

## **Portknockie does it again. In Moray we are the best!**

At the Elgin finals of the Moray Best-kept Village Competition on Friday 5th September Portknockie gained the new challenge shield as the best-kept large village. This is our second win in a row and coincides with the 21st anniversary year of the Competition.

The judges were taken particularly by the impact the village entrance features make, the long floral sweep of Church Street with its hanging baskets and troughs and the floral colour in the village. They were so impressed they said, they really did not want to leave after the judging time was up!

Moray's Convener, Cllr Eddie Aldridge commented on the tremendous attraction that well-kept rural communities have for visiting tourists to Moray and complimented all the villages taking part in the challenge.

Emily Thain (13) and Laura Cowie (15) representing the young Ceramics Group were "chuffed" by their win against fifteen other entrants in the Junior Section. They also brought back a new shield sponsored by Cllr Aldridge. This lead, set by the youngsters in the village, augers well for the future that the next generation will be keen to see Portknockie maintaining its premier position as a visitor attraction and a beautiful place to live.

This second win is a great credit to everyone in the village. The coming winter will be the time to plan for

## **Bumper Issue as K'nocker readers break their vows of silence and burst into print!**

Following my moans in the last issue, you have come up trumps with copy. It is good to be able to thank all those who have sent in news items and articles to interest our readers. This issue has plenty of stimulating challenges like the harbour proposal and the Festival of Fishing idea that need you to reflect and to make an active response. This newspaper wants to raise and stimulate ideas that will improve life in the village and be a forum to reflect opinions. So keep this flow of news and features coming!

News just in is that **The School Support Group** has been resurrected and has already formed a large working committee. It is planning a Coffee & Buttery Morning, raffle and sales table in the Seafield Hall on **Saturday, September 27th** between 10 am and 12 noon. Donations and raffles welcome in the Hall the day before

The Group intends to hold regular events so watch out for them! Any more village groups need to be created or reborn again?

### **VILLAGE NEWS & AROUND:**

**Local fund raising** - Carol Wilson, 31 King Edward Terrace ran in the "Race for Life 5Km" in Aberdeen on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June raising £300 for Cancer Research UK. Along with her team colleagues the total raised came to over £1000.

**Congratulations to Jane**, our pharmacist, who gave birth to an 8lb boy, Dean, in Aberdeen on 7<sup>th</sup> August. **Welcome** to Claire, who is now in the Chemist shop handling our prescriptions. **Other babies** to welcome to our community are Yash & Val's baby girl Alanah and Kevin & Jane McKay's baby boy Finlay, Kevin (7<sup>th</sup> August) and at The Vic Elaine & Michael's second son, Joel, who was born on the 27<sup>th</sup> August. Portknockie's answer to Scotland's falling population numbers!

**"Well done Becky we are very proud of you" say Granny & Granddad.** The Becky is Becky Mair, this year's winner of the Portknockie School Jack Taylor Trophy, the prestigious annual prize for hard work and endeavour. "Good luck at Buckie High School."

**Congratulations to Dr Grant Mair**, the middle son of Mr David & Mrs Barbara Mair of 12 King Edward Terrace, who graduated from Aberdeen University on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2003 with a MBChB and

a BSc in Medical Science. Dr Grant is presently a JHO at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary.

**Top honours** go to Alison Smith, 18a New Street who gained a Bsc First Class degree in Chemistry at Aberdeen University.

**Believe it or not** - Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> August started like any other day for me. I got my lift at 5.30am as usual. We got onto the high road and saw a car stopped beside the garage. We all thought "Oh no, not an accident!" We drove cautiously towards it, then we saw a pony at the side of the road. We drove slowly onwards and could not believe what we were seeing. I do not think anyone else will either! It was a Llama, honestly! (Joyce White).

A big **Thank you** to the "Village in Bloom" team that set out such a lovely show of flowers in Portknockie this year. It was a demanding task this year with the need for frequent weeding, watering and wandering around to check all was well. It was good to have so many comments of appreciation from residents and the seasonal visitors, some of whom had travelled here long distances specially to see and photograph this year's show. They all say, "Well done, team!"

Who made up the team? You will have seen them bent over the tubs, wielding paintbrushes or fighting the hosepipes. They were Catherine & Alec Ritchie, Lil & Jim Urquhart, Donna & Zander Coull, Janine & Graham Mair, Brenda Cowie, Helen Sammon, Pearl Murray, Shirley & 'Mambo' McLean, Lorna & George Sinclair, Margret & Arthur Wood, Joan & Bill Milne, Janice Downey, Maureen Geddes, John Cowie, Graham Pirie, Anneta McKay, Donald Morrison, Alice Lumley, Louisa Donaldson, John & Tricia Barclay, George Addison, Lynn Selwood (watering), Sadie Walker (gardening certificates) and anyone else who gave a nameless helping hand. On the lawn mower since July has been Gerry Connelly, the volunteer handyman, who has made a huge improvement to the quality of the grass in the Millennium Garden, weeded beds and trimmed hedges.

**Welcome to Dennis & Tricia Smith** who have moved into "Scarnose View", 33 Seafield Street. Originally from the Grimsby area, they have travelled widely in the RAF including a period living in Hopeman when they were based at Lossiemouth. In coming to Scotland they are following their son and daughter, who had already taken the decision to relocate north of the border. They are delighted with their lovely view over the Firth and the occasional sighting of dolphins. Dennis is a biker and they are both keen archers. Perhaps, it might be possible to start this up as a new sport for the village?

**New Taxi service** in Portknockie from Chris at 17 Seafield Street. Local or long distance journeys (Airports, seaports, train stations) All bookings on 01542-840380 or 07899-685902.

Another summer arrival was **Margaret & Robert Dawson**, who have moved into 3 Firth View. They have made a swift contribution to our "Village in Bloom" standards by importing most of their garden from Dorset and replanting it in the chuckies of their front garden. They have written a note of appreciation for the fine welcome they have received from Portknockie.

"We have recently returned to the north-east after living most of our working lives in the South. We chose Portknockie for its perfect setting overlooking the Moray Firth, and have not been disappointed. The hand of friendship has been freely given and the smiles of welcome can always transform the dullest day - not that there have been many of those since we arrived! The neighbours keep telling us, 'Ah, but this has been an exceptional summer!' We await the wind and the gales when the brussel sprouts need to be anchored - so we are told!

May we also give a **big Thank you** to the dedicated helpers who have transformed the village into a feast of colour. Such beauty is not made by saying, 'Oh how beautiful and just sitting in the shade.' So thanks to those who go out and water the plants, grub the weeds, trim the lawns and decorate the verges. (Ed. see above!).

A poem to end taken from 'The Glory of the Garden' by Rudyard Kipling - no mean gardener himself -

There's not a pair of legs so thin, there's not a head so thick  
There's not a hand so weak and white, nor yet a heart so sick,  
But it can find some needful job that's crying to be done  
For the Glory of the Garden glorifieth every one.'

Far from home, **one of our visitors** in August was **Masako** from Tottori prefecture area in Japan. Masako, a young lawyer by training, has been staying with Paula Cowie in King Edward Terrace seeing the sights and enjoying the local food. She thought the village had very pretty houses, the people were kind and she found the weather rather cool! She recalled the delights of tatties and mince and Loch Ness in one breath! On her return to Japan she is getting married. At this point, trying to establish whether it would be a religious or a civil wedding, your Editor's Japanese conversation skills ran out! Paula had

struck up a friendship with Masako during her recent one year stay in Japan teaching English - see page 7 for Paula's story.

**A bonny photograph of Portknockie wanted!**

Can anyone help out with this for Tom McKay of 5 Firth View? Tom has to see the world from his bed and he commissions artists to paint from photographs. Once a Lossie fisherman, he has many paintings of fishing boats, which he raffles to raise funds for the Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen. Just now he wants one of his artist contacts to paint a Portknockie scene. Can anyone loan or copy to him a suitable photograph that shows off our village well?

