

PORTKNOCKIE FIREWORKS DISPLAY 2011

Thank you to Portknockie Community Association and all of the sponsors for this year's display. The fireworks lasted at least 15 minutes and the K'nocker estimates that over 200 people came out to see the flashes, whooshes and bangs.



PHOTO COMPETITION

Win a year's subscription to the K'nocker for the best original photograph taken in Portknockie during 2011 for publication in the next K'nocker!

Email your photo to Damian, giving your name and saying where and when you took the photo.

CONTACTS

Damian Connell (tel: 841724; email: damianc@redisle.com): subscriptions, recipes, computing tips and puzzles, community notice board, and large print and podcasts. **Helen Field** (tel: 840192; email: field7@tiscali.co.uk): joining the team and advertising. **Katharine Connell** (tel: 841724; email: katharine.connell@zen.co.uk): letters, business features, calendar, meetings and directory. **Jim Illingworth** (email: portknockieheritage@gmail.com): heritage contributions. **Peter Evans** (tel: 841740; email: karen.peter@hotmail.co.uk): news, features and photos.
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£1.50 or by subscription

The K'nocker



PORTKNOCKIE'S QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2011

A ghost hunt?

We're not scared!

by Katharine Connell

Portknockie has its very own ghosts and ghouls! The K'nocker dared to find out more...

Ghosts and ghouls started visiting Portknockie three years ago so that they could give the local kids a good ol' scare on All Hallow's Eve. Their hauntings have been so well attended that seven ghouls came this year, all for good causes.



A ghostly welcome

They came on the invitation of Lee Dow of Portknockie and Andrew Grant of Portessie, both of Prestige Home Services in Buckie. Lee and Andrew erected a conservatory at the back of 10 Craigview Road to accommodate whatever was to arrive. By the time of the opening of the haunted house, the Grim Reaper had installed himself at the gate to welcome whoever would dare to enter, the side tunnel was an ordeal to pass along and the blacked-out patio

was, to put it mildly, not the most relaxing place to be. All this had to be faced by those who dared before they could visit the ghouls at home.

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Portknockie Nursery receives a cheque from spooky goings on; from left to right: Margaret Eunson, Lee Dow, Andrew Grant

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£5 a year for four issues delivered to your door. Subscription forms and payment can be handed in at the library, the pharmacy, Costcutter and 16 New Street.

The K'nocker is a self-funding project, initiated by the Portknockie Community Council and organised by volunteers. A large print version and a podcast of this issue is available: contact details on the back page.

Letters

Dear K'nocker,

While writing about Jenny's well for this issue, it occurred to me that we could carve again a welcome to our visitors. But why stop there?

The summer vegetation obscuring Jenny's Well and the mouths of the caves could be cleared, the paths to these places could be better maintained and the unsightly rubbish in the caves could be removed.

The tennis courts could be restored too so that they are as well visited as the bowling green. Visitors will find coming to Portknockie more worthwhile: at the moment many a walker comes from Cullen to take a look at Bow Fiddle Rock without seeing the other coastal sights. And there are many points of interest within Portknockie itself that tell a varied and wonderful heritage. And we would have a richer

environment too.

Come on K'nockers, let's coordinate action! Let's use our Community Council and the K'nocker to get things started. If you are interested in helping, please contact me or Steve Liley.

Cy Pirie

(From the Editor: If you have an opinion on this matter, please write to Katharine at the K'nocker)

K'nocker News

We hear with regret of the passing of Margret Wood, former librarian and stalwart of the old K'nocker.

As we prepare to go to press with the first issue of the new K'nocker we have a subscription list of 150 households signed up for delivery to the door. This is great news for us, and we hope we can live up to expectations and meet the very high standards set by the old K'nocker. It's also good news for anyone who wants to make a contribution as you'll be able to share your stories, news and information with over a quarter of the village.

We welcome Jim Illingworth to our ranks, a valuable addition to support the heritage contributions. Making the most of our heritage

is one way forward for the Port and, as is seen from the School report in this issue, it keeps its appeal across the generations.

We will really appreciate hearing from organisers so we know what's coming up! And we are still looking for reporters... We weren't able to visit the haunted house on the night, so our front page news was written without first-hand experience, and with all the Christmas events, we can't possibly be at every one and also write a report on each. Please consider taking on reporting events, just one report per issue per person is all we ask; many hands make light work. Whether you are an organiser, planning to 'be there' or willing to be given 'an assignment', please get in touch with us!

The K'nocker 10 years ago...

Portknockie grabbed the headlines as winners in the Scottish Community of the Year Awards, as a finalist in the Beautiful Scotland in Bloom competition and as a runner up in the judging for Moray's Best Kept Villages. A scheme of improvement was carried out in the harbour and the park was equipped with a new play area.

It has been proposed to the Community Council that the 30mph speed limit on the eastern edge of the village should be

extended to beyond Culane. There is no footpath nor any street lighting beyond the King Edward Terrace/A942 junction and the residents of Kirk House and Culane are concerned about the speed some vehicles enter and leave the village past their houses. The complaint is being investigated by the Traffic section, Moray Council and a check of the speed of traffic through this area has been carried out.

OUT AND ABOUT THE PORT

PCA News

Bookings of the McBoyle Hall are up this year, having been boosted by the start of new activities arising from the 'Do something different' event in March. Users now have the possibility of booking the main hall and/or the Snug and there is a flexible charging tariff ranging from all-day to hourly lets.

The AGM of the PCA was on 6 September and the trustees team remains unchanged – Chair: Jim Urquhart; Vice Chair: John Bell; Secretary: Bob Croucher; Treasurer: Celia Going; Hall Bookings: John Myles plus John Going, Anne Barnes, Delia Fletcher, Harry Hawkes and Gladys McKenzie. The team is pleased to acknowledge those who sponsored the fireworks' display in November and those who helped to put up the Christmas tree and

village lights.

Those keeping the village-in-bloom features tidy at the moment include John and Angela Bracegirdle (the Millennium Garden and the Cottage Garden in Station Road), Anne Barnes (the middle box in the McLeod Park) and Avril and Alan Dennis (the eastern entrance to Portknockie). The rest is being managed by the 'Tidy the Toon' group organised by Catherine Ritchie and Donna Coull.

The New Year will be the time to join the 2012 100 Club. Let's try this year to reach the magic 100 subscribers; it is still only £10 for 12 monthly draws (payable to Anne Barnes or anyone of the PCA committee; see posters for details).

