Square was led by the 278 Glasgow Company of the Boys' Brigade who regularly held their summer camp in the village. **Editor:** anyone with memories of these camps to tell us? The Gala Queen for 1983 was Elaine Weir, where is she now?

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THE LOSS OF THE RAPTURE BF1263 in 1890:

As reported in the Banffshire Advertiser of 20th March 1890 (sent in by William Anderson).

Last week the Zulu fishing boat, 'Rapture' foundered in Loch Eriboll and, of the crew of nine, only two survived. On Saturday week, in the company of 7 other boats, the 'Rapture' left Stornoway to return to Buckie. On crossing the Minch the weather report in the Pentland Firth was poor and the boats made for either Stornoway or Lochinver until the weather moderated.

On the following Monday the 8 boats joined up at Cape Wrath and, as the weather worsened, they all made for Loch Eriboll. They all anchored near a small island inside the Loch but, as the weather worsened, they moved further into the Loch. Six of the boats going to the steam boat slipway with the 'Rapture' anchoring near the island by the Old Limekilns. The 'Rapture' was moored by the stern in 25 fathoms of water by two anchors, which dragged and a third anchor was put out at 1am on Wednesday. This anchor finally held at 4.50am.

The gale continued and it was decided to cut loose from the three anchors and drift to shore. Two of the anchors were cleared but, before the third could be cut, the boat shipped a huge wave and, as a hatch cover was off, the 'Rapture' foundered. A member of crew, Alex McKenzie, on gaining the shore, staggered to a house for help. George McKay, a Ferryman and James Clark were staying in the house overnight and, on reaching the beach, found one other survivor and two bodies.

Those lost included Peter Smith 'Latin' (pronounced Laytin) aged 46, the Skipper, George Smith 'Latin', aged 17, son, John Smith 'Latin' aged 19, nephew, Peter Smith 'Latin' aged 19, nephew, James Smith 'Latin' aged 24, nephew and Alex Smith 'Latin' aged 26, nephew. The survivors were George Smith 'Latin' and Alex Mckenzie 'Lola'.

The 'Rapture' was owned by George Smith 'Latin' who was not onboard at the time. The other boats were 'Swiftsure', 'Victory' and 'Felicity' who sailed home when the weather moderated. The 'Jessie Smith', 'Dove', 'Jessie Isabella' and 'Jubilee' remained to look for the bodies. The two survivors and the two recovered bodies (George Smith and Peter Smith) returned to Buckie in the 'Jubilee'.

Editor: The wild weather we experienced on March 21st this year shows that severe gales threatening those at sea can be a feature of this time of the year.

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

Flash the Blackbird

During late spring and early to mid summer when the blackbirds were terribly busy with the business of producing young we had our fair share of them but one individual really stood out as he had one lovely white tail feather. It was one in from the edge of his tail so was a thin strip of white and we soon came up with the name of Flash for him. He was always first for his raisin at feeding time. He actually started to appear if we called "Flash" and eventually trusted us enough to take raisins from our hands if we squatted down with our hand on the ground. At first he would grab one and dart off but then would stay and take what he needed. Even when it was wet and there would have been plenty worms he still preferred raisins. Then we noticed that he was collecting them rather than eating them himself so one day I watched to see where he would go and was surprised to see that he flew from us, here in Bridge Street, and flew off right down past the tennis court and bowling green with his beak full of food! It was too far to see exactly where he went but I had assumed that his nest was a lot nearer than that. As the weeks went on he became quite tatty looking (too busy to bother with his preening I would think) and lost the outside black feather leaving the white one on the edge of his tail which made it more noticeable. Unfortunately we haven't seen him for a number of weeks so I hope he didn't come to a sticky end with a cat or car.

We went for a walk to the beach one lovely sunny Sunday and noticed a group of people gathered round something on the sand down by the water. As we got closer we could see a very young seal and these folk were taking pictures and generally distressing the poor thing. I believe seals leave the mother at quite a young age so I think there must have been something

more than it not being with its mother for it to be ashore like that on the sand. I had my mobile phone with me and called the SSPCA who said that they had received other calls about it and someone would come. We walked along the beach to Cullen and back and the poor thing was still there being bothered by different groups of people flashing their cameras at it. We sat on the rocks and watched for a while and noticed that it was edging its way up the sand as the tide was coming in but we never saw anyone come from our call over an hour on. We spoke to some people who said they'd seen another baby seal the week before and found it dead round by the Preacher's cave side. We had to leave so we never did know what happened to this one.