**The 2003 Best-Kept Garden Presentation** was made on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> August in the garden of Gerry & Sybil Connelly, winners of the Private House category Cup. The morning was dry and sunny, the views were lovely and there was a very fine spread for this year's award winners. Cllr Ron Shepherd made the presentations assisted by Bob Croucher and Pearl Murray. Photographs of the winners were taken for the Northern Scot and the Buckie Advertiser.

The **Junior Entry Award** went to the young Ceramics Group for "Industries of Scotland" in Hill Street. Recognition of **Local Business Support** for our "Village in Bloom" displays went to Mr & Mrs McLean, Hair Studio, New Street and Mr Jim Urquhart of 3, Mid Street. The **Community effort Award** was made to Mrs Lorna Sinclair, 14 Haig Street and Mr & Mrs McLean of 3, Slater Crescent.

Ten **Certificates** for gardens that have given us all special pleasure went to - Mr & Mrs Dawson, 15, Church Street, Miss Donaldson 2, Bruce Place, Mr & Mrs Heaton 20, Admiralty Street, Mr & Mrs Innes, 3, Bridge Street, Miss Innes, 9 Westfield Drive, Mr McLean, 6, Seaforth Street, Mr & Mrs McLeod, 13, Victoria Place, Mr & Mrs Morrison, 20, Haig Street, Mrs Ritchie, 8, Addison Street and Mr & Mrs Runcie, 26, Admiralty Street.

The best **front of house display** of tubs and hanging baskets went to Mr & Mrs Crozier of 18, Harbour Place and the **Best Small Spaces Display** award was made to Mr & Mrs Barclay of 13, Dover Street. The **Cup Runners Up** were Council House Garden (Mr & Mrs Donald, 10, Mairs Street) and Private House Garden (Mr & Mrs Miller, "Regent Villa", Westfield Drive). The **Council House Garden Cup** went to Mr & Mrs Stephen of 2, Stuart Place and the **Private House Garden Cup** went to Mr & Mrs Connelly, 4, Westfield Drive. (Ed. This paper **not** the Northern Scot got the facts right!).

**To the readers of the K'nocker from Hill Street Newsagents - an appreciation:**

Zoe and I would like to express our gratitude to all our customers in Portknockie. We have both enjoyed our daily "chit chats", whether it be the weather, the headlines or anything in between.

This shop has been an official news agency for 45 years and we are glad to have been a part of that service to the community. Hopefully, we will have left a part of us in this history. We wish the new owners, **James and Ann Johnston** every success for the future.

We thank Mary for her devoted service and years of experience in the paper trade and Pearl and Sarah for working lunchtimes to allow me to feed the old man! We thank all past and present employees and our paperboys and girls.

**Margaret and Zoe.**

(Ed, we hope to feature some of the memories of that 45 years of Portknockie newspaper delivery in the next issue. If you have a story or memory pass it on to Mary Reid or Pearl.)

**Beware the local Ragwort.** After seeing a warning on TV, one of our residents has found some Ragwort, also known as Tansy (*Senecio jacobaea*) an injurious weed, growing along the cycle track to Findochty, near to the Cemetery and in the pony field opposite Cruats Farm. This yellow, daisy-like weed can grow over a metre or so high and is harmful to grazing animals - but not, apparently to dogs! The local finds have been notified to the Moray Environmental Health people and the owner of the ponies. Just now the plants are shedding their seeds. Ideally, the plant should be grubbed up wearing gloves and not cut and left for animals to possibly eat

**VILLAGE IN BLOOM 2003**

With the sunny and warm summer weather, the enthusiasm and the experience of the helpers and the support of the community the "Village in Bloom" display this year was clearly the best yet. Judging day on the 5<sup>th</sup> August was sunny and warm and the village looked so neat and tidy it was a pleasure to take the judges, Mr & Mrs Finlayson, round Portknockie.

The judges complimented the village on the quality and imagination of all its display features and its tidiness. They were especially impressed with how we have set out to improve different parts of the village and then, learning from our experiences, further improved them each year. Compare Church Street, the Millennium Garden or the Beach feature now with how they were!

An example of how "Village in Bloom" has brought out a deal of genuine community spirit in Portknockie was the **vase with a single bloom** put out on her doorstep by one elderly resident in Park Street and noticed by the judges as they were checking out the War Memorial. They were later to suggest that next year we should ensure that our War Memorial is put in the special competition for Scottish War Memorials because it had looked so attractive.

A special thank you should go to **the youngsters of the village** for respecting the display and the hard work that had been put into it. It has been a great comfort and a source of pride for us that none of the plants were disturbed or damaged over the whole season. Not all Moray villages can make this kind of claim. But do keep binning your crisp packets and empty drinks bottles!

As the judges departed after a very full hour walking and driving around Portknockie it was noticeable that we had made a very significant impression upon them. It felt as if the number 1 spot in Moray was safe and well in Portknockie.

The new **Treasure Island map** of our floral features is available to purchase from the Library. At £3 each in plastic laminate it will make a fine picture for your wall or a lovely present for friends. Funds from the sale of these maps go to help cover "Village in Bloom" costs.

**Thoughts from a volunteer watering the displays during the long, hot summer** " What am I doing standing here watering when I know everybody was sure somebody else would do it? Anybody could have done this but nobody did do it! More help next year please!!"

**Overheard on a bus as it passed through Portknockie** - "Doesn't the local Council here provide a lot of beautiful flowers to this village". Fortunately, a local resident was on hand to set the visitors right about who pays for these plants and who sets up and maintains our village floral displays.

#### **COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWS:**

The village **skateboarding** scheme in the park has been hit by further bureaucratic demands from Moray Council. This has put the grant aid awarded to us by the Lottery Fund, "Awards for All" out of time. All such projects have to be completed within 12 months of the funding having been granted. The new requirement is for the community of Portknockie to purchase the space in the McLeod Park that will be used for the skating from Moray Council. This is so that

the legal responsibility and insurance liability does not fall upon the public purse but on us!

**SUSAN'S KUT N KURL**  
**LADIES & GENTS HAIR STYLIST**  
Susan, Kerry, & Claire



**840366**

This opens a whole new can of worms and the Community Council is sorry to inform the youngsters in the village that their wishes have been set back yet again. It means, in effect, that we need to go back to the drawing board and re-think the whole scheme. Each of the skateboard schemes in Moray faces these hurdles and we have paid the penalty of being a front runner before all the legal requirements have been clarified. It seems likely that we may have to wait for some of the bigger, Moray Council backed schemes in the towns to be launched and then to build on their experience if we want to proceed with a local facility.

Maybe over the coming months a group of interested youngsters and their parents will get together to draw up a fresh plan to get a skateboarding facility for the village. It will need a committee, a suitable site that can be purchased or leased, a planning proposal, a target for completion and a fundraising scheme. Much of this will be going over old ground but this time we will know all about the legal hoops and hurdles that have to be overcome. Sponsor money already raised can remain for a future bid, be reclaimed from Mrs Ritchie, 8 Victoria Street or put towards the fund raising efforts for a paddling pool pump.

Moray Council has indicated that **The Flagstaff Hill** improvement scheme to re-instate the old weather mast and create a viewing point to overlook the harbour and the Moray Firth has been further delayed until October. The funding from NOSWA is confirmed but our scheme is towards the bottom of the in-tray of works!

The replacement of the Flagstaff will be just one of a number of changes being considered by the Community Council for improving the harbour area. Moray Council has been requested to carry out repairs to the railings on the road down to the harbour. A pump will be available for the paddling pool next season and it will also be repainted. Also there will be some sympathetic landscaping to incorporate the harbour more fully in our "Village in Bloom" route.