Artinkulate's Charity Thistle Challenge

Anne Doble, of Artinkulate Keepsakes in Portknockie, has organised a charity auction in aid of Banffshire Area Rehoming and Rescue Kennels of Banff and Clan Cancer Support of Aberdeen.

The pieces to be auctioned are artistic interpretations of the iconic Thistle by over 40 local artists and craftspeople. The auction will be held at the Station Hotel, Portsoy on Friday 2 December at 7pm. It will be officially opened by Mrs Claire Russell, Lord Lieutenant of Banffshire and conducted by a professional auctioneer from Aberdeen and Northern Marts.

As well as giving the chance to find a special Christmas present, the event includes the Fochabers Fiddlers and other local musicians, tastings from local food producers and a raffle. More information can be found on Facebook (search for 'charity thistle') or by contacting Anne Doble (email: info@artinkulate.co.uk; tel: 842888).

Bowling Club

It would be nice to start this column with details of our great win against Buckie Bowling Club in the opening game of this season's Banffshire Coastal League. However, all ten points went to Buckie, which surely means we are at the foot of the table. But there's plenty of time, so for future league positions, watch this space!

Apart from that, we have been having enjoyable hat nights in the McBoyle Hall – these are normally on Mondays and Thursday at 6.30pm – and all are welcome. We have already signed up new members this year.

continued from front page

Despite the haunted house being open on 29 October, two days before All Hallows' Eve, the ghosts were more popular than ever. People aged from 2 to 60 queued for an hour before they could give their respects and get their fright in return. Lee told the K'nocker: 'All the kids dressed for the special occasion and the atmosphere was fantastic. The ghosts felt so welcomed that they will stay for two nights next year so more people will have the chance to meet them.'

The ghouls did not ask for anything in return for entertaining their visitors but they did accept donations. This year they raised £142, which Prestige Home Services have matched, for the Portknockie and Portessie playgroups. Margaret Eunson, manager of Portknockie Nursery, said 'We are really very grateful for this donation. It will buy some much-appreciated things for the nursery.'

If you'd like to report your event, please send it to Peter Evans: contact details on the back page.

OUT AND ABOUT THE PORT

Portknockie Primary School

Primary 7 have given some thought to items they would like to see in future issues of the K'nocker. Popular ideas included competitions and games, like crosswords, word searches and quizzes about Portknockie, and colouring pictures for younger readers. It was also felt that, if games were included, it would be good to have an answers

page! Another popular choice was the inclusion of some photographs showing Portknockie in the past.

Primary 7 pupils have been working on recount writing over the last few weeks. We hope you enjoy their recounts of some school events as well as hearing about Aidan's first term as a pupil in the School.

Kwik cricket success

by Honor Adam
We began playing cricket after the Easter holidays this year. We had training every Monday from Mr MacDonald and later a team was chosen.

The team took part in the Buckie Kwik Cricket Festival. We went head to head in the finals with Millbank Primary winning by several points.

After winning the Buckie Festival we went to Fochabers to take part in the Moray finals, Millbank's team went too. After winning all of our games we played against Tomintoul Primary in the finals. We won that game to win the tournament and go through to play in the Scottish finals the next week!

We left school at 6.00am to travel down to Perth for the finals. We won three games out of a possible five and got a top ten placing out of 224 schools in Scotland. It was a great success for us all!

Primary 7s map out their future

by Jamie Anderson

On Thursday the 27th of October 2011 the Primary 7s from Portknockie Primary School went to do an orienteering course at Buckie High School. The pupils went with their teacher Mrs Stevenson and two parent helpers. All the Primary 7s were looking forward to the occasion.

After all the dinner numbers were done and everybody had been to the toilet they set off to get on the bus. Everyone was so excited. Jordan Stevenson said, 'I was a little bit nervous but I was still looking forward to it as well as I really like doing orienteering.'

When they arrived at the orienteering pitch it was a bit chilly but thankfully it began to warm up. After Hein (Active School Co-ordinator) and the other people were ready everyone got split into six groups.

The first thing they did in the groups was a map walk which meant everyone got a map and somebody told them about the key. The next thing was a symbol game which was a game in teams and you had to match pictures and words that were on the key so basically you had to memorise the map to win.

After that everyone started to do the easy course and everyone came in with good times with their partners. To complete the course you got a map of the course and a brick which you had to put in a slot at each marker and then run to the finish.

After everybody finished the easy course it was on to the hard course which was basically the same methods as the easy course but you got a new map and a different coloured brick. One group from Portknockie Primary School got one of the fastest times of the day on the hard course. Aidan Hay a member of that group said, 'I was delighted with our performance as we worked really well as a group.'

After the day was finished the Primary 7s got on the bus and went home for lunch.



Orienteers taking a break!

OUT AND ABOUT THE PORT

Indra's net project

by Innes McKay

On Tuesday the 20th September Primary Seven had a visit from a lady called Mrs Beverley A'Court for an art project for eco-schools. The project was going to take us all day so we didn't mess around getting started.

First Beverley introduced herself to us and told us what we were going to be doing. After that we got into groups of four. I was with Jamie, Honor and Jordan. The task she set us was to make a mind map about how many connections you could get to one thing. Our group chose a football and we got 34 connections which was quite good. Next we got our cardboard discs and started to decorate, my theme was sport. Someone did holidays and others did animals.

After I had finished Aidan and I started to decorate an old telephone cable. First we needed to put tape onto the cable. After that we started wrapping wool and ribbon around it to make it look nice and then we wrapped jewellery around it as well.

Next we put everything out on the floor and it looked amazing. It was so colourful and all the different themes looked great together.

Finally it was time to go home so we said goodbye and thank you to Beverley. My favourite part of the day was decorating the disc and telephone cable.



Indra's net being installed

My first term at Portknockie Primary School

by Aidan Hay

I started my first term of Primary 7 and Portknockie Primary School on the 16th August 2011. Our school is in the fishing village of Portknockie.

So far I have joined the Chess Club which I really enjoy and crosscountry which I enjoy. Chess Club is fun because there are all levels of chess players there. I also enjoy crosscountry because we have been building up to the bigger runs. I have also been awarded star pupil twice – both for basketball.

I have learned a lot more French from Miss Murray as I have learned to count up to a hundred and describe people in French.

Beverley has also come in to talk to us about Indra's net and we have made our own gems so we could make our own net. Book Week was also good fun when we made puppets in our House Groups and when other teachers have come in to read to us.

My favourite part of Primary 7 so far has been going to the Gordonstoun Challenge with Ross, Jamie, Alana, Locklan and Callum. I enjoyed the Gordonstoun Challenge because there were lots of other schools and different challenges.