Also on the sands that day we saw a group of small waders that I took to be Sanderling but I'm not sure if they should have been here at this time of year as they breed in the Arctic only coming here for the winter. They were certainly acting like Sanderlings scurrying about along the beach. On our way along past the Whale's Moo the wild flowers were in profusion. We have some truly beautiful local flowers, in particular the Common eyebright which has a tiny white flower with a yellow spot in the centre and thin purple lines. It's exquisite if you get down close to it. There were dainty, nodding little blue harebells that just needed a tiny fairy to complete the picture. Another plant growing in great numbers is the St. John's-wort a lovely yellow flower with a lot of folklore attached to it. It was used to drive away evil spirits and was hung in windows but these days it is proven to be beneficial in helping to treat depression.

On the railway cutting the Rosebay willowherb reminded me of an impressionist painting. It was growing in huge swathes on the banking and was just gorgeous. They are going to seed now but are being followed by the lovely purple common Knapweed which butterflies really like but there doesn't seem to be many about his year. We are still being asked to send a postcard to the Butterfly Conservation to map the spread of Peacock butterflies. The cards are available from the library so if you see a Peacock butterfly you can get one there.

One of my favourite sounds of summer is the screech of the swifts as they soar high in the sky searching for insects. Once their young are fledged and join in, the din is even better! Sunbathing is a good activity for watching swifts. You can lay back and relax and watch these expert aviators doing what they do best. They certainly look as though they are having fun!

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WHAT ABOUT THIS FOR AN IDEA? This is a feature that any reader can use to put forward a suggestion to make Portknockie an even better place.

PORTKNOCKIE HOMECOMING 2009

A proposed local Homecoming Scheme 2009 for consideration by the community:

Existing village groups and/or new groups formed for the purpose are invited to work together to set up a series of community-based activities that will be presented in Portknockie during 2009, the designated year of the Scots' Homecoming. Each proposed activity would need a co-ordinator and keen, active participants who are prepared to spend the coming winter months gathering ideas and materials that would make up a show, event, display or activity that would be put on for residents and visitors to enjoy next year. Each activity should aim to showcase Portknockie and confirm why we are so proud of our community. There would also be an expectation that each group could be creating a community activity that might take root and enrich life for K'nockers in years to come.

Some activities that might attract your interest and get you thinking:

- 1. A Local Heritage Project:** a group coming together to search the village for old photos, memorabilia and recorded memories to establish a permanent exhibition in the new school library. Perhaps also re-create an event from the past and trace ancestors.
- 2. A Poetry Workshop:** a group, spurred on by the 250th anniversary of Robert Burns' birth also in 2009 to pull together and publish a Portknockie collection of local (Doric) verse.
- 3. A Traditional Food Group:** to make a collection of local recipes using locally sourced food to offer tastings and learning workshops during the year.

- 4. A Traditional Dress Group:** to re-create the clothing of yesteryear and to put on a catwalk show in 2009 and, perhaps, help enhance the exhibition of group 1.
- 5. A Concert Party Group:** to bring together local talent for a series of variety shows in and around the village.
- 6. An Artwork Group:** to create a piece of commemorative artwork for the village that illustrates a theme from the heritage of Portknockie.
- 7. A Toy Workshop:** to re-create the old toys and children's play activities of the past - perhaps re-introducing activities like skipping and outdoor games that have become lost over the years.
- 8. A Technology support group** to run a website and assist with the skills for making exhibitions, photo displays, videos, DVDs etc.

This list is merely a starter to get ideas rolling. You may have your own suggestions to put forward.

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Next steps: Talk to your friends and look to forming a group. A co-ordinating group will be needed to plan the year. It would also be helpful to have other views from residents on how the village could best be readied to receive "Homecoming" visitors next year – this may need a group on its own. It would be helpful for interested groups to have indicated their intentions say by October so that some co-ordination could be established with a view to publicising the whole 2009 programme of events. This might be a role for the Community Association and the Community Council. Also everyone should start to enquire whether their own relatives plan to return home to Portknockie during 2009. You would want to see them being right royally impressed by Portknockie Aye Afloat! Your Editorial team would be happy to handle queries about this and to hear about group plans that can be published in future issues of the village newspaper.

**"Charlie the Smithy" – Extract 3
'Multiculturalism' in rural Scotland'**

Being a fisher boy in a country 'Smithy', I was between two cultures as different as chalk and cheese which had totally different 'dialects'. Even though we all went to the same school and were taught to speak 'The King's English', we spoke in the dialect of our elders, which in the north of Scotland is known as The Doric Tongue. I don't know if the country boys or the fisher boys spoke the correct dialect, but they were certainly different from each other.

One very noticeable difference between the two was their dress sense which was very apparent at the local dance hall or at the church on Sundays, specifically with the men folk. The country gentlemen would dress in brown or earthy-colored tweeds with brown polished boots, whereas the fisher gentlemen would be in navy blue or grey serge suits with black shoes.