In the longer term ideas are being sought from villagers for more comprehensive development proposals that include a **Visitors' Centre** with changing rooms and showers and a retail outlet. There could also be space for heritage displays, an area for small group meetings and, maybe even a restaurant. Earlier this year the pupils at Portknockie School drew posters of their ideas of how the harbour might look in the future. Now your Community Council wants everyone to come forward with constructive proposals for making our harbour area a 21<sup>st</sup> century style recreational hub both for residents and visitors. See the consultation details on page 13

Two compost boxes, built by Mr I McLeod, are available for villagers to deposit genuine organic waste. One is in the Millennium Garden and the other is in the Old Railway Cutting. We now have **four dog mess bins** - one at the start of the cycle track to Cullen, a new one at the Bridge Street end of the Old Railway Cutting, one with the mini recycling unit in the park and one at the start of the cycle track to Findochty. Would dog owners please use them - the worst mess is being left along the cycle track to Cullen within 100 yards of a bin! From October dog owners can be fined for leaving dog mess in public spaces.

The **waste paper and cardboard** container lorry parks at the junction of Mid Street and Pultney Street outside the old Bank building between 10.30 and 12 noon every other Saturday. The upcoming dates are September 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, October 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, November 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> and December 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Dog fouling** is taking place again in the lane between Park Street and New Street. Would the owner of the dog please stop it from using this slappie for its toilet.

*Thinking ahead*  
**HOLLY WREATHS**  
*By Donna*

*Prices from £10-£15*  
*Buttonholes etc also available*  
*Order early by phoning 841129*

**Jonathan Milton** has joined the Community Council as a student member and attended his first meeting on July 14<sup>th</sup>. There is still a vacancy for the second member - contact Mrs Ritchie, 8 Victoria Street or Jonathan if you wish to offer your services. **Paula Hedley** the outgoing member, having reached the significant age of 18, has penned the following thoughts on her recent year of service to Portknockie:

"In the last year as Student Representative on Portknockie Community Council I have been made aware of many issues that I had no prior knowledge of. For instance, the amount of planning, teamwork and co-ordination that takes place before "Village in Bloom". The time consuming paper work and meetings that also takes place before new projects can be commenced. I have met and spoken with many people with whom I would otherwise have had no contact.

From this experience I feel I have gained a little insight into the amount of work that is involved in being a member of the community council. I admired the commitment from every member, they made me feel welcome and involved in all that was going on. It was a most rewarding experience and I would recommend the opportunity to become a student member to all those who are interested." Paul Hedley.

Moray will share in a Lottery grant of £½ million that was awarded to NE Scotland councils in June as part of the Transforming Waste Scotland programme. The money will be used to run a **Master Composter Scheme** to promote home composting across the North East. For more information on the use of home composting units and this scheme to reduce the amount of domestic rubbish going to landfill sites contact Kate Barnard on 01343 557060 or email [aberdeenforward@lineone.net](mailto:aberdeenforward@lineone.net)

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

Well it's all been going on around Portknockie. There has been so much to see during the long hot summer so far. One of the first exciting things I saw was a pair of Kestrels with four or five babies. I would think that the babies had just fledged when I saw them. They were all fluttering about around Duane's Den but when I got closer they all disappeared. Kestrels are our commonest bird of prey in Britain and are seen everywhere but are probably most noticeable when seen hovering above the grass verges of our motorways. Sometimes they can be confused with Sparrowhawks but Kestrels have a longer, narrower tail and more pointed wings.

Talking of Sparrowhawks, we have had one or more visiting our garden on a daily basis all summer. We feed the birds in our garden all year round so I suppose the hawks have sitting targets. Sometimes we just see a few feathers to show that some poor little thing has come to a sticky end and sometimes we see the hawk flying off with another little victim dangling from its talons! But the other day I noticed one victim

had been eaten actually in a quiet part of the garden so the hawk must feel very confident there. One morning, a couple of years ago, we heard a noise like a door banging and went out to find a beautiful Sparrowhawk stone dead after having crashed in to our porch window. They often come unstuck by crashing into trees in woodland as they fly so low and fast often just clearing the ground as they swoop over hedges and round trees.

I have not had any visits to my garden by Goldfinches since the spring so I plan to buy some Niger seed, which they are very partial to and to see if it encourages them back. I have not seen any Siskins either but I hear them all the time so they are definitely still around. I am sure we will see them come the autumn when their natural food supply starts to diminish. We have had our fair share of Sparrows though. I think I have seen at least thirty at any one time. They make a mad dash to the privet hedge when they see a threatening bird overhead and they look so funny peering out from the foliage waiting for the all clear.

Also in the garden I have noticed that wasps are drinking from our fishpond. I had not ever thought they might need to drink! I have not seen a bee do it yet! I have also noticed that the wasps chew on the dry timber of trellising. You can actually hear them munching away. I guess it's this wood that they make their intricate but unwelcome nests from after they have chewed it to a pulp. I have heard that wasps eat midges and greenfly so they do serve a purpose although I have never seen them do this. In fact I have never seen a ladybird eat greenfly either. I think it's just a rumour! I have seen Sparrows eat them off the roses but mostly, to get rid of these pests, I just run my finger and thumb up the stems and squash them!

**CATHERINE'S CERAMICS**  
On view at the Craft Fayre  
October 5<sup>th</sup>  
Orders being taken for Christmas  
8 Victoria Street  
Portknockie  
01542-840554

Out with Brin one lovely afternoon, I saw two separate Spotted flycatchers around the edge of the field towards the top of the golf course. I do not really know why they are called "spotted" because they aren't. The juveniles are a bit but that is about all. They are quite acrobatic as they flutter up and catch insects and then land. Spotted flycatchers are a summer visitor so will

be leaving soon. Another summer visitor I have seen is the Wheatear. I really love these birds they are so striking with their white rump and black-edged tail, which is very noticeable as they fly. They are one of those birds that do a lot of bobbing and bowing.

There were three little deer seen around the Braes a few weeks ago. I am not sure where they might have come from but I did see them once. I was not convinced they were Roe deer. They looked daintier, I thought, almost Bambi like. (Ed. could they have been Muntjac deer?). I used to see a lot of deer when I lived near Fort Augustus as it is heavily forested over that way. We had Japanese Sika deer near where we lived and they actually whistle when they are startled. It was ages before I realised that it was the deer making the noise and not someone whistling in the woods!

This last week I have noticed a single evening primrose plant growing on the old railway cutting near the Hill Street end. It lives up to its name as the flower is at its best in the evening and soon fades by the morning. I had to have a sniff at the flower to see if it smelt as lovely as all the evening primrose products that you can buy. I was very disappointed that it did not smell at all. When I got home Carl asked where I had been sticking my hooter, as it was yellow!  
**REFLECTIONS ON A YEAR IN JAPAN by Paula Cowie**

Last year Paula Cowie from "Hamewith", King Edward Terrace, having completed her English degree at Aberdeen and taken a Diploma in Publishing at Robert Gordon, took herself off to a teaching post in Japan. She stayed in a furnished house provided by the local authority in Tottori Prefecture, a rural, rice growing area some three hours travel from Osaka and nine hours from Tokyo.

Her job entailed teaching English to 6-11 year olds in the local elementary school and 11-14 year olds in the junior high school. She felt the younger pupils were the rewarding ones to teach as they were so enthusiastic about learning the subject. There were 36 pupils in each class and the pupils all wore summer and winter uniforms. There was heavy snow during the winter, which gave Paula the opportunity to ski but she said it was not so cold and windy as one finds normally in Scotland. At the week-ends she met up with other English teachers on the JET Programme (Japan Exchange Teaching Programme). Paula speaks very highly of this organisation, which made her trip possible.