I feel my first term went quite well as I have made lots of friends.

Portknockie Nursery

We enjoyed a trip to Crannoch Woods along with Mrs McWhirter's class from the School to look at the beautiful autumn colours and collect leaves and cones. Also, our Grandparents' day was thoroughly enjoyable – it was lovely to see so many grandparents in the Nursery playing with the children.

We have been taking part in joint music sessions with the School, and one of our mums, Sam, has been helping us with musical activities in Nursery. Thank you to Sam for her time and enthusiasm. The children are enjoying these sessions very much.

We held a very successful fashion show at M&Co in Buckie in October. Thank you to all who attended and who modelled so professionally! The Nursery will be holding a fundraising Christmas Fayre in the Seafield Hall on 8 December, please see posters for more details. We are hoping that the children will be singing a few songs on the day.

WalkMoray health walking

Portknockie health walks have now been organised, starting at 10.30am on Thursdays at the McBoyle Hall. Trained volunteers will lead you on walks to improve your fitness.

For more details, please contact Debbie Barron, Health Walk Co-ordinator (tel: 01343 567172; email: Debbie.barron@nhs.net).
www.walkjogrunmoray.org.uk
and www.morayways.org.uk
have information on walking routes throughout Moray.

OUT AND ABOUT THE PORT

Portknockie music found from Cy Pirie

A copy of a local album made in 1997, *Rising Sun*, has been recently found in a charity shop. Can anyone shed any light on its origins or the artists?

The four musicians are named as Barry Applin, Neil Brockbank, Timmy Donald and Hugh Jones.

The ten persons in the percussion group are named as Lynne Annaud, Graeme Thain, Rosemary Meldrum, Stephen Donald, Alison Jaffrey, Michele Milne, Robert Liddle, Rowena Beaton, Alan Watt and [Johanne?] Mullen. They were supported by Jim Omand.

There are five tracks in the album: 'Write me a Letter', 'Winter's Song', 'I Remember', 'Ordinary Friends' and 'Rising Sun'. They are all copyright of Timmy Donald 1994/1997.

The music was recorded at 'Talyllyn, Portknockie, Alaska Studios, London and South Church, Elgin'. It was done as part of the 'Moray Music Project' and was supported by the Moray Council in partnership with 'Leader II, Moray Badenoch & Strathspey Enterprise, Joint Commissioning Unit

(Moray Council & Grampian Health Board)'.
Cy Pirie found the album and says: 'The songs have a bouncy good feel about them and are a thing of pure joy to my ears. The songs are gentle acoustic or semi-acoustic and strongly reminiscent of the ground ploughed by 1970s folk rock acts like Gallagher and Lyle and McGuinness Flint. I often play the CD and it simply fills me with the joy of living for life's sake. If any of the participants responsible for the creation of this CD are out there, all I want to say to you is thank you for sharing your talents. I'm ever so glad I paid my 50 pence ... intrinsically your music is priceless.'

Cy would like to know about the artists, the Moray Music Project and Timmy Donald. Also, he asks: where in Portknockie would this music have been recorded?



Neighbourhood Watch

Living in an attractive part of the country and in an area not nearly as affected by crime as certain other areas, we are fortunate. However, dishonesty still goes on, and it is very easy to be taken in by one of the many ongoing scams which seem to abound: some in the village will have been a target.

One current concern is that of quite plausible phishing emails, ostensibly coming from HM Revenue and Customs to announce a tax refund and seeking bank details. The number of such fraudulent emails has risen dramatically this year, to the extent that HMRC are currently closing down 100 sites per month. HMRC will never announce tax refunds in this way – but the scam obviously still pays.

Similar fraudulent attempts to elicit bank details also come by telephone, using various

cover stories. And many such scams also come through the mail. Criminals worldwide are believed to send millions of letters to the UK each year – be they about bogus lotteries, competition wins, catalogues and the like – invariably seeking money and/or bank details.

NW advice is to never give out bank or personal details over the telephone to unsolicited callers, and, if you are concerned that you have done so, to contact your bank as quickly as possible.

Should you need to contact the police, the non-emergency call number remains 0845 600 5 700 and they can also be contacted via email at mylocalpolicingteam@grampian.pnn.police.uk or by text on 07739 93 4444. The Buckie police office is open from 7am to 11pm Monday to Friday.



Highland Key is an exclusive discount card and online gateway to the Highlands. It offers discount deals to visitors from home and abroad and there are currently over 80 registered business users promoting their discount deals. The cards are available to buy online at www.highlandkey.com. Local participating businesses with discount offers are:

- The Victoria Hotel, Portknockie
- Hedley Enterprises, Portknockie
- Healing Touch, Portknockie
- Rendezvous Health & Beauty, Buckie
- Cullen Crafts, Cullen

More businesses and offers are being added all the time.

Hedley Enterprises in Portknockie is Highland Key's website developer.

Moray Local Outdoor Access Forum

The Core Paths Plan, produced jointly by Moray Council and Moray Local Outdoor Access Forum, was adopted in June. The Plan can be viewed at www.moray.gov.uk/corepaths.

As there is no direct funding in place, the Forum is working to set up a new Access Trust. This could be used to help to develop and manage Core Paths and other paths in the local area. In the

meantime, the Forum can help by providing advice and assistance in resolving local issues disputes or networking with other agencies. The Forum works with the Council's Access staff to try and reach a consensus approach to all things related to outdoor access.

The current convener of the Forum is Roger Knight (email: r.knight@btconnect.com).

On the inside back page, the village calendar and list of regular meetings show the dates, times and places for events in the coming months

LOCAL HISTORY

Ancient history: the Battle of the Bauds

by Peter Evans

It was not until the Roman occupation of Britain that historians began chronicling the history of Scotland, and even then the facts are somewhat hit and miss! Peter has gathered some bits and bobs about the general area. Here's what he has so far ...

To give an example of how hard it is to delve deep back in time: well, there may have been a Pictish fort at Portknockie, which may or may not have been on Green Castle Hill, and may have dated back to the 7th century. That's a lot of maybe's and possibly's. The reason for the indecision is that no artefacts, building foundations, bones or other materials have ever been found, either during excavations in the late 1800s or even as recently as the 1962 diggings, but we still like to think Portknockie had a fort.

Similarly, the Battle of the Bauds in the 10th century is mostly the stuff of legend and myth, but if one mixes all the different versions into the melting pot, we get something like this ...

King Indulf ruled the Picts from 954 until 962. He was a younger son of the Roman emperor

Constantine II. Indulf's kingdom stretched from Inverness down as far as the Firth of Forth, generally eastwards from the A9. His reign featured many Norse raids from Denmark.