It is usually a country boy who goes into the blacksmith trade and generally a family member of the Smith, so I was a bit of an oddity to the farmers as well at the beginning and often I was the butt of some of their jokes. I was well able to hold my own with them and won their respect, so I had the best of two worlds, often playing one against the other and never taking sides. I played soccer for the fisher village team in the Autumn League and played for the country boys in the Summer League.

As the years went by, more and more of my mates — both country and fisher — were introduced to each other and found they had more in common than uncommon. We started meeting at dance venues we would have previously never thought of going to. Whichever group was the visitor to the other's area, they could rely on support from the locals who were their hosts; a great rapport built up. Unashamedly, I can claim a little part of this success as two of my 'country' friends married into the families of two of my 'fisher' friends, so maybe chalk and cheese aren't so far apart after all!

From:
"Charlie the Smithy – How to forge and cheat legally" by Charles Slater, Chapter 18. Quix Mill Publishing Australia 2002 ISBN 0 9580780 0 9

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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

Antisocial Behav. Helpline 0800 5877 197

Travel Information telephone numbers:

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First Aberdeen Ltd. 01224 650065

National Coaches 0990 808080

Airports:

Aberdeen 087004 400006

Inverness 01667 464000

Seaport: (Aberdeen)

Northlink 0845 6000 449

Trains:

National Rail Enquiries 0845 748950

Taxis: (Portknockie) 840875

Portknockie Post Office 840201

Portknockie School 840244

Portknockie Library 841149

PUBLIC SERVICE MESSAGES:

PC Kevin McPherson, Buckie Area Community Beat Officer has asked for a regular column in the K'nocker so that he can inform people in Portknockie what has been happening in the way of local incidents and also to highlight, from time to time, any other police issues that might be relevant. He writes:

“While we are lucky enough to enjoy spells of warm weather, I would like to remind locals to prevent any potential opportunist incidents happening by keeping their property secured while unattended and making sure that if windows are left ajar at night then they are, at least, locked so that they cannot be opened from the outside. Such incidents are thankfully very rare in our area but prevention is better than cure.

Ron Gray
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The police rely on information and co-operation from the public, without which we cannot perform our duties to local communities so, in the words of the posters you have undoubtedly seen in various shops and other buildings, **See it, Report it**. Also keep an eye out for the ongoing visits of the Grampian Police mobile surgeries in Portknockie and other villages. Anyone who has an issue or query is invited to come along to the Square (where the mobile police office gets parked) and have an informal chat. I can also be contacted on **0845 600 5 700**. I look forward to seeing or hearing from you!”

Editor: This use of a mobile police office regularly visiting the village was first piloted in Portknockie last year as part of the partnership drive of Grampian Police with our Community Council and our Neighbourhood Watch to help tackle anti-social behaviour and to improve visible policing. The presence of the surgeries has also helped the police establish positive links with a cross section of residents in each rural community. The mobile Police Office will visit Portknockie at 4-5pm on Monday 8th September; 5-6pm on Tuesday 23rd September; 4-5pm on Wednesday 1st October; 5-6pm on Wednesday 22nd October; 4-5pm on Wednesday 5th November and 5-6pm on Thursday 20th November.

HAME COOKING by SWRI members:

Quiche Lorraine

Ingredients:

8oz (225g) flour
4oz (112g) butter
1 egg yoke
A pinch of salt
2 tablespoons of iced water

Method: for the Short crust pastry

Sift the flour and salt into a bowl and rub in the butter. Mix the egg yoke with the water and add to the mix.

Mix to a firm dough (this can be done in a food processor) or with a knife and finishing off with one hand. Wrap the dough in cling film and chill in a fridge for 30 minutes. Use the dough to line a pastry dish.

Ingredients for the filling:

6 oz (175g) streaky smoked bacon fried lightly and chopped. You can also add sliced onions/mushrooms
1 apple cored and chopped
4 oz (112g) grated cheese
½ pint of hot milk
2 egg yolks and 2 whole eggs
Tomatoes and mushrooms (optional) sliced
Salt and pepper seasoning.

Method: for the filling

Place the bacon and apple and optional onions and mushrooms in the lined pastry dish, sprinkle over some grated cheese then pour over the beaten eggs and the milk. Sprinkle more cheese on top of the mix then bake in an oven for 45 minutes at 350-400° F (180-200° C). When cooked garnish with slices of tomato and parsley.

Ginger Shortbread

Ingredients:

2oz (50g) caster sugar
5oz (125g) plain flour
1oz (25g) cornflour
4oz (100g) butter
And for the topping: 4oz icing sugar, 2oz butter, 1 tablespoon of syrup and a small teaspoon of ginger.