She says of the year "It was the best thing I have ever done and I would go back to Japan any time." The school day was very long starting at 8.0am and going on to 4.0pm when the pupils cleaned the school and then they would take part in after school activities such as art and sports. For the pupils the most exciting news about the UK was information on David Beckham and Harry Potter! The pupils also go to school on Saturdays! Teachers rarely finish before 7.0pm!

Paula's recalled some of the differences between rural Scotland and rural Japan - not wearing shoes in the house, clear miso soup and noodles for lunch, sleeping on a futon, paper thin walls, kerosene heaters, the communal hot baths and karaoke singing at the week-ends. She found Japan still very much a man's world and it was something of a shock to find that local people frowned on women bearing backs, arms or legs even in summer.

A year was not enough time to master the language but Paula found the local people very friendly and understanding. Having shown Masako something of life in Scotland, Paula now returns to Aberdeen for a year's teacher training course after which she intends to teach English in a secondary school -perhaps with the odd Japanese expression thrown in!

**FIT A'SICHT FOR SORE 'EEN** - Margret Wood reflects on the fishing boats seen just offshore throughout August and September.

"Fit fin it was to see Portknockie Loons being able to fish for squibs so near the beach (Fraser, Neil, Norman and crews), in early August this year instead of having to go out to the belly of the sea!"

At the end of July this year a few smaller boats were seen fishing just off of Portknockie. Through the grapevine it was heard of a massive fishing of squid; all hands on deck. All boats which had the gear (mostly shrimp bags) wanted to give it a try. A few ex-skippers would have loved to have been in the middle of the fleet that few weeks. What a tourist attraction it was - people armed with binoculars, cameras, taking videos of the armada of boats from small to one of the largest in the Scottish fleet. At night it was spectacular to see all the lights in the bay and everyone out walking - the weather that few weeks was also wonderful.

Here are a few boats' names I noted: Atlantic Challenge PD; Beryl BF411; Boy Brian OB756; Brothers BF138; Clarnes INS108; Crystal River BF32; Deeside BCK595; Golden West FR363; Kemarvin BF4; Lyn Marie BCK86; Marina

Polaris FR; Minerva FR147; Moray Endeavour BCK17; Oceana BF840; Osprey III BF500; Osprey INS130; Prospect BF573; Shaligar FR955; Silver Spray BF319; Silver Fern FR416; Pair team - Castlewood FR216 & Ryanwood FR421. Please forgive me if I have left anyone out!

There has always been, for the past few years, a month or so of squid fishing off our coast but not in the quantity there was this year. Global warming has been mentioned as a cause for this but whether that is true remains to be seen. The squid catch was mostly exported to Spain. A high price around £200+ was paid for the first landings but when all the boats were fishing the price dropped to £60+ and then it went up again when the majority of the boats left for other fishing grounds. The squid landed were about 3 to four inches in length. The only other by-catch was small dabs, which were of no use. Squid eat plantain and shellfish and can consume their own bodyweight. Normally, as they grow bigger, they move further offshore and die within about eight weeks.

A Fisheries Protection aeroplane, known as a "spotter plane" was seen going back and fore the boats, probably taking photographs. At the moment, there is no quota on this species but in another year it might be different. The "bobby boat" (Ed. the Fisheries Protection vessel) was also seen. There was no truth in the rumour that the bigger boats were ordered to move further offshore. However, one skipper received a call from someone, who will remain anonymous, saying he was from the Scottish Executive and complaining that the bigger boats were taking away the smaller boats' living! What that skipper replied will have to remain a secret as this is a family paper!

## POETS' CORNER

Janet Creese from 4 Victoria Street, stimulated by the reference in the last issue of the K'nocker to dogskin floats being used locally as fishing buoys, has passed on the following poem penned, it seems some 100 years ago, with acknowledgements to a "Slochie loon".

### My aul' dog Bow

Weel div I min' fin my dog was young  
He barked and growled and seldom held's tongue  
I fed him on porridge until he did grow  
A very good size for a haddock line bow.

He grew up in sax month as fat as a pig,  
Wi' a nose red's a carrot an' a fine curly wig,  
Employed a neighbour tae tak's skin o'er his howe,  
An' get him made intae an aul' dog bow.

I steeped him nine days in a cog amon' strang,  
Then the hair cam' aff wi' the tip o' my han',  
I tied his legs in his neck for a tow  
An' blew him up tight, my aul' dog bow.

I hung him outside tae dry on a pole,  
The sun made him black, black as a mole.  
The bairns flocked roon', the cats they did mew,  
An' cocket their lugs at au' dog bow.

I took him tae sea tae pit on my line  
An' tried him oot ower wi' an unca lang string.  
He caved up an' doon like the wings o' a gow -  
The pride o' my heart wis my aul' dog bow.

The tide wis sae strong I just saw his feet,  
My lips they did quake, my heart it did beat.  
The signboard o' sorrow wis seen on my brow  
In terror o' losing my aul' dog bow.

Darkness fell doon an' took it frae view  
It couldna be seen by ane o' the crew  
We a' did oor best tae gie a guid row  
Bit saw nae a stime o' my aul' dog bow.

We hoist up oor sail an' made for the shore  
Wi' full expectations o' seein' it no more  
There wisna a man in the boat fit tae row  
Wi' sorrow at losing my aul' dog bow.

We arrived on the shore an' reportit oor loss  
Tae a' them that kent him it wis a great cross  
Tae me an' my wife an' bairns I trow  
We made a night's like for my aul' dog bow.

Oor neibours cam' in tae help us tae murn  
The fire in the grate it scarcely wid burn  
The bairns wi' caul kiked up sic a row  
Lat ye niver see sic a night for my aul' dog bow

Ilka e'e in the hoose wis await like a pot  
A month o' the same wid floated a boat.  
They joined tae a man wi' ae solemn vow  
Tae help me tae look for my aul' dog bow.

Next mornin' cam' wi' a fin gentle breeze  
We each manned oor boats as eager as bees  
As eager as bees on a weel heathered knowe  
Wi' a' gied in search o' my aul' dog bow.

We sailed twa 'oors in goin' bow fast  
Till seaweed in foam in waters we past.  
I sat mysel' doon upon her lee bow  
An' spied the twa legs o' my aul' dog bow.

I wis as prood as lawyer wi' a braw case  
Ye wid seen a great change tak' place on my  
face.  
The boats flocked roon - they a' made a bow  
In honour o' seein' my aul' dog bow.

I took it aboard an' examined it weel  
It looked in my e'e like braw polished steel.  
I ca'd it by name - its name wis Bow-Wow  
I gweed enuch name for my aul' dog bow.

I laid it by in a braw canny spot,  
The skipper fell on it - it gaed a great shot.  
My heart tae my mou' very near did flow  
Fin I kent he had broken my aul' dog bow.

I made a stick 'pa' seized it on his leg  
An' in we' anither ane close till his craig,  
Syne in we' anither and doon in his bowe,  
Condemned for aye wis my aul' dog bow.

It's forty lang years I reckon an' mair  
Sin' this event happened I weel may declare,  
It hings up the stair on a nail wi' a tow  
The pride o' my heart is my aul' dog bow.

**From a poem collection of Davie Mair comes  
this topical poem of summer fruit collection  
by James Geddes (1991).**

#### **RASPS.**

The Den it was a fearsome place  
Wi' bushes thick and thin  
They trachled ye up and scratit yer face  
Fin ye wis tryin' tae fill up yer tin.

It wis the season of the rasps  
To be cooked in a brass jeely pan  
Ye'd think ye'd been bitten by an asp  
Fin the jowbers stuck into yer haun.

Ye filled yer paillie and took it hame  
An gave it till yer Mam  
She lichted the gas and stuck them on  
Tae mak' delicious jam.