King Indulf of the Picts

The Danes raided, raped and burned throughout Scotland and had numerous victorious skirmishes against the Picts here in the East, the Celts in the West and the Hiberni in the Borders. One account tells of a fleet of some 50 Danish longships appearing in the Firth of Forth in 961. They were deterred from landing by the Picts led by King Indulf.

Indulf then tracked the Danes north around the coast. It is believed that the invaders

eventually landed at Cullen Bay and headed inland to plunder in the moorland area known as the Bauds (also as Rannachie Moor or the Muir of Findochty) south of Portknockie.

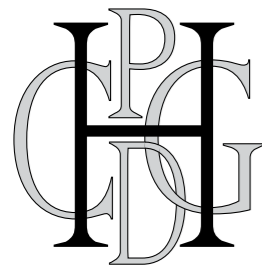
The Bauds was the scene of the Battle of the Bauds, where the Danes, led by King Eric of the Bloody Axe, were confronted and spectacularly defeated, indeed routed, by King Indulf's army. Legend relates that three Danish kings were killed in the battle and buried nearby. Thus we have the Three Kings, prominent rocks projecting from the shore of Cullen Bay by the golf club (although one has succumbed to the force of the sea).

Legend also reports that King Indulf was killed in the battle and that the King's Cairn marks the spot where he fell in battle. However, other reports state that he survived the battle and that, like his father, he abdicated in 962 and entered a monastery.

If you know or have an opinion on the ancient, or even the modern, history of our area, please write to the K'nocker.

CULLEN, DESKFORD & PORTKNOCKIE HERITAGE GROUP

CULLEN, DESKFORD & PORTKNOCKIE HERITAGE GROUP



Jenny's Well by Cy Pirie

At the east side of the Port, on the beach path to Cullen and underneath Tosh's Lang Craigs, is Jenny's Well. It's one of the ancient and historical monuments of Scotland and in 1866 was apparently known as Janet's Well, after 'a lunatic woman who lived in a cave nearby'.

By 1888, who Jenny was had been forgotten but the archaeological notes record that, 50 years before, 'the well figured in local folk-customs, associated with May Day, and pins and other small articles were placed in and around the well to propitiate her' (www.rcahms.gov.uk). In 1936, the well was built as we see it today, although in a rather more glorious state than now (Editor).

Back in the 'Hungry 1930s', Portknockie's legendary provost 'Falkie' (James Falconer) oversaw many a scheme to provide much-needed income to the fishers of Portknockie. Falkie had a vision that Portknockie should do everything possible to attract summer visitors, effectively to make a tourist hot spot. The fishers were in dire straits due to the economic slump that dominated those times and the unemployed were happy to receive dole money in payment for work undertaken on Falkie's schemes. Falkie's idea that all entitled to benefit should work for the money even reached the ears of the London Parliament, where his idea was discussed in its chambers.

Reading back issues of the Banffshire Advertiser for 1936 makes for an eye-opening experience. Falkie outlined his ideas to Portknockie Council

and they were regularly reported in the BA. Fruits of his ideas can be seen in the village today (the tennis courts, bowling green and the roads leading to the McBoyle Hall). Falkie, by and large, had the backing of the Town Council, but some of his more grandiose schemes had to be tempered, e.g. his plans for an extensive rose garden (which were morphed into the garden in the bowling green) and his spectacular plan to drive a roadway for cars from near the back of the bowling green to a point directly above Jenny's Well. It can be said that Falkie was ideas-rich while the burgh was cash-strapped.

Walking along the east shore today, faint traces of Falkie's plans can be made out, although summer vegetation obscures the scheme. He wanted visitors to walk along the beach and enjoy a visit to the many caves, which had a 'mysterious appeal'. He oversaw the tidying up of the caves, in particular Preacher's Cave, and he created a footpath along the foreshore. His schemes included Jenny's Well, which rose in a spring and trickled into the sand and was, according to the Town Council, '100% pure and certainly very cold and refreshing'.

In June of 1936, Baillie Hosie (landlord of the Victoria Hotel for many years) oversaw the well being 'built up with granite blocks'. The work was



Jenny's well Left: Circa 1938 Right: October 2011

subcontracted to local builder George 'Dod' Paul (of Beechley House). The inscription 'Jenny's Well' was 'artistically worked' in pebbles in the granite on top, which can be clearly seen today. The work also including setting in the cement below the words 'Portknockie Welcomes You'. The

sentiment was briefly expressed, as the words were removed during the Second World War to prevent the Germans orientating themselves if they ever landed on our shores.

Today, the well is falling into disrepair. The path by the well,

although cleared, is obscured by summer vegetation and is easily missed. The water, even though it tastes as sweet as ever, no longer flows as fast as it did. And Portknockie's welcome was not reinstated when the War was won!

Portknockie Heritage Map by Jim Illingworth

Two years ago, in the last edition of the K'nocker, I told you that I was preparing a plan of Portknockie to show all the Seafield Estate house plot numbers. It was eventually produced in July 2010.

Before 1919, houses were identified by the Seafield Estate house plot numbers. There were two such numbers. Before 1873 one set of numbers was used. Then Seafield Estate renumbered all the houses, I don't know why. The second set of numbers was used up to 1919. Modern street addresses started to be used in 1919.

Many of the visitors each year to Portknockie have family links to the village may want to trace their family history and see where their ancestors lived. The



1861 and 1871 censuses for Portknockie use the older set of numbers; the censuses from 1881 to 1911 use the later set.

The map clearly identifies all two or three identities for the houses built before 1919, both on the map and in a tabulation. Information is also given on the changes in several street names since 1919.

Offer to Portknockie holiday home owners

You can receive a free complimentary copy of this map for your holiday home information pack which would be clearly labelled:

'Property of Please do not remove. Copies are available for purchase at the pharmacy on Union Street.'

If you would like a copy please contact me at 12 Park Street or email me at portknockieheritage@gmail.com.

MORE INFORMATION

The Heritage Group meets monthly, usually on the first Monday, from September to May at 2pm at in the Hall Church, Cullen.

- 5 December: Christmas Party
- 9 January: Reminiscence/claik
- 6 February: Talk on Portknockie Fishermen's Hall

It is hoped to arrange some meetings in Portknockie soon.

For details of activities and how to join, contact Cy Pirie (President; 18 Reidhaven Street, Portknockie; t: 841391) and Steve Liley (Secretary; 2 Station Court, Portknockie; t: 841590).

