

# The MILLENNIUM K'nocker

Volume 1, Issue 3 The Portknockie Village News

1999/2000

**PORTKNOCKIE MILLENNIUM COMMITTEE** thanks villagers for the amazing support given to members over the past two years and we take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy 2000. God bless the folk of Portknockie and may it stay "Aye Afloat" forever. (Paid advert)

## PLANS FOR THE MILLENNIUM

Members of the Millennium Committee will be visiting old folk's homes in the area with gifts of shortbread and sherry. The last baby of the 20th century and the first baby of the new Millennium will be receiving commemorative gifts.

On the 31<sup>st</sup> December two members of the Committee will take flowers to 99 year old Jessie Ann Slater, Portknockie's oldest resident. They will also present a bouquet to Mr & Mrs Davie Reid, who have been married for 66 years.

Celebrations in the village will start on the 30<sup>th</sup> December when parties and discos will take place in the McBoyle Hall. This will be open to all the youth of the village and any friends that may be staying with them over the Millennium. Primary 1-3 from 4-5.30pm; Primary 4-7 from 6-8pm and the High School from 8.30-11pm.

On the 31<sup>st</sup> December it will be the turn of the adults when the Committee invites villagers to a light lunch and soft drinks or a dram or two! This will start at 12.30 in the McBoyle Hall. Iain Mair will play the organ and Lorna Findley will be piping the event. Willie Mair will have photographs from the Heritage and everyone is invited to bring along their photographs and newspaper cuttings to take a trip "along memory lane". A special cake will be cut by the two oldest villagers in the Hall. Anyone requiring a lift please contact Catherine on 840554 or Pearl on 841087. Later, at 8.30pm, the piper will be present when 89 year old Sandy Farquhar lights a beacon at the flagstaff to brightly welcome the Millennium in Portknockie.

It is then back to the McBoyle Hall where the band, "Sunset", and Midge's Disco will entertain young and old alike. We ask only that any child under 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

If the weather permits the 21<sup>st</sup> century will be greeted from 11.45pm with a torchlight parade led by Lorna to the Millennium Garden. Those who prefer to stay in the Hall can celebrate the New Year there until 2.00am! Then it will be first-footing if you still have the energy!

Entry to all these events is free but a collection will be taken at both the lunch and the dance for cancer research in special memory of young Alan McLean who died earlier this year.

Other events: boxes of millennium shortbread will be delivered to all pensioner households and a new football strip will be presented to the local Juniors Club. The Millennium Minstrels, a choir of the local Primary school children, will be singing carols and making a collection around the village on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> December.

## A MILLENNIUM INSPIRED POEM

### "PORTKNOCKIE"

We don't have a splendid palace  
Not even a Millennium Dome  
But **Portknockie**, that jewel in the crown of the North  
Is where K'nockers call home

We have a Millennium Garden  
Maybe not quite as grand as Kew,  
It's where we buried our time capsule  
It was quite a magnificent "DO"!

We've even reached the finals  
Of quite a prestigious award  
Your Community Council are heading down South  
To win – they'll really try hard.

Folk say it's not the winning that matters  
But if they reach the top of the pile,  
They'll be so delighted, they'll dance a wee jig  
All along the Royal Mile!

Now this isn't the greatest poem we've made  
To be honest, I don't give a jot,  
I'm so glad at last we're beginning to prove  
We're really not a bad lot!