Fin it was ready ye gave it a try  
On muckle thick sheave o' breed  
It wis better nor ony o' the stuff ye could buy  
A truly magnificent feed.

#### **THE PORTKNOCKIE DIRECTORY**

<b>Police:</b> (Buckie)	832222
(Cullen)	840222
<b>Doctors:</b> (Cullen)	840272
(Buckie)	831555
<b>Seafeld Hospital:</b>	832081
<b>Dr Grays, Elgin:</b> 01343	543131
<b>Aberdeen RI:</b> 01224	681818
<b>Dentist:</b> (Buckie)	831163
<b>Chemist:</b> (Portknockie)	840268
<b>Optician:</b> (Buckie)	832239
<b>Plumber</b> (Portknockie)	840052
<b>Electrician:</b> (Portknockie)	840066

**Harbour Garage** 840099  
**Hydro-Electric:** (24hrs) 0800 300999  
**Scottish Gas:** (24 hrs) 0800 111999  
**Scottish Water Emergency:**0845600 8855  
**BT:** (fault reporting) 0800 800 151  
**Coastguard:** (24 hrs) 01224 592334  
**Environmental Incidents:** 0800 807060  
**Moray Council:** 01343 543451\*  
 Out of hours 08457 565656  
**Buckie Access Point** 837200  
**Uplift service (after 10am)** 01343 557318  
**Patientline -NHS advice** 0500 202070  
**NHS24 - Health Advice** 0845 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 01224 722331  
 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  
**The K'nocker (Bob Croucher)** 841291

**\*Note the correction to Moray Council's Elgin number. For some issues we have been using mistakenly a private house number in Elgin and the lady there is unhappy about getting calls from Portknockie folk asking for Moray Council! Your Editor puts it all down to gremlins in the computer.**

**HELLO, IT'S THE FUN QUEEN AGAIN!**

The question she is asking this time is how well do you know Portknockie? Answers to Pearl at 14 Addison Street.

1. Who is the Chairperson of Portknockie Community Council?
2. Who is the Minister of the Church of Scotland?
3. Name 3 members of the Seniors' Club Committee.
4. Which Committee is responsible for the running of the McBoyle Hall?

5. Which street used to be known as Jubilee Terrace?
6. If you were in the Chemist's shop which street would you be in?
7. Who buried the time capsule in the Millennium Garden?
8. What is the name of the new owner of the Hill Street newsagents?
9. Where does the SOMY2GO Youth Club meet?
10. Which biblical character has moored his boat out side the School?

The winners of the summer quiz were Sybil Falconer, 13 Pulteney Street and Mr & Mrs Eddie Anderson, 31 Haig Street. Their next year's subscription to the K'nocker is free!

**James and Anne are the new owners of the Hill Street Newsagents. We will be stocking fresh fish, sandwiches and new bakery products. Christmas cards now in and much more to come!**  
**J&A Johnston Ltd. 01542-841059**

**AND, ON A MUSICAL NOTE....**

Since January of this year, a small but growing band of enthusiasts has been quietly nurturing a revival of traditional and contemporary music, once a month, in the **Lounge Bar of the Victoria Hotel.** 'Quietly' may not be the most appropriate adverb to describe the 'crack' when everyone present joins together for a right good chorus of traditional folk songs in the convivial atmosphere afforded by music, a good pint of beer or glass of wine and comfortable surroundings, (not to mention Isobel and Elaine's excellent sandwiches and sausage rolls at half time!)

The idea of holding a traditional music night grew out of a number of Portknockie musicians and singers who found themselves travelling to regular folk nights in Banff, Huntly and Keith and who felt that it was worth trying to establish a venue nearer home for traditional music, especially in the depth of cold, dark winter nights. Meeting once a month, (always the second Thursday), things have begun to build and consolidate thanks to the commitment of the local musicians and a growing and loyal audience of villagers and regular visitors from further afield.

The current issue of 'The K'nocker' seemed to present a timely opportunity to reflect on how things have progressed since then.

This article aims to acknowledge those who have helped this venture and raise awareness for others in the village and beyond who may be interested in coming along in the future; either to play; sing; read a poem; tell a story, or simply enjoy the atmosphere and conviviality. Let's face it, we all complain about the poor quality of what's on television these days and what better way of meeting people from within our own village who may have similar interests in music.

There is no doubt that the whole identity of the village has been dramatically uplifted over the past few years by the efforts of the Community Council and the volunteers who have got behind the 'flowering up' of the village, the publication of the 'Knocker' and various other community initiatives. In our own way, we see the traditional music nights as adding to the community's cultural diversity and heritage.

Variety is the key, and we have been helped in this regard by a number of good musicians and singers from around the area who have 'adopted' the Vic as a sympathetic venue where they can give a platform to their own musical interests and entertain others at the same time.

Rather than naming individual artists, it is possible to appreciate the diversity of music by mentioning some of the instruments which have featured through the months. We have seen upwards of half a dozen guitarists; a fine fiddler, mandolin, five-string banjo, tin whistlers, accordion and keyboards. We have heard new and original songs get their first public airing in the Vic; poetry readings, (nothing too highbrow!), solid renditions of 60's and 70's classics of Simon and Garfunkel which are now becoming part of the folk tradition, and accordion and whistle duets which would grace any of Robbie Shepherd's 'Take The Floor'.

The normal format for each evening is to 'go round the room' several times, with artists performing something of their choice. They may invite other musicians to join in and provide accompaniment or ask everyone present to join in with a chorus. On the other hand, everyone may be quite happy to simply sit back and appreciate the obvious virtuosity of some whistle playing, solo singing, or mean blues guitar. Invariably, however, the evening usually finishes up with everyone enjoying the stock favourites of the folk tradition and participating in a few rousing 'come all ye' choruses. Of particular note, we even had a family of Polish holiday-makers entertain us with a traditional Polish folk song at our July meet. We would like to think that their evening at the Vic was one of their holiday high points.

This format seems to have served us well and over the months we have been greatly appreciative of the encouragement of a number of regulars who have come along to support the evening and the musicians. Without this support, it would leave the musicians playing only to themselves and things would not have worked out the way they have to date.

Indeed, it is worth mentioning that some of our regulars travel from as far afield as Ellon, Banff, and Rothiemay to enjoy the night, and one of our most appreciative listeners, who lives in Cheltenham, tries to arrange long weekends in the village to tie in with 'the second Thursday!'

There is no formally established 'Folk Club', no subscriptions, no committees, no constitution, just a grass roots collective interest in providing an outlet for traditional and contemporary music for those who like to perform to others and for those who simply enjoy the 'crack'. The atmosphere is always friendly and welcoming. So, if you happen to have an old guitar or fiddle quietly gathering dust in the attic, and you feel inclined to join us, go and get some new strings, tune up and turn up on the second Thursday. Or, if you simply want to explore life without 'East Enders' once a month, come along and enjoy the alternative to the 'Queen Vic'. I promise,... Phil Mitchell doesn't drink in our Vic! (Ed, I went to the August meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> and it was very good - so keep an eye open for upcoming events)

#### **PUBLIC SERVICE MESSAGES:**

To avoid raising surcharges on the mail you send off make sure you keep to the correct weight limits. A single first or second class stamp allows you to post mail weighing up to 60gms (2¼ oz). Phone 0845 7740740 and the Royal Mail will send you a simple cardboard weighing device, called "EasyWeigh" to check your mail.

Have you noticed that local **pillar boxes** now show only the time of the last collection not a list of times collections will be made? Moreover, now there is no indication on the box that the last post collection has actually been made. This means you can be left wondering whether you are still in time for that day's post or that you might have missed it. **Postwatch Scotland** on 08456 013265 would like to hear of any instances where this new arrangement results in overflowing pillar boxes.