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LOCAL HISTORY

The Farskin cave is named after the Earl of Farskane, who lived where the Cullen Bay Hotel now stands. The Earl was a Jacobite supporter who hid in the cave rather than join the Jacobite army as it marched to its fate at Culloden.

Tipping at the Farskin

by Ian Mair

The Farskin was the village dump. Before the sewage system was installed, the muck cart pulled by horse would collect the toilet waste every morning. In the mid-century, bucket days were every Tuesday and Friday. When the new larger metal cart was bought in the 1960s, the horse couldn't pull the cart and so a tractor also had to be bought.

The cart would trundle up and down the path, use the flat area to turn around so it could reverse to the edge, and then the refuse was simply tipped over the cliff. Not a nice job when the wind was from a northerly direction. A large amount of refuse was ashes and it would be blown back onto the scaffies: there were days when the men and the horse took on a ghostly appearance. A worse hazard was

the blown-back raw sewage: one of the three village sewage outlets emptied from a pipe just below the tipping point.

The mound of refuse on the beach was known as the Farskin hump. Only rarely did the sea wash the rubbish away. Hundreds of rats lived in the cave as the hump was a rich source of food. The hump smoked continuously and from it a fire could be started, which was handy for smoking out the rats from time to time. Being bitten by a Farskin rat was not uncommon.

The primary reason for visits to the Farskin – 'scrapin the Farskin' – was to gather scrap metal. Access to the Farskin is by the Boolins, a climb down the cliff face on the east side,



Daily toilet waste collection (circa 1900)



Household refuse collection (1960s)

LOCAL HISTORY



The track to the tipping point showing the turning circle on the left (2011)



The tipping point

by an inches-wide path on the face of the Queenlin, or at low tide from the Clarie's beach. The best times were bucket days, when there was a chance of finding something big. Duncan Stewart, the scrappie from Elgin, visited once a month and paid 10/- a stone for copper or brass and 8/- for lead (about late 1940s).

In the late 1960s, dumping rubbish into the sea was banned. Portknockie and Cullen councils decided to use the Big Den (a steep

gorge with a burn from the first crossroads on the road out to Cullen all the way down to the links) as a landfill site, with no regard for the countless birds and animals that lived there. With their food supply cut off, hordes of starving Farskin rats invaded the village in search of food. Thankfully after a few weeks, most of the rats had gone, having got wind of the new dump.

Signs of the Big Den can still be seen but it has gone forever, completely filled with rubbish.



The Farskin hump, 10 years after tipping finished (1970s)



The Farskin cave, home to the Farskin rats

A LOCAL BUSINESS MAN

Stuart Nickerson

Stuart Nickerson, resident of Haig Street, is managing director of Glenglassaugh Distillery in Portsoy.

THE DISTILLERY

Glenglassaugh Distillery dates back to 1875 and was founded by James Moir, a local philanthropist. James was also involved in bringing the telegraph and the train to the town and donated sums of money to local causes as well as gifting the town hall. After his death and the death of one of his two nephews, who had helped to start the distillery, it was sold by the remaining nephew in 1892 to Robertson and Baxter, who immediately sold it to Highland Distilleries for £15,000 (an increase of £5,000 over the purchase price). During a recession in the scotch whisky industry, the distillery was closed for the first time in 1907.

In 1959, a new distillery was built on the site, using only one of the original malting buildings (for malt storage) and one of the original warehouses, as well as a couple of the workers' cottages. It was reopened in 1960, primarily to make a blending malt for the blends owned or managed by Highland Distilleries. However, Glenglassaugh whisky is made with hard water, which gives it fruity qualities, not the floral notes sought at that time by Highland Distilleries for their blended products. Several efforts were tried to change the spirit: increasing the size of the spirit still, using water taken from Glenrothes and finally installing a water softener. None of this worked and so the distillery was closed again in 1986.

Glenglassaugh reopened under its current ownership in 2008, having fulfilled the three criteria of its new owners: having a heritage, being able to produce high-quality whisky and having stocks already laid down. Currently for sale are 21, 30 and 40 year old bottlings – rather rare and expensive. The new-make spirit is very fruity and will be bottled as a limited edition on 16 December 2012. Also in 2012 a new unaged single malt scotch will be released at a more affordable price. In addition, it is one of the few distilleries that offer consumers the ability to buy full casks. It now exports to 24 countries.

Glenglassaugh offers tours from Monday to Friday: please phone to book; the tour guides are the distillery's hands-on operators and managers. There is the Standard tour, the Behind the Scenes tour, and the Ultimate tour, which includes getting involved in some aspects of working life and seeing the hand-bottling operation.



THE MAN

Stuart graduated with a BSc in Chemical Engineering from Heriot-Watt University in 1979 and started work with a company in Fife which, amongst other things, manufactured by-products plants for the whisky industry. Since then he has worked at distilleries all over the country, Arthur Bell & Sons in Dufftown, Highland Park and Highland Distilleries at Glenrothes to name just a few. He was working for Highland Distilleries when it closed Glenglassaugh and so first became involved with the distillery from 1987 to 1989, when it still had an on-site warehousing squad.

Stuart started his own consultancy at the end of 2004. He had always wanted to run his own business and it seemed the perfect opportunity with his children having left home. In 2006 a new client asked him to help with due diligence on a potential distillery purchase, which fell through, and then to find a viable alternative, which eventually led to the purchase of Glenglassaugh in 2008 and his moving into the role of managing director.

Stuart and his wife, Wilma, have previously lived in Dufftown and Rothes. They were living in Falkirk when he was offered the opportunity to return to the area and it only took a couple of minutes to decide to come back!

With the festive season almost upon us, it is maybe no surprise that Stuart's first whisky experience was as a young teenager, when one of his parents' friends stuck a glass in his hand on Hogmanay just before the bells and said he needed a whisky to see in the New Year correctly. Stuart says: 'To be honest, it tasted awful and I thought that I would not want to repeat the exercise ever again.' But he adds: 'I think that my real introduction was probably through my father, who was a lover of Glenfiddich.'

Gardening tips by Peter Evans

DECEMBER

Beds and borders: continue winter digging from November; make paths to avoid wear on lawns; cover compost heaps to keep out rain; plant containers for late winter/early spring interest; firm newly planted trees and shrubs after frosts, and check for root rot; order flower seeds for early spring start.

Lawns: avoid walking on frosted lawns; turfing is still possible during mild spells.

Ponds: make thaw holes.

Vegetables and fruit: protect autumn-sown broad bean and pea seedlings; prune fruit trees; order vegetable seeds and seed potatoes.