**By a Portknockie quine.**

### **A FEW KEY DATES IN PORTKNOCKIE'S HISTORY OVER THIS MILLENNIUM:**

By the start of this Millennium the King of the Scots was Duncan later immortalised in William Shakespeare's play, "Macbeth".  
In 1327 Robert the Bruce's second wife, Elizabeth died on a visit to Cullen?  
In 1677 it is believed the first houses were built in Portknockie by a fisher family from Cullen.  
The Duke of Cumberland's soldiers passed by in April 1746 on their way to Culloden.  
In 1749 the Earl of Findlater set up the first school. In 1837 Seafield Parish Church was built. The present school was opened in 1876.  
1886 the railway arrived in Portknockie and was to stay until the cuts in 1968.  
1888 work began on the new harbour and it was opened in April, 1890.  
In 1902 water closets were installed at the school  
In 1912 Portknockie became a police burgh.  
In 1918 a German U-boat sank Gem BF313 – the crew rowed ashore to Boddam.  
The War Memorial was built in 1925.  
In 1930 Seafield WRI was formed.  
Seafield Street was bombed in 1941 – James Mair, Margaret, his daughter and Ann McKay died in this war-time incident.  
1953 the terrible storm left a trail of destruction.  
1961 the paddling pool was built.  
1964 the "Aye Afloat" motto was registered.  
1975 Portknockie lost its Town Council and Provost in the local government re-organization.  
1982 plans were drawn up for indoor bowling.  
1990 proposal to make Portknockie a listed area.  
1996 the Bank of Scotland office to close.  
1997 the Post Office offers banking services.  
1999 Portknockie buried its Millennium Time Capsule and the village was a finalist in the Scottish Community of the Year Awards.

We hope to expand on this brief snapshot in future issues of The K'nocker depending on your

interest and the willingness of local people to research Portknockie's rich heritage.

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

To add to the list of local folk names from Issue 2 of The K'nocker we hear of the "Dandy Duffers" of Macduff and the "Sandend Trotters". Folk from Sandend were apparently always 'trotting' off to Portsoy for their messages. Is that the end or does anyone have other examples to send us? - give them to Margret in the Library.

**Flittin the toon** since our last issue we know of the Grant family off to Mill of Buckie, Brenda Davey moving to Southport and Fiona Simmonds leaving Kirk House for New Elgin. We welcome Ann & Nick to 4 Blantyre Place, Maggie and Simon Gibbard to 6 Victoria Street and Mark Wilson from Buckie to Kirk House.

**New noticeboards** have been made and donated by our joiner, James Bruce. They have been placed at the Library, by the Paper Shop and at the side of the Chemist for the Remembrance Garden list. Many thanks to James for his generosity in providing this useful facility.

The village **bottle bank** is now in place, near Wilson's MOT garage. It is hoped we can all get back into the habit of recycling glass.

**Village in Bloom Planning:** You will have noticed the improvements made to the waste ground at the north end of Admiralty Street. There is still some landscaping to be done yet. A mass of daffodils can be expected to bloom on the cliff edge of Patrol Road next Spring. The bulbs are due to be planted soon. A boat has been found which is to be positioned on the western approaches to the village. This will then be planted with shrubs and bulbs to match the one at the eastern end of the village.

The K'nocker is delighted to acknowledge the generosity of Mr Douglas GR Taylor, joint Managing Director of Speyside Cooperage in providing us with eight half barrel tubs that will be planted up ready for a bonny show of flowers in the Spring. Suggestions for location welcome.

Every householder in the village is invited to start planning now how they might try to ensure they have a fine garden display or show of tubs and hanging baskets ready for the judging next summer. Members of the Community Council

would also like to hear from residents about any spots in the village that need improvement. One place already identified for a makeover is the roundabout in Haig Street. It would be good to get straight amongst the winners next year!

#### COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWS:

You will know by now that we did not win the title of Scottish Community Council of the Year but we did put up a creditable showing at the awards ceremony in Edinburgh. The winners were Sandwick in The Shetlands who had a very strong submission. In the competition for the Youth section, for which we were tipped by the judges, we were up against a sophisticated project from Arbroath. However, we gained a framed certificate and the judges praised the village for adapting to change while holding on to traditional values. We hope, with your support, to re-enter this Calor Gas Competition next year and do even better!

#### CATHERINE'S CREATIVE CRAFTS

would like to thank all her girls and ladies for their support during the past year, and she would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy



Ceramic New Year.