Method:

Make the shortbread by beating together the caster sugar and the butter then stirring in the plain flour and the cornflour. Put this mixture in a sandwich tin and bake in a pre-heated oven at 350° F (180° C) until golden brown. Leave the shortbread to cool. For the

topping melt the butter and syrup in a pan then add the icing sugar and ginger stirring until the mixture comes to the boil. Pour this on the cooled shortbread and cut into slices.

Steve Lock

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“ONE FIRTH VIEW” – by Margaret Dawson.

The Age of the Rage

Being infuriated about something can have serious consequences – local politicians take note! News has come from Northampton of some of the most childish behaviour ever witnessed in a council chamber. A meeting to sign off the borough accounts had to be abandoned after two hours of squabbling about who was to sit where. A former Labour MP turned Councillor fell out with his party last year and is now the sole independent on the Lib Dem-dominated borough council. He refused to vacate his seat so that his five former colleagues from Labour could sit together. None of them would sit in the empty seat next to him – indeed they would not sit down at all! To even things up, the Mayor ordered everyone to stand up. This they all did, except for one Tory who refused to move from the seat the Councillor was refusing to move to. The rest of the Tories then walked out! Unbelievable but true! Infuriation on aeroplanes can also have serious consequences. A stockbroker ruined his career after screaming and shouting at cabin crew for waking him up! On another flight, an inebriated Briton tried to open the door of the plane at 35 000 feet! The plane had to make an emergency diversion. Just what you need at the start of a family holiday!

Are we becoming too intolerant in this age of consumerism and behaving like indulged children? Many of us now define ourselves through such things as expensive holidays, prestige cars, quality houses, and fashion clothing. You never really get to the place where you have achieved an identity because there is always something out there you have not yet got or someone who has more than you.

To close on a lighter note even the older generation can have tantrums. A 90 year old grannie in a care home became infuriated when her request for her fish and chips to be served by a man wearing only a thong was refused. The request was granted at first by a staff member but someone then shopped the old girl!

Keep smiling!

SHEAR DEZIGN

Hair by Lisa

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POETS' CORNER: (from the Davie Mair Collection)

“Dinna be chary o’ yer praise
Gie praise where praise is due
Be strictly honest in a’ yer ways
Tae the inner man be true.

An’ dinna wi’haud a kindly word
Sae feart ye’d mak’ them proud;
The voice o’ honest praise when heard
Is fraught wi’ muckle good.

The selfish, envious may wi’ haud
Unjustly what e’er they can
But let the noble soul mak’ glad
Brave struggling fellow man.

By giving just a word o’ cheer
When ocht ye see weel done
For Censur’s keen-edged sword severe
Will prove its steel there’on.

Oft noble aims untimely die
Tho’ showin’ fair at birth
Uncharitable breeze sweepin’ by
Clean sweeps them frae the earth.

Judge kindly aye anither mood
Where anither joy may bide
Gie credit due tae what is good;
The blunders try tae hide.

All honours due the man among men
The thochtfu’ honest chiel
What says “Weel Deen” by word or pen;
Ma freen I wish you weel.

Sae freenly wish maun cheer the soul
An' needed courage gie ...
A helpin' haun tae reach the goal
A spur tae energy.

“Cultural Difficulties”

by
Sheena Pirie

Oor loon's getting' mairit
Tae a quine fae France, ye ken
An affa bonny lassie
But I canna' say her name.

Oh, she speaks a fair bit English
Bit nae the kin' we speak up here
She disna' ken a word I say
Tho' I speak loud and clear.

She's asked us oot tae meet her folk
Bit I dinna think we'll bather
Nae doot they'll a' speak French oot there
An' I'll jist get in a lather.

His father says we shid accept
That wid be bit only richt
Bit ... weel... they ate frogs and snails oot there
An' garlic b' the bicht.

Oh, we'll gang oot tae their widdin'
O' that there is nae doot
Bit I'll nae ate their foreign stuff
I hiv it a' planned oot.

I'm collectin' lots o' tins
O' spam an' ham an' custard
Wi' a current loaf 'n yalla fish
I'm sure we'll baith pass muster.
(**Editor:** Despite how it might seem in the poem,
Sheena was keen to point out that in fact she loved
France and everything French.)

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

Adverts in the K'nocker: At present our policy is
not to charge for small, simple adverts useful to
readers so long as the person placing the advert is a
paid up subscribing member.

The K'nocker for friends and relatives abroad:
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

The K'nocker delivery Team:

Alec Campbell – Haig Street, Moray View and
Seaview Place.