Greenhouse: check temperature regularly with a min/max thermometer; bring forced bulbs like hyacinth indoors when flower buds show colour; start sowing seeds like onions in a heated propagator; clean pots and seed trays for spring sowing.

JANUARY

Beds and borders: check and maintain garden tools; improve drainage where flooding occurs; weed and check emerging outdoor bulbs; knock snow off evergreens before it breaks branches; order young plants for early/mid spring sowing.

Lawns: watch out for snow mould disease; sweep away leaves and debris blown over lawns; keep off grass in snow or wet weather.

Ponds: keep thaw holes open.

Vegetables and fruit: give bare areas another digging; sow sprouting seeds for winter salads; all seeds, seedlings and young plants should have been ordered by now; sow broad beans and peas for late spring crop; deter birds from attacking fruit buds; where possible cover

ground to allow it to dry for early sowing.

Greenhouse: remove dead plant material; ventilate whenever possible to keep atmosphere dry; buy new seed trays, labels, etc. for main sowing season; continue sowing seeds in heated propagators; sow some stump-rooted carrots and radishes in growbags; start chrysanthemums, dahlias and fuchsias after wintering.

FEBRUARY


Beds and borders: replace garden tools if necessary; weed and clear borders; prune roses; remove dead material from shrubs, trees and perennials; sow sweet peas outside; plant lily bulbs; prune summer flowering clematis; feed flowering shrubs with sulphate of potash; protect vulnerable plants from slugs.

Lawns: mow lightly if necessary; repair lawn edges; aerate compacted areas.

Ponds: continue making thaw holes where necessary.

Vegetables and fruit: crop winter veg like leeks and parsnips before they start to regrow; prepare seed beds if weather allows; use fleece, cloches, etc. to protect broad bean, pea and spring green seedlings; set seed potatoes to sprout in a light place; plant shallots and artichokes; prepare a runner bean trench with moisture-retaining compost; feed fruit trees and bushes with high-potash fertiliser.

Greenhouse: clean thoroughly inside and out; feed forced bulbs that have finished flowering, ready for planting out later; take cuttings from chrysanthemums, dahlias and fuchsias; begin sowing tomatoes, melons and cucumbers for greenhouse cropping; prick out seedlings sown earlier; start begonia tubers into growth; pot strawberries for early crops; increase ventilation during the day whenever possible.

	Kerry Claire Joanne Emma
24 Park Street PORTKNOCKIE AB56 4LT 01542 840366	<i>Kut n'Kurl</i>

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Peerie Coull, a pair of peulls by Cy Pirie

I am Portknockie born and I returned to live in Johnnie Eppie's house as a permanent resident 3 years ago. I wrote the following whilst researching my Pirie family, which can be traced to Portknockie, circa 1670, and an Alexander Pirie. The search was worthwhile as it put me in touch with more than just a set of names.



James Pirie, Peerie Coull, my great grandfather

I began ti search fir ma long lost roots
Warin' a smile as wide as the north
And as broad as it's long and a' in the east

I am as a lost soul cast adrift
Seekin' the herrin' that don't exist

A Peerie Coull chasin' the Darlins
Silver and gold atween the fold

A Peerie Coull searchin' amid the rest
Closer to Wullocks, findin' Alkies, twa three lost

A Peerie Coull clearin' awa the Jeemsies
Lookin' fir shadas o' Helen and a lost John

A Peerie Coull amid the Defkies and Weks
Discoverin' Grace and Jane amid the Wids

A Peerie Coull in Fletts, findin' Slaters ahint
Time's door

An a when o' ither names galore

A Peerie Coull who's trampit an seen
A' the Peerie hoosies o' where we've been

A Peerie Coull who's stuck his neb in, where
it needit

An' who has seekit an' find it's no completit

I've bin searchin amid a' that's left
Coughin' up troubles in a kist o' woe
But lettin' the dust settle upon a shada

Ma smiles increasit as av found ma tree
And a' the Peerie Coull's are maybe grinnin'
wi' me

Like the twa wee peulls cooryin' in alow
my window,
Soon to be free

Sadly one of the peulls, which was born in my street, was knocked down by a 4x4 without a care for speed limits or the safety of pedestrians. The driver killed the seagull and didn't stop, probably unaware of what they had done?

Portknockie's music scene

by Madeline Green

The live music scene in the Port is thriving, with two monthly meets in the Victoria Hotel and the Seafield Inn. How did it all begin and become the success it is?

My husband and I spotted Greenfield Cottage for sale in the summer of 1998 and knew it would be our perfect retirement home. It was to be a few months before we could move in and whilst overseeing work in the house, we would seek a lunchtime bowl of fine homemade soup at the Victoria Hotel. Thus, Isabel and Wullie Hay were our first Portknockie acquaintances.

That marvellous much-missed character, Wullie, handed us a note a few years later from Frank Reynolds asking if we'd be interested in starting up a Folk Club in the village. This then was how we met first Frank, then John Trodden, and hatched the idea of meeting once a month in the Vic to encourage live music. The evening chosen was the second Friday of the month.

I believe that for almost 10 years the Vic has never missed a monthly music night. There was a time when the music night was so popular that we were accused of being the victims of our own success, as the squeeze to get into the lounge of the Vic increased. Over the years, scores of people have come along to listen or offer songs, poems, tunes.

Since the sessions in the Vic started up, many neighbouring places have started similar projects, e.g. Portessie, Whitehills and Portsoy. The Seafield Inn this year has started a new session on the last Sunday of the month.

Best of all, a huge amount of musical talent has come to the fore. I don't know the national average of musicians per head of population but I do know that at least 12 very able musicians live here in Portknockie now which, to me, seems a pretty high ratio.

We're proud of the range of ages and the welcoming friendliness on these evenings. There could be some who dislike the idea of coming to licensed premises. But I may say that fresh orange, mineral water and coffee are just as evident as beer. Everyone is welcome, old and new faces, to perform or enjoy.

Computing tips by Damian Connell

Fake users on Facebook

Last issue I wrote about staying safe online, so was thinking I might cover something a little cheerier this issue. However, during my usual daily browse of tech news, I came across a piece of social networking research carried out by the University of British Columbia which caught my interest (www.theregister.co.uk/2011/11/01/facebook_infiltration_bots). What the academics did was create about 100 fake Facebook users using computer 'socialbots', which work automatically. The socialbots gave bogus profile information, including publicly available photographs and status updates (short messages) which were randomly taken from an internet quotations site.