**Gas and Electric Suppliers have been in Portknockie recently asking if you want to change suppliers.** "Think Twice" is a Moray

consumer advice booklet (Library), which offers the following advice in such situations:

You do not have to change. If you do decide to change you will receive the same electricity or gas in your home but your bill will come from a different company. You may be contacted about changing by mail, phone or doorstep selling. You have rights to cancel any contract if you have been approached directly by a supplier.

If you do consider changing companies here are some points to help you make your choice:

- ❖ How much will it cost?
- ❖ What methods of payments are there?
- ❖ How often will I receive bills?
- ❖ What sort of contract is it?
- ❖ Will there be a standing charge?
- ❖ What additional services are offered? Some companies offer free safety checks for elderly customers
- ❖ Who should you contact in the event of a problem?
- ❖ What would happen if you ran into problems paying the bills?
- ❖ Remember to ask for means of identification before inviting anyone in off the doorstep.
- ❖ Always contact your supplier first over any problems but if there is not a satisfactory outcome you can contact the "Energywatch Scotland" Helpline on 08459 06 07 08.

Does the idea of a **solar water heating system** sound attractive to you? In Portknockie your Editor knows only of one system, installed on the roof of Rock House. However, a recent issue of "Birds", the RSPB magazine describes a home solar energy package with grants costing around £2 000 for a typical household and the promise, according to a user in Glasgow, of cutting annual hot water bills by a half. If you are keen to find out more contact Solarcentury on 0800 083 2395 or email [rspb@solarcentury.co.uk](mailto:rspb@solarcentury.co.uk)

#### **HAME COOKING:**

Did no one in the village know anything about the missing biscuits? "Gamrie Knotties" or something like? Or the soft biscuit speciality from Cullen? "**Sweet-tooth of Portknockie?**" As consolation, especially for "sweet-tooth", Sybil Connelly has come up with the following:

#### White Rum Truffles

3oz Butter

4oz sifted Icing Sugar

8oz (melted and cooled) White chocolate (Nestle's)

1 tablespoon White Rum (Optional)

Beat butter, icing sugar and add melted chocolate & rum

Stir until thick & cold.

Roll into balls and roll in toasted almonds.

(Already road tested by the Editor and Marj and they are wonderful! We used brandy!!)

#### **A KIN MIN FAN memories by Willie Mair of "Mamre", King Edward Terrace.**

Memory usually belongs to older people and invariably, we think that former days were better than nowadays, but is this always so? I have been reading in the Press that at least 10% of younger people are obese and it caused me to think of my childhood as regards what we had to eat. We were brought up in what was called "The Hungry Thirties" but I can never say that I was ever more than naturally hungry. Looking back our food was pretty basic but wholesome and nourishing. The period I write about (no doubt others will have different memories) was my "growing up" years in the Thirties. My father was on fortnightly trips at the trawling in Aberdeen, and the week he was away, for Sunday dinner, my mother gave me sixpence (2½ p today) to buy stewing steak from the local butcher. This made a tasty and nourishing dinner with gravy made with Brown & Polson's corn flour, a neep, and a carrot in the stew and the four of us had a good dinner. We usually had pudding on a Sunday - Cremola rice or egg custard. The aroma of the cooking in the house would have melted the heart.

Monday was the day for soup or broth made with a bone or a little piece of "mixed beef" to boil. This normally did for two days and the second day's broth was usually the best taste. Each Wednesdays we often had tatties and milk or butter. A kin min going up to the station to meet the "trawler train" at 4.30pm when ten or more wicker bags of fish, sent home by our fathers at half landing, were put off by the guard for collection by the waiting recipients. We lived royally on fish for a couple of days. Boiled cod, perhaps, and fish patties, or maybe a fresh haddock with the bone in to make "fresh fish" with milk. I can smell it yet! Very often on Friday we would have dried salted fish.

A kin min fan parts of the beach and the braes were reserved for drying the salted cod or saithe in the summer sun - plenty of bluebottles! The Hygiene people would have a fit today if this was still happening. Yet we never seemed any the worse for it. This trade, of course, has largely died out, especially locally. I quite liked the dried fish and I came across some recently.

Whether I did not steep it long enough or did not prepare it properly, it tasted like an old boot! Maybe someone has a recipe? "Hairy Tatties" they call it in Peterhead where it is fairly common, I believe. (Ed anyone have a recipe?)

On Saturday we had our old standby, and a favourite of mine, salt herring and tatties. Most fisher houses had a barrel of herring and a bag of tatties in the shed and often it provided a necessary and satisfying and only meal. I looked forward to getting my "tub" filled at the end of August. Tatties and herring now seem to be a luxury food but you can see that fish formed a fair part of our diet. When we were hungry a slice of loaf spread with home-made jam or Golden Syrup assuaged our hunger. We would go to the "Robbers' Widdy" or other places in the season to gather raspas or brambles. The big jam pot was put on and enough jam was made to last the winter. Oh the aroma of the jam making! We usually got a tasting to see if it had set firm - a great treat!

One of the things missing today is the aroma from the baker's and grocer's shops. The smell of newly baked bread, smoked hams, cheese, butter, boxes of apples etc made your mouth water. There is a story, true or not, but worth the telling. Alky Baker had a baker/grocer shop in Portknockie. Directly opposite the entrance door was a fireplace and to the immediate left was a counter with jams and cheeses. This particular day Alky was standing with his back to the fire when a lady comes in and points to a roll of bacon on the counter. "Is this your Ayrshire bacon Alky?" she says to him. "No, my dear, I'm just warming my hands." He replied. We do not appear to have the characters with the ready wit nowadays.

The rubbish cart went round the village collecting mostly ash or clinker from the coal fires with which our houses were warmed. Other rubbish was mostly fish or offal and bones. None of the contents, which we see today in the wheelie bins. I am not averse to a curry myself and the contents of our bins bear witness to the great change in our diets - Chinese, Indian etc.

Perhaps, the art of cooking is dying out. We were taught at school, in the cooking class, how to make appetising and nourishing soups and stews and how good it is to smell a new pot of broth or stew on the cooker. It goes round the heart like a hairy worm. Part of the problem with today's diet (according to the experts) is the high salt content of foods, which we have been told is addictive. We are certainly spoilt for choice and we also have the money to buy them. Perhaps, the Bible injunction, "Moderation in all things"

would be applicable here. Still, I do believe we are better off today in most ways.

We used to get a hen on New Year's Day (untold luxury). We picked the bones and hung the wishbone over the mantle to dry. After a week two of us would pull it apart and the one with the largest part got a wish - happy innocent days! A kin min fan I had my first chocolate biscuit - a teacake. I broke the chocolate and ate that first, then the sponge filling and finally the biscuit, savouring each part. Now in the supermarket one does not know what to buy in that line. Of course we get an abundance of fruits from different climes - very enjoyable too! In the Thirties we had our chip shops but their range of products were simply fish, chips, pies and puddings. No resemblance to the "chippy" menu of today! I am sure that these memories are but part of the whole and may stimulate others to write to the K'nocker to record their old times. Hopefully criticisms will be constructive!

#### **PORTKNOCKIE TIPS - a new feature.**

An opportunity for anyone to pass on help that might be useful to other folk. Here is a slightly unusual list provided recently by the Poet Laureate, Andrew Motion and published in The Times newspaper. It is a guide for any one called upon to give a eulogy at a funeral service. When writing a eulogy, he says think about the following points:

1. To whom am I speaking? (the audience).
2. How would the person like to be remembered?
3. What made the person special? (interests, likes/dislikes).
4. When was the person happiest?
5. Who was really close to him or her?
6. What did I and others like about the person?
7. What were the high spots of the person's life?
8. If you could only say 3 things about the person what would they be?
9. Do I want someone else to give the eulogy on my behalf?
10. Is anyone else speaking at the funeral, should we compare notes to avoid repeating ourselves?