Monique Cavalier: New Street, Park Street and
Reidhaven Street.

Bob Croucher: Blantyre Place, Cliff Terrace,
Commercial Road, Dover Street, Gordon Street,
Harbour Place, Harbour Terrace, Mid Street, Seaforth
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Louisa Donaldson: Addison Street, Bruce Place,
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Street and Stuart Place.

Harry Hawkes: Bridge Street, Church Street, Hill
Street and Pulteney Street.

Shirley McLean: Falconer Terrace, Geddes Avenue,
Logie Drive, Slater Crescent and Wood Place.

John Myles: Findlater Avenue and King Edward Ter.

Morag Reid: Admiralty Street and Seafield Terrace.

Karin & John Rose: High Street and Station Road.

Margret Wood: Firthview, Westfield Drive and
Station Court.

Isobel Worrel: Seafield Street.

Grateful thanks to Sandra and her colleagues in the
Chemist Shop who sell single copies to visitors and
those who do take out the annual subscription.

During 2008 the K'nocker will be published also in
the first week of December. Copy, letters and adverts
for each issue should be passed to the Editor, through
the Library or the letterbox of 23 Harbour Place or by
e-mail to rmcdram@onetel.com in the month before
each quarterly publication. In fact, the earlier you

send in articles the easier you make things for your editorial team!

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WHAT'S ON IN THE PORT?

The Harbour - HD Reid, Harbour master: The summer season is in full swing with boats, swimmers and fishers on all the piers. All the berths have been taken up and paid for, although a couple of the boats have still to go in. The waiting list for berths remains long, not only for locals but for people from different council areas. The local policy is that anyone can ask to go on the waiting list. The use of slipway tickets has been popular this year as well.

The mackerel fishing started early this year. In June the boats were out catching lots of them. They have even been caught in the harbour which has also been full of sand eels – the most I have ever seen.

The lovely weather has been appreciated and made use of by the children and sunbathers as our harbour here is a right sun trap. It is good to see them all enjoying themselves when the weather permits. Visiting vessels have been few and far between this season although Buckie has reported a good number of larger yachts staying over in its harbour. Unfortunately, the wheeled bin for the harbour has had to be locked as it was being misused by folk dumping in it kitchen waste, fridges, furniture, old computers and all sorts of rubbish. This bin is for the benefit of harbour users and **not** for household waste. Any continuation of this unauthorised dumping will result in the Moray Council taking action.

CHEMIST'S CORNER

Back to School: We hope you've all had a good summer and that you are ready for the new school term. With all the challenges and excitement may, however, come the risk of contagious outbreaks such as headlice, chicken pox and verrucas. Chicken pox is best caught at a young age as the symptoms are of a much less duration in children. The virus is classed as a minor ailment by the National Health Service thus we can supply calamine lotion (to help dry the

pox spots up) and antihistamine medicines (to stop the itching) free of charge for children under 16 years old. Likewise headlice treatment and verruca remedies can also be given free on the scheme so come and see us before even thinking about making a doctor's appointment.

On a different note, it is back to work for Clare. After having her baby, Rebecca, at the start of the year, Clare is going to return to look after your medicines in October. She will be working in the pharmacy on Mondays, Tuesdays and Saturday mornings. Hopefully, she will bring us a few photos of Rebecca so we can see how much she has grown.

We look forward to seeing you as autumn arrives,

Sarah and Sandra.

Seafield WRI: Our Annual Bus Run was on the 26th June when 46 members and friends set off for the Strathspey Steam Railway Broomhill Station for the 10 mile run to Aviemore, a real trip down memory lane for us all of us who remember steam trains. After a flycup and some retail therapy, it was on to the Cloutie Dumpling Restaurant at the Speyside Heather Centre for High Tea to complete a very enjoyable day.

In July the Outdoor Bowling took place at Portsoy Bowling Club. Kathleen Rennie, Kathleen Mair and Margaret Greig were joined by Annette Gardiner from Deskford Institute for a most enjoyable day. Thanks To Annette for stepping in. Margaret Greig had some success at the Keith Show, with a First, 2 Seconds and a Very Highly Commended in the Craft sections. At The Deskford Flower Show, Kathleen Rennie gained First Prize for her shawl, First and Second for knitted toys and First Prize for her knitted baby jacket while Karin Rose earned a Second and Third prize for her Beadwork.

President Margaret Greig and the Committee welcome members old and new to the new session which begins on **Thursday 25th September 2008** at 7pm. Hostesses will be the Committee, and the Annual Subscription will be £7.50. Our Guest for the evening will be The Gamrie Goat, a lady who makes handmade soaps from goat's milk. The Competition will be 4 Custard creams.