The socialbots randomly tried to make friends with other Facebook users. The socialbots then looked through the lists of friends of those they befriended and tried to make friends with these people. This second wave of befriending was three times more successful

as they were seen to have friends in common. In the first wave of friend requests there was a 1 in 5 chance that a Facebook user would accept a friend request, and in the second wave this rose to 3 in 5.

Then the socialbots harvested all of their friends' private and personal information, such as email addresses, telephone numbers. Much of this information had been configured by the real Facebook users to be available only to their friends, but they had already lost control of their information by becoming friends with the socialbot!

As this was research, all this information was subsequently thrown away to protect privacy, but the point had been proved. Socialbots can (and do) target an online social network, infiltrate it and collect data useful for spamming, phishing (see computer tips in last month's issue) and spreading malware (e.g. viruses).

What is also remarkable is that, during the 8 weeks of the study, over 300 other people requested that the

artificial users be their friends! All this goes to confirm that human beings are quite trusting of each other and our trust increases when we see that someone knows someone we already know. But also that, in the vast world of social networking, we should start from a point of trusting less.

On a more worrying note, only 20% of the socialbots were recognised as fake by Facebook's defence systems, and these only because astute users reported a socialbot's friend request as spam. So we certainly shouldn't rely on automatic security to protect us.

Common sense should prevail! Before we type in something like a telephone number, we should be asking ourselves 'Who can see this?' and 'Do I really need to give it out?'

[From the Editor: I think I got one or two of these friend requests. I didn't recognise the name, so I took it as bogus and deleted the email but didn't report it. ☺]

If anyone has any suggestions for computing articles that might steer me away from the murky subject of online security, they will be gratefully received!

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Remember last year's snow? How could we forget...?!



Pulteney Street



Admiralty Street



Icicles!



Bow Fiddle Rock



View from Green Castle



Belhaven lorry on New Street



Park Street



Snow storm



Blimey Mum, its deep!



High tide

Find the Fish!

Find the fish hidden in the letters. They can be diagonal, across, down and backwards.

I	F	M	M	O	L	Q	Q	X	D	M	V	U	P	L
E	R	O	U	Q	M	D	Q	M	M	O	R	T	K	D
S	E	E	B	L	O	Y	Y	A	Q	N	I	Q	X	R
S	U	D	G	G	L	T	Q	C	L	K	K	P	A	B
A	O	F	F	N	G	E	K	K	F	F	N	O	R	D
R	N	I	A	L	O	N	T	E	W	I	P	L	E	T
W	S	E	Y	K	H	C	G	R	E	S	N	L	V	N
H	X	V	P	C	O	H	N	E	C	H	V	O	A	K
T	U	B	I	L	A	H	I	L	I	C	V	C	E	C
F	L	O	U	N	D	E	R	P	A	H	B	K	W	O
H	R	P	U	W	R	G	R	X	L	R	A	C	A	D
N	I	T	R	Y	Q	F	E	F	P	L	Z	R	C	D
V	C	D	U	J	W	R	H	M	D	I	H	T	M	A
S	F	N	O	U	T	G	N	I	T	U	O	P	S	H
H	Z	D	V	C	J	Z	Y	T	V	J	G	T	X	O

- Cod
- Conger
- Dogfish
- Flounder
- Haddock
- Halibut
- Herring
- Mackerel
- Monkfish
- Mullet
- Plaice
- Pollock
- Pouting
- Weaver
- Wrasse
- Answers in the next issue!

Nature notes Birds by Mary Thorpe

Three seasons in one week

It was definitely autumnal in September – the swallows, martins and swifts were gone, and geese were beginning to arrive from their arctic summer breeding grounds. Then out of the blue we got summer back – it didn't last long but heck it was warm and I heard that it was the hottest end of September/beginning of October on record. The next thing we knew was there was snow on the Cairngorms!

Feeding starlings – or not

My household feeds our garden birds all through the year, and we put out a lot more as the weather worsens. Our resident starlings are very ingenious and manage to master any of the feeders designed specifically for clinging-only birds such as blue tits. They land on the top and make it tip up so the seed all spills out! I love to feed starlings but sometimes when I look out they are on, in and

around all the feeders. So I was thrilled when my mum accidentally came up with the answer to keep them off of at least one feeder! She had mistakenly bought black sunflower seeds instead of nyjer seed. An easy mistake. I suggested she put them out in a feeder anyway and lo and behold the blue tits, coal tits and great tits can't get enough of them. They collect a seed and go to a branch where they hold it between their feet to retrieve the heart within. So far the starlings haven't been near, or maybe they have and have decided it's too much like hard work extracting the heart. Whatever the reason, there are still plenty of other feeders they feed from. Starling numbers are actually in decline on the whole, although we have plenty in our area plus those from the continent that come for the winter. It makes for some wonderful spectacles as they gather at dusk in weird and wonderful formations before they go to roost.

Dolphins by Katharine Connell

There are plenty of us in the Port saying we have seen a lot of dolphins this year. All through the summer, almost every trip to look at the sea would reward us with seeing one or two, or even a large pod, passing by our rocks.

I wondered if there have been more dolphins than usual this year and went to the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society (WDCS) at Spey Bay to find out. Their 'Shorewatch' research (www.wdcs.org/shorewatch) shows that we are indeed seeing dolphins more often but notes that this doesn't necessarily mean that there are more animals overall.

Shorewatches have been recorded at Spey Bay for more than 10 years (using the same methodology since 2005). The watches are counted as positive if dolphins are seen, whether one or many, and negative if none are seen. Alice Walters at the WDCS says: 'We have seen an increasing trend in dolphin presence at Spey Bay since 2005 (3.5% watches seeing dolphins in 2006, 9% in 2008, and 15% in 2010). In 2011, we have recorded more dolphin-positive watches than at this time last year so I would guess that we are on target for a further slight increase once the year is over and all of our watches are complete.'

Even though we are seeing these animals more regularly, the number of bottlenose dolphins using the Moray Firth is believed to have stayed the same over the past years. Alice explains: 'Their distribution may have spread so that they are



regularly spending more time outwith the inner Moray Firth. For example, more dolphins are now being seen regularly in Aberdeen and Dundee.' The actual number is not known but a 2011 report produced by the scientists at Aberdeen Lighthouse Field Station for Scottish National Heritage (Thompson et al. 2011, SNH report no. 354) suggests approximately 193 animals around the east coast of Scotland. Us K'nockers know we won't see dolphins so often during the winter, for reasons yet to be discovered. The possibilities include that dolphins spend more time elsewhere (place unknown) or behave differently so they are detected less often (such as forming larger groups). One of the recommendations of the Scottish National Heritage report is to investigate the long-distance movements of dolphins by comparing photo-identification records from Scotland with those from other areas, such as Cardigan Bay, the Shannon estuary and France.