**If you have a useful tip, and it is publishable, why not pass it on to the Editor for inclusion in the next issue of The K'nocker?**

**SHEAR DEZIGN**  
Hair by Lisa

**Open Tuesday - Saturday with late night Thursdays.**

**Phone 841711 for an appointment**

## PORTKNOCKIE CONSULTATION - September 2003

### How do you feel about us launching a large-scale project to re-develop our Harbour area for a much wider range of uses that would make it more useful to us and to visitors?

Portknockie has the opportunity to make bids to the Scottish Executive and other funding agencies, such as the Lottery Funds, for financial help to carry out local development projects that will bring benefits to the community. These Awards are only made for imaginative projects that have been thoroughly worked out, promise real local benefits and **have the complete support of the whole community**. Indeed, we have to show in our proposals that we have carried out a proper consultation exercise to engage all local people and that we have sought their ideas and support for what is being proposed. This feature is just floating a few ideas to judge local interest

The grants we have in mind must bring **benefits** to the whole community of Portknockie. So this is not about helping a church group, providing a special sporting facility or tidying up a footpath just for walkers. It will be a 2-3 year improvement scheme that will bring useful benefits both to us and to our visitors as well. It is for this reason that we are suggesting a development scheme based on our harbour. The harbour has long been the driving force and *raison d'etre* for all activity in Portknockie. Could we develop a scheme that re-positions our harbour once more at the heart of village social and economic activities? We do, however, need to take into consideration the Moray Development Plan and this designates our harbour as a place for **recreation and visiting**.

Some very tentative ideas to get you thinking might be

- ❑ A Visitors' Centre with information, toilet and washing facilities for use by residents and day trippers after swimming and for visiting yacht crews. The building might also have use in the winter months for small group activities that promote local social recreation and cohesion. It could contain local heritage displays and, perhaps be the offices for printing this village newspaper.
- ❑ Improved diving and sea fishing facilities.
- ❑ Opportunities for local boat trips.
- ❑ A picnic area and improved paddling pool.
- ❑ A retail outlet for drinks, snacks, ices etc.
- ❑ A restaurant, perhaps in a converted boat.
- ❑ Landscaping and stabilization of the cliffs and re-instatement of the Flagstaff.
- ❑ A village bus service - an occasional circular route to and from the harbour.

Nothing is yet set in concrete and nothing will be decided unless you respond and show active enthusiasm for these or other proposals. If you have any feeling for Portknockie you do not have the option to ignore this request. We must know how you feel

about the ideas - for or against! Try to avoid being too negative until an idea has been fully explored. So reflect on the good, the poor and the interesting potential of any ideas that are put forward. We are looking for change and imagination here!

We must also know whether you would **actively support** any aspects of any agreed proposal. Would you help with fund raising, with practical involvement in the management and the achievement of the agreed plans? We need more fresh ideas, offers of skill, time and experience, details of helpful contacts and expressions of support and encouragement. Whether you are young or old you can offer help. No offer of help however small will be rejected. This is a project for all of us.

Give your ideas, thoughts and offers of help to any Community Councillor, including Jonathan Milton, the new student member. E-mail [info@portknockie.com](mailto:info@portknockie.com) or drop a note at the Library, 23 Harbour Place, 8 Victoria Street or 14 Addison Street. This autumn and winter will be for considering the case, drawing up plans and finding out costs and opportunities for funding. The Scheme would, if approved, start in 2004.

### WHAT'S ON IN THE PORT:

**Portknockie Bowling and Tennis Club:** This year's favourable weather has made for a very good and enjoyable bowling season. With help from members, both the green and the flower borders have remained looking particularly smart. The old rusted perimeter metalwork has been replaced with brand new, galvanised railings thanks to grant aid from Moray Council.

Membership has increased and it has been good to see the green being well used (not so much the tennis courts - no budding Tim Henman's out there?). The Club has been well represented in various local bowling competitions, where members have accredited themselves well. The Club also successfully hosted both an open pairs and an open triples tournament. In a slight downside, Portknockie's final placing in the local bowling league was not all that it might have been - but there is always next year!

The Bowling Club **AGM** will take place at 7pm on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September in the Pavilion. Anyone interested in the Club is welcome to attend. The summer season will close that weekend. The indoor carpet season will start in the McBoyle Hall on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> September at 7pm. We meet normally on Monday and Thursday evenings, so anyone interested please come along. If you do not have special bowling shoes, slippers are fine.

Following on from the last successful ceilidh, a further one will be held on **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October** in the McBoyle Hall. The musical entertainment will again be provided by the Hakum Plackum Ceilidh Band and tickets, limited to 100, will be on sale soon.

**Portknockie Seniors** meet every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday in the month for entertainments. Our first meeting of the season is on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> September at 7pm. The Strathbogie Fiddlers are entertaining. Anyone resident in Portknockie and over 18 can join that night. The bus run on the 8<sup>th</sup> August to Kirkcaldy enjoyed a fine day but it was a bit bumpy ride!

**Toddlers' Group:** This year the Toddlers decided to visit Hazlehead Park in Aberdeen for their picnic. So on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> July, two busloads left the McBoyle Hall en route to Keith Station to catch the 9.30am Aberdeen train. They then travelled by bus to the park and settled down for their picnic. The weather was fine until lunchtime when showers chased everyone under the cover of trees. The petting zoo was visited with all the bairns enjoying seeing the animals so close up. The train on the return journey was full of tired toddlers, shattered mums and even, a couple of exhausted grannies - but a good day was had by all.

**Christmas Craft Fayre** - Once again our popular Craft Fayre is coming up on **October 5<sup>th</sup>** in the McBoyle Hall. It is a very popular Fayre with many exciting craft tables but we would like to see more of our local talent on show! The tables cost £10 each and the crafters who have had tables in the past always come back because they do so well. The Craft Fayre also includes a morning and afternoon tea. If you want a table please contact Catherine Ritchie on 840554. Don't be shy, give it a try!

**Church of Scotland Sunday School:** Two years ago Mission Aviation Fellowship launched a Scottish appeal to raise money to buy a new aeroplane for mission work in Africa. The appeal was known as the Caledonian Connection. Our Sunday School decided to support this appeal and we all started collecting. The boys and the girls were all very excited at the thought of helping to purchase an aeroplane. Altogether we have raised £250.

Imagine our excitement a couple of weeks ago when we received news that the plane had been bought and we were invited up to Inverness Airport to see it. We quickly got together some children and headed off to Inverness.

MAF had been given the use of the whole terminal building and we all waited excitedly for the plane's arrival. At last we saw the little aeroplane appear and we all cheered as it landed right in front of us. We were then asked to go through to the Departure Lounge where we were taken out to see the plane in small groups. A very proud Jason Milne got to sit in the pilot's seat! It was all very emotional as we never thought we would see this plane in real life.

During the evening there was a competition running in which you had to work out the plane's journey from America to Prestwick and then from Prestwick to Africa. Out of the people there Portknockie Sunday School were the only ones with the correct answers and after a tie break question Jason won the prize - a 24ct gold pin badge, an exact replica of the plane!

The evening was rounded off by a praise service to give thanks to God for the new aeroplane and to pray for its work in Africa. We were asked to fill in prayer cards and these were flown in the plane to Africa to be used in a special service there. Altogether, we had a brilliant day out, one we will treasure for a long time to come.

Our Sunday School is starting again on the 31<sup>st</sup> August at 11.15am in the church and all children aged 3 and over are welcome to come along. We look forward to seeing you there. Our **Harvest Family Service** will be on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> October at 11.15am. All are welcome.

**Church of Christ Sunday School** will re-commence on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> **September** at 2pm. All children are welcome.

**Seafield WRI** meets every fourth Thursday in the month at the Seafield Hall. We re-start on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> **September** at 7pm. All ladies from the village are welcome.