On October 23rd, Adam Robertson will give a talk and show a video on the work of the RNLI and the Competition will be - A Greeting card with a Sea Theme. November 27th: Mrs Kordas - Craft work -

Pokerwork/Pyrography. The Competition will be a sewn shopping bag made from re-cycled material.

Portknockie Nursery: We were very sorry to lose Dee Austin as our Manager in July due to the family move to Wishaw. A new manager has not been appointed yet, the post has been re-advertised and we hope to appoint someone soon. In the meantime, the Nursery is being managed by Mary Mair. Heather Reid has agreed to look after the admin until a new manager is in place.

At present we have 14 children attending our nursery with 4 more due to start when they become 3. Our 2-3 group is going from strength to strength and is attracting children from out with the village. The 2-3 group meets on Monday and Wednesday afternoons in the Nursery. Please contact us (01542-841825) if you would like more information.

Our fundraising committee is busy planning events for the new session. Please look out for posters advertising our forthcoming fundraisers. Thank you to everyone who supported our fund raising last session and also to those who donated raffle prizes.

We like to invite visitors to the group throughout the year. Does anyone in the village have a hobby or pastime that would be of interest to the children? If so please get in touch with us on 841825 if you would like to come into the group and share your interest with the children.

Bowling Club Notes: Members' attendance at the Bowling Club this summer has been very good and the green has given players much pleasure throughout the season. This year the grass has been in excellent condition and visiting bowlers have paid it many compliments. This has been very much down to Wilson Weir who has spent many hours on the mowing machine.

At the time of writing, we have just played and won our last tie in the summer Friendly League. All the matches have been keenly contested and enjoyable though, due to the odd middling result, we ended up somewhere in the lower half of the table.

Club competitions have included the Dougal (Cowie) Cup on June 14th (winners: Marc Wood and Jim Cowie) and the Alan MacLean Cup on the 19th July (winners: Linda Wood and Bruce Ritchie). In June, between the showers, we held our Open Pairs competition, the runners-up of which were Linda and Wilson. The Willie Hay Trophy (winners: Linda Wood and Trish Cowie) was played for on August

23rd in fine weather and a Bowls fun day, details to be announced nearer the date, will take place on Saturday 13th September.

Members have been near and far representing the Club at outside competitions and gained several semi-final placings. Playing even further afield, Donald Morrison and Andrew Campbell (Cullen) were only just beaten in the finals of the prestigious City of Aberdeen Open Pairs Competition.

The summer season 2008 will finish at the end of September when we shall adjourn to the McBoyle Hall for the winter carpet bowls. Club nights are usually on Mondays and Thursdays from 7pm. Old and new members are most welcome to come along: spare bowls are always available.

Neighbourhood Watch is simply looking out for one another – all for one and one for all. In Portknockie many residents do that as a matter of course.

Earlier this year the second of the combined Neighbourhood Watch, Community Council and Grampian Police leaflets was delivered throughout the village and this led to a number of new members. In May a grant arrived which allowed the Watch to acquire a supply of the very readable Grampian NW Association handbooks – a great improvement on the original national leaflet. Copies have been distributed to everyone on the current membership list. Hopefully therefore, all, residents who would like to be (or think they are) a member will now have one of these useful booklets in their home.

There are two or three sub co-ordinators who cover a street or even a smaller area: if you can help in this way it would be much appreciated. The telephone number for Police non-emergency calls remains as **0845 600 5 700**. However, it can be also accessed on-line at servicecentre@grampian.pnn.police.uk During this current credit squeeze remember that some insurance companies allow Neighbourhood Watch members a small reduction on house insurance annual premiums – it is worth mentioning this at renewal time. Should you wish to join or enquire about the local Watch Scheme or, indeed, simply confirm that you are still on the current list of members, please contact the Co-ordinator, John Myles on 840 000.

JMK

19 Cluny Square, Buckie
AB56 1HA.
Tel/Fax 01542 835665

Mobile: 07900 931905
Email: juliemckay@btconnect.com

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

Library News: The Library has been quite busy with the Team Read, a children's activity for the summer. It is loosely based on the Olympics – read 2 books and you receive a bronze sticker, 4 books for silver and 6 books for gold. The children will be awarded a gold medal and certificate for finishing 6 books so, if any of your children or grandchildren have started the Team Read, please tell them to go for gold!

New titles are coming in weekly with Large Print being very popular here. Internet sessions can still be arranged with Eleanor on Buckie 832121. They cost £5.00 for 2 hours. Come in and look around.

There is no definite date on the move of the Library to the School – I will put posters in the shops when I know. The new integrated facility was expected to be opened when the school returned for the autumn term but it now looks as if things will be delayed for a couple of months and maybe into the New Year. The building modifications required are to be paid from an EU funding bid which has yet to be approved.