A Doric Ditty for Christmas

Is't that time a year again?
Hiv ye made oot yer Christmas list?
Gaen ower it eence again
Tak mak sure there's naeb'dy missed

As ye trail oot the decorations
Fae the hinner-en o the laft
Ye're still findin last year's needles
Nae langer sae green an saft
Rudolph's lookin a bittie tatty
An Santie's seen better days
Bit they're o sentimental value
Fae a bairn they've held yer gaze

As ye fecht for the last turkey in Tesco
An pare a mountain o Brussel sprouts
Dis the thocht ever occur
That Christmas gets ever further fae
its roots?

If ye survive aa the festive telly
An yer hunnerth Aifter Eight
It winna be lang till again
Ye'll rue fou muckle ye ate

If ye mak a New Year resolution
It's as sure as day follas nicht
That ye'll vow tae cut doon yer intake
For yer breeks are affa ticht

So this comes tae ye wi a plea:
Dinna bother wi the resolution
Haud gaan wi the fork an knife
It's only eence a year
An ye only hae ae life!

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Community Notice Board

Clive Newman

60 years old
25th November
THE OLD DUFFER!!
from all his friends

Dogknockers

Saturdays 11am - meet at 5 Station Road or
at the benches above Portknockie Harbour.

Invitation open to all ages, genders and
breeds! Just bring your dogs (or someone
else's!) and some pooh bags. Tea and cake
may occasionally be involved. Looking
forward to seeing you. Woof!

If you have any community notices for the next
issue, contact Damian: details on the back page.

Recipe

The New Yorker Revisited

Courtesy of Glenglassaugh Distillery;
created by Terri Brotherston
and Jason Scott of Bramble Bar,
Edinburgh

- 50 ml (2 fl oz) Glenglassaugh
Spirit Drink Blushes
- 25 ml (1 fl oz) freshly
squeezed lemon juice
- 12.5 ml (1/2 fl oz) gomme/
sugar syrup
- 10 ml (just under 1/2 fl oz) red
wine (Tempranillo if possible)
- Dash of egg white



- 1 Pour all ingredients except the red wine into
shaker.
- 2 Shake.
- 3 Fill with ice and shake vigorously.
- 4 Strain using a tea strainer, this can be done
twice for a clearer drink.
- 5 Pour into a Martini glass.
- 6 Drizzle the red wine over the top.

WHAT'S ON

CHRISTMAS DAY

Church of Scotland, Portknockie:
Christmas Eve family service at 6pm
Christmas Day service at 11.15am

Costcutter opening hours:
9am to 12 noon

VILLAGE CALENDAR

1 December Christmas lights on Millennium
Gardens

8 December Portknockie Nursery Christmas
Fayre, Seafield Hall

10 December Christmas Tea morning,
McBoyle Hall

REGULAR MEETINGS

Bingo Alternate Wednesdays, 7pm,
Seafield Inn

Bowls Mon and Thurs, 6.30pm, McBoyle Hall

Darts League Thursdays, Seafield Inn

Heritage Group First Mondays usually,
2-4pm, Hall Kirk, Cullen

Live music Second Fridays, Victoria Hotel
Last Sunday, Seafield Inn

Scottish Country Dancing Wednesdays
(except on Guild nights, when on Tuesdays),
7pm, Seafield Hall

Pool League Mondays, Seafield Inn

Seafield WRI Third Thursdays, 7pm,
Seafield Hall

Seniors' Club Third Tuesdays, Seafield Hall

Toddler Club Thursdays, 1-2.30pm,
McBoyle Hall

Youth Club Tues; Primary 1-3, 5.45-6.45pm,
Primary 4-7, 6.45-7.45pm, Burgh Chambers

Zumba classes Mon, 1.15pm, McBoyle Hall

CHURCH SERVICES AND GROUPS

Church of Scotland

Worship and Sunday School Sun, 11.15am
Women's Church Guild, Second Wednesday,
Seafield Hall

Thursday Club, (Primary 5-7) Thursdays,
6-7.30pm, Seafield Hall

Church of Christ

Gospel Service, Sundays, 6pm
Breaking of Bread, Sundays, 11am
Ladies Fellowship, Alternate Mondays, 7pm
Prayer Breakfast, Monthly Wednesdays, 8am
Bible Study and Prayer Meeting, Fridays, 7pm

DIRECTORY for your noticeboard

Portknockie/Buckie area code is 01542.

EMERGENCIES AND URGENT

Coastguard: Emergency **999**; Aberdeen
enquiries **01224 592334**

Environmental incidents: **0800 807060**

Gas leaks: **0800 111999** (24 h)

Neighbourhood Watch: **840000** (John Myles)

NHS24 Health Advice: **08454 242424**

Police: Emergency **999**;
non-emergency **08456 005700**

Power cuts: Scottish Hydro **0800 300999**

Scottish Power **08452 727999** (both 24 h)

Telephone faults: BT **0800 800151**

Water emergencies: **08456 008855** (24 h)

LOCAL SERVICES

Church of Scotland: **840951** (session clerk)

Dentist: Buckie Dental Practice **831163**

Doctors:

Seafield and Cullen Medical Centre **835577**;

Ardach Health Centre **831555**

Hospitals: Seafield Hospital **832081**;

Dr Gray's (Elgin), Aberdeen Royal Infirmary
08454 566000

Harbour Garage: **840099**

Harbourmaster: **840833**

Library: **841149**, Tuesdays 5-8, Thursdays 2-5
and 6-8, Saturdays 10-12

Moray Council: switchboard **01343 543451**, out
of hours **08457 565656**; Buckie Access Point
837200; waste uplift **01343 557318** (after 10am)

Optician: McLachlan Opticians **832239**

Pharmacy: **840268**

Post Offices: Portknockie **840201**;

Buckie sorting office **831252**; Buckie **835642**;

Cullen **840206**; Findochty **831268**

School: **840244**

Taxi: **840875**

TRAVEL INFORMATION

Airports: Aberdeen **08456 015929**; Inverness
01667 464000

Bus and coach: Stagecoach Bluebird **01343
544222**; First Aberdeen **01224 650000**; National
Express **08717 818178**

Ferries: Northlink (Aberdeen) **08456 000449**

Trains: Scot Rail **08457 550033** (tickets and
fares), **08456 015929** (information); National Rail
08457 484950