**SOMY2GO**, your village youth group resumes on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> **September** at 6.30pm. Primary 7 and over all are welcome.

**For all your computer needs**  
(Web designs – Custom Built PC's – PC  
Upgrades – Trouble Shooting)  
Contact Neil Hedley on:- 07815  
891230

**Portknockie Amenities:** Our yearly Gala was held on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> August in the Seafield Hall car park area. Unfortunately, even though the sun shone, there was very little support this year. The sole reason for the Amenities Committee is the upkeep of the McBoyle Hall and to offer the opportunity to hire it out for special functions,

birthday parties etc. At the moment, there is only one weekly user, The Toddlers' Group but, hopefully, during the winter months, it will be used more regularly. If you would like **to book** the Hall, then contact **841703**. Improvements to the Hall have now been completed and it is fully equipped with baby changing facilities and toilets for the disabled. So please support your local community and help us keep the hall open.

**"If you ever blow a fuse  
George Innes is the man to use  
And if you are ever in the dark  
He's the man to get you back your spark!"**

**For all home electrical problems you can  
contact George on 840066 or 3 Bridge Street**

**Gardening Club:** We do not have one in the village you are saying! True, but we could have one if enough of you feel it is a good idea. A group could meet through the winter to share experience, set up a handy tools bank, negotiate cheap rates for the bulk purchase of seeds, composts and fertilizers and, possibly seek a plot of land for allotments. What do you think? If you like the idea, mention your interest to any community councillor or Gerry Connelly on 842331 and the Gardening Club could become a Portknockie fixture.

**Your K'nocker needs you!** Over half the houses in Portknockie receive this newspaper and a number of copies go beyond the village to "K'nockers" world-wide. It is available on the internet at [www.Portknockiewebsite.com](http://www.Portknockiewebsite.com)

**HAIR STUDIO**  
Unisex salon at 6 New Street

**Phone Sarah on 841028 for appointments with  
Amy or Deborah**

**Perms from £24. Highlights or colour from £24. A  
special colouring price for the winter months. Wax  
hand treatment for dry, chapped, arthritic hands  
also available. Pensioners rates.**

### **PORTKNOCKIE SCHOOL NEWS**

The annual **Sports Day** took place on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> June in the McLeod Park. Luckily for bairns, parents and teachers alike it was a glorious morning and the athletics and potted sports were enjoyed by all. The Winning team this year was Langet, followed closely by Craig and finally Scour. Tea and butteries were on sale along with crisps, juice and, because of the weather, icecream. Money from these sales, as always, went towards the school funds. Let's hope that next year the sports again enjoy such

lovely weather and are as well supported as they were this year.

The end of year service on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> July was a lively affair with the children singing songs and even showing off their dancing prowess! At the **Prize Giving** the winners were as follows:

**Sports:** Langet (Captains - Scott Young & Yasmin McLean).

**Hockey(Boys):** Scour (Captain - Greg Simpson Team - Matthew Mair, Ewen Grant, Scott Reid, Mark McRoan and Wayne Watson.

**Hockey(Girls):** Craig (Captain - Becky Mair. Team - Katie Ramsay, Katie McGowan, Chantelle Walker, Abbie McGowan and Pamela Fanning.

**Football(Boys):** Scour (Captain - Greg Simpson. Team - Ross Grant, Ewen Grant, Matthew Mair, Wayne Watson, Scott Reid.

**Football(Girls):** Craig (Captain - Becky Mair. Team - Pamela Fanning, Samy Geddes, Abbie McGowan, Katie McGowan, Chantelle Walker.

**Good behaviour/150 point winners were:** Sophie Cowie, Pamela Fanning, Ellen Ferguson, Amy Geddes, Zoe Geddes, Judith Mair, Matthew Mair, Abbie McGowan, Sarah Reid, Kayla Ritchie, Naeve Scott, Kirsty Simpson and Amy Wakefield.

**Jack Taylor Trophy:** Becky Mair.

**This Term** School resumed for the pupils on Tuesday August 19<sup>th</sup>. The roll of 77 is organised into four classes. P1/2 with Mrs Hall, P3/4 with Mrs Wilson (until the October break), P5 with Mrs Walker/Mr Sivewright and P6/7 Mrs Thain.

**Our holiday dates for the new session are as follows:**

October break: Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October  
School back: Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October  
In Service: Monday 17<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup>  
November

Christmas break: Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December  
School back: Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2004  
Mid Term: Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February to Monday  
16<sup>th</sup> February

Easter break: Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March  
School back: Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April  
Mat Day Holiday: Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May  
In Service: Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 21<sup>st</sup>  
May

Buckie Holiday: Monday 14<sup>th</sup> June  
Summer holiday: Friday 1<sup>st</sup> July  
School back: Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> August

**News Flash!** Mr Sivewright, Head Teacher since June 1984, is leaving his post to seek new challenges on **December 3<sup>rd</sup> 2003**.

## **WHAT'S ON IN THE PORT NEXT YEAR?**

**The big idea for 2004! Something new for you to think about over the winter and then to offer your support and services:**

Next summer the **Community Association** proposes to change the format of the Annual Gala and make it more of a Festival. The reason is to make this day in the year an attraction not just for residents but also open to visitors to NE Scotland from the rest of the UK and the world! It fits steps we have been taking in recent years to put Portknockie on the map. Such an event will give us all something to feel proud about and show off to others what a great place we have here.

A **Portknockie Festival of Fishing** is proposed based in the harbour area but also using our halls, the library and, perhaps the school. The event might take place at the end of July or the beginning of August when "Village in Bloom" is looking at its best thus giving folk a double reason for stopping by.

The Festival theme would celebrate our fishing heritage past and present. In the harbour there could be a modern boat and older boats to visit. There would be displays of nets and creels and a photo exhibition of the fishing heritage. There might be boat trips on the Firth with a fishing competition - perhaps the mackerel and squibs might co-operate! There will be sales of fresh fish from stalls, the regular kipper barbecue and demonstrations of cookery with fish. - possibly a Cullen Skink challenge? The atmosphere will be created by some residents being in traditional costume. Backing these activities will be typical story telling, poetry readings and traditional music including, maybe a "sing along" of well known fishing songs.

Other proposals are a hame baking market, a craft sale and a stall for Portknockie memorabilia - our postcards and posters. Maybe we can arrange an exciting air/sea rescue along the cliffs with the Buckie Lifeboat, the Coastguards and the Lossie Helicopter? There is room for many other initiatives - so think on. Also consider volunteering yourself or your group to take some active part in the Festival. You might sponsor something, know of a useful contact, have baking skills, singing talent, the list is endless.

Over the winter we need to get started on making things like dresses, bunting, signs, ordering equipment and printing publicity etc. We shall

require guides for visitors, someone to organise a Park 'n Ride down to the harbour and round the various activities. The harbour will need to be sparkling and maybe we can offer diving, line fishing and model boating demonstrations.

The Community Association is seeking a grant from Moray Council to help pay for launching costs. We expect to use the profits from the first venture to fund subsequent annual events. **The next step** is for you the residents to show your support. The idea cannot work without everyone being engaged both young and old. Pass on any ideas or offers of help to Catherine Ritchie, Pearl Murray, Helen Sammon, Lil Urquhart or Margret in the Library before the end of September.

**Late Extra:** Does anyone have an empty greenhouse or spare space that could be used by Gerry Connelly over the winter months to bring on cuttings for our "Village in Bloom" features? There could be a big saving of funds if we were able to cultivate some of our shrubs this way. If so give **Gerry a ring on 841331**.

**Next issue out early December - A Request for Holiday Advice and experiences:** Did you have a really good holiday this year that you would recommend to folk? Or have you learnt from bitter experience of things to be careful about. Maybe you have found and used a helpful website or teletext contact that you would be prepared to share.