Fishing News: The rise in fuel prices is crippling our boats' livelihood this last few months as well as quota restrictions and having to pay for extra days at sea. We can only hope that our PO's and Scottish Fishing Federation will fight for a better deal for us.

Farming News: The fields to the east and west of the village have, for a number of years, been left as set aside to nature. This year the EU set aside farming policy was altered and the fields were ploughed and sowed for crops (rape?) during August.

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1st Portknockie Brownies meet every Monday in the school hall from 6-7pm. We are always looking for new members aged between 7-11 years.

If there are any adults in the village who think they might enjoy an hour helping out don't be shy, it is fun and all are welcome. Please contact Brown Owl on 480841.

Darts & Pool at the Vic and the Seafield Inn

Portknockie has achieved an almost embarrassing range of success in local Darts and Pool competitions during the last season, just finished. Teams from the two Portknockie hostleries collected the following trophies at a ceremony in the Fisherman's Hall in Buckie.

Darts

1st Division League Champion Cup.....Seafield A
1st Division ShieldSeafield A
Premier Cup..... Seafield A
League Cup winners..... Seafield A
Top of the Town Cup winners..... Seafield A
Mixed Pairs joint winners
Graham Guthrie.....Seafield
Sally Reaich.....Victoria Hotel
Joe Bowie Singles:
Alan Flett.....Seafield A
Grouse Fours.....Seafield B
Mark Simpson, Jonathan Reid
Duncan Cruikshank and Neil Taylor
Sixes winners.....Seafield
John Wilson, Graham Guthrie, Ian Mair
Derek Rhind, Ivor Simpson, Alan Flett
Gordon Shearer, Gavin Addison and
Douglas Green
Triples winners.....Seafield
John Wilson, Steven Cowie and
Graham Guthrie

Pool

Division 2 Singles winner..... Seafield
John Wilson
Division 2 Doubles winners..... Seafield
John Wilson, Steven Cowie
Division 2 Captain's Cup winner..... Seafield
Steven Cowie
Mixed Pairs joint winners
Steven Cowie.....Seafield
Grace Thain.....Victoria Hotel
Ladies Singles.....Victoria Hotel
An 'all-Vic' Final:
Sally Reaich (winner)
Debbie Stuart (runner-up)
Jo Moran Shield..... Victoria Hotel

The Victoria Hotel has won the Jo Moran trophy in 6 of the last 8 years, and has won the Ladies' League in 8 of the last 9 years. In a non-league pool

competition, the Peppy Wilson Trophy was won by Elaine Stevenson from the Victoria Hotel.

The full squad of Victoria Hotel pool players is: Dawn Shepherd, Debbie Stuart, Grace Thain, Elaine Stevenson, Sally Reach, Kayla Young, Gemma Doddy, Joanne Anderson, Gwen Telfer, Emma Addison and Becca Davidson.

Congratulations to all. We hope you are well-supplied with silver polish.

<p style="text-align: center;">The Victoria Hotel</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Now open 7 days a week</p> <p style="text-align: center;">For</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Bar lunches (12-2pm) and suppers (5-8pm) Tuesdays: OAP 2-course lunches at £5.50</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Meals, Snacks and Sweets menus</p>
--

An appreciation of the 2008 Gala: “It was lovely to be back in Portknockie last week, not only to visit our friends Bob and Marj Croucher, but also to re-visit favourite sights. We were immediately impressed by how bright and cheerful the village looked – lots of fresh paint, planters, hanging baskets and the lovely feature islands – we toured them all! The traditional walks to the harbour, Bow Fiddle Rock and the cliff path to Cullen gave us the opportunity to admire the beautiful coastal scenery and to discover that whenever dolphins had been sighted we were always ten minutes too early or too late to see them!

Wherever we went we were greeted cheerfully by the villagers and so were looking forward to the village carnival on the Saturday afternoonwe were not disappointed! The friendly atmosphere welcomed us as we joined in the carnival procession to the village hall enjoying the fancy dress and the enthusiasm of everyone involved. We were cheerfully persuaded to roll 50ps, choose tickets, sticks and squares and to sample refreshments. It was only the promise of Marj’s Mediterranean Casserole for dinner that evening that stopped us having seconds or even thirds of the selection of delicious cakes! We enjoyed, but were not persuaded, to join in the belly dancing – although, having watched Marj having a sneaky practice behind the raffle table, perhaps you should enrol a new member?

Throughout our careers we have both attended and organised many fetes and fairs and had wondered what Portknockie’s would be like – we discovered –

fun and friendly, with many enthusiastic volunteers who worked exceptionally hard and supporters of all ages who willingly joined in the activities. It made a very enjoyable occasion and raised a very substantial amount for the village hall improvements. Thank you for letting us join in. We hope your Homecoming events next year will also be very successful.”

Chris and Judith Puttick writing from Essex.

A farewell note from the Hill Street Newsagents:

“James and Anne would like to thank all our customers and friends for their custom and support over the past five years. We have enjoyed our time in Portknockie – even the early morning rising! We would also like to thank our staff past and present for all their help. Good luck to the new owners and best wishes to you all, James and Anne.”

Ps. James and Anne have no definite plans for the future other than a jolly good lie in and some rest. They have both been in the retail business all their working lives and it may be time to reflect on a change of direction. There is also the germ of an idea to visit relatives in New Zealand. Speaking surely for all their customers, we thank them for providing Portknockie with such a cheerful, vibrant and varied shopping experience these past 5 years and wish them both the very best of fortune in the future.

Church of Scotland Sunday School re-started on 31st August in the church on Sunday mornings at 11.15. Children aged 3 and above are welcome to come along and enjoy a programme of Bible stories, crafts, games and quizzes. For further information phone Val on 841240.

Portknockie Baby and Toddler Group: We are looking for people who would be interested in joining our baby and toddler group which meets on Thursday mornings from 9.45 to 11.45am in the McBoyle Hall. It is an excellent opportunity for parents to get out and meet other people and for babies and toddlers to have fun playing with our collection of large toys and other activities.

The Committee looks forward to seeing fresh faces this year and in future years to come. For more information about what is being offered contact Emma Walker on 842736 or Joanne Wood on 842895.

**PORTKNOCKIE SCHOOL
NEWS**

New Start

At the end of the second week back to school everyone is settling into school routines. Our eight new entrants are just about to start full days after being eased in with morning-only attendance for the first couple of weeks. We also welcomed two new pupils – Dale Morrison, P3, and Weronika Cichosz, P5. Weronika comes from Poland and is already making great strides with her English. Her class mates are also learning a few words of Polish.

Mrs Adrienne Wilson joined the staff as teacher of P5/6/7. Adrienne and I will share some of the teaching of the class. Mrs Helen Dawson also joined us as classroom assistant in P3/4.

As another newcomer to the school I am currently appreciating the wealth of collective knowledge of those who have been here somewhat longer!

Current School Activities

Primary 4 and 5 children have just started a seven week block of swimming. We had hoped the Primary 3 children could have gone too, but regulations are such that a qualified instructor must be in the water with children under eight years of age.

Year 6 and 7 children have started a six week block of rugby coaching which will culminate in a tournament in Buckie at the end of September. Thanks to Hein Mijzen, the Active Schools Coordinator, and Buckie Rugby Club for making this happen.

Coming up next Friday after school is the first session of Stay and Play for P1,2 and 3, and Mixed Sport sessions for P4-7. These sessions, also organised by Hein Mijzen, aim to introduce the children to a variety of sports and games. The sessions will run until the end of this term.

Already up and running is the Ceramics Club, held after school on Wednesdays. Run by Catherine Ritchie, Lil Urquhart and Donna Coull, the club has a very enthusiastic following.

Thanks, ladies, for organising this for the children.

Other events, activities and diary dates

- Portknockie Primary Parent Council Fete, school playground, Saturday 30 August.
- School photographs with Studio 8, Monday 1 September
- M & M Theatrical Productions perform Treasure Island for the whole school, Tuesday 2 September.

- Touch rugby tournament, P6 and 7, Buckie, Tuesday 30 September.
- Parent-teacher meetings P2-7, 3.30-8 pm, Monday 6 October. P1 parent-teacher meetings will be held earlier in the term.
- Last day of term 1, Friday 10 October.

Making Our School Beautiful

If you haven't already seen the beautiful display of orange and yellow poppies and other flowers in the bed at the front of the school playing field, please come soon before they start to fade. Mrs McWhirter and her P1/2 class laid a "seed mat" in the bed back in May as an experiment. So many flowers have come up and, with hardly any weeds, this is something we will definitely be repeating next year.

Sadly....

During the summer holidays the school suffered some serious and very costly damage through vandalism. The police have been informed, and we ask for vigilance from the community so that these sorts of incidents do not occur again.

Shona Idle
Head teacher

A K'NOCKER POSTSCRIPT

The village newspaper was launched in August 1999 so this autumn issue sees us starting the 10th year of publication. The Press & Journal on 31st August 1999 described the arrival of the K'nocker with the headline - "**Village gains its own voice**". A flavour of that very first issue is provided by the reprint that follows on the back page.