Paid Advertisement

A submission has been made to the Post Office Voluntary Organization Awards scheme on behalf of a village Gardening Group. If we are successful this will help fund its launch. Would those interested in joining this group please make themselves known in the next few weeks to any of the Community Councillors.

Other grants are being sought to expand the role of the Library as an information centre both for residents and visiting tourists. Also to improve the access to Bow Fiddle Rock and to provide a viewing area with interpretive information panels

Your Community Council has been invited to comment on the Moray Council spending priorities for 2000/1, the efficiency of present services and the level of the Council Tax. If you have views that you wish to be passed on contact

any of the Portknockie Community Councillors or leave your comments with the Library.

**Following the success of Arnold Pirie's Silver Trowel story we now have several pieces of Portknockie heritage which we will publish in future issues. We welcome articles or comment for publication from villagers – please hand them into Margret at the Library.**

#### A SPECIAL DAY IN 1890 FOR PORTKNOCKIE by Margret Wood:

In an old Banffshire Advertiser, dated Thursday May 1<sup>st</sup>, 1890, I came across the article headed "OPENING OF PORTKNOCKIE HARBOUR – A GALA DAY" so let me try and tell you what happened on that momentous day. It shows how local traditions and practices have a long history.

The new Portknockie Harbour was formally opened on a brilliantly fine Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> April, 1890 by the Dowager Countess of Seafield who laid a memorial stone (details were given in Arnold Pirie's recent article, the Silver Trowel).

It seemed that every family in the village had spent the greater part of the week decorating their homes with bunting and numerous strings of flags were suspended across the streets – you can imagine the excitement of the children collecting evergreens, helping to make flags, women sewing, young men stringing up the bunting and the elders watching and telling them what and how they should do it!

Crowds of people from the neighbouring villages and towns took advantage of the Great North of Scotland Railway Company issuing cheap fares and running special trains to Portknockie for this occasion. Never in the history of the village was there so much stir and good reason for rejoicing and it was quoted "the event was unquestionably the most important in the annals of the village."

Flag staffs were erected in several places especially for the occasion. Entering the village from the Finechty road you would have come through a main arch with side arches made from four poles decorated with laurel leaves and topped with sprigs of fir. Above the centre span were the words, in bold red letters on a white background and a tasteful border, "LONG LIFE" and a similar structure at the east end of the village had the word, "WELCOME". Both designs were praised for their "taste and

effectiveness". An invitation to **HASTE YE BACK TO PORTKNOCKIE**" was displayed on another house while, above the Free Church Hall door, a query, cut out using cotton wool on a red background read **"WILL YE NO COME BACK AGAIN"**.

Mr Pirie's Seafield Cottage was decorated spectacularly with flags and evergreens – this was where Lady Seafield was presented with a bouquet – even the iron railings were entwined with greenery. An original decoration near the foot of the main street, heading to the sea, was the suspension of a fully-rigged Zulu boat, about 8 feet in length, and marked BF417 with the name "GEORGE INNES" on the stern. Nearby, two smaller, full-rigged boats, were also suspended across the street. In an adjoining street Mr Joseph Addison had a string of evergreens with pretty little flags running up the front of his shop. While written on the Cash Store was the appropriate motto: **"FORTUNA FAVET FORTIBUS"** (fortune favours the strong).

From the school the Harbour Committee led the carriage carrying Lady Seafield and entourage with the school children following up at the rear. After the brief stop at Seafield Cottage for the presentation the procession proceeded slowly towards the Heid o' the Brae. Down on the harbour were the Portknockie fishermen who formed a guard of honour, the Brethren of the Innocent Lodge of Freemasons (Cullen) and members of the Portknockie Greencastle Lodge of Good Templars.

Lady Seafield and company were escorted, after the Opening and the burial of a glass time capsule, to the outskirts of the village and the crowds cheered loudly as the carriage drove off.

This was not the end of the festivities. There was a rowing race at noon for the small boats of 15 feet keel and upwards from Cullen to Portknockie. A prize of £2 was made available but Portknockie fishermen did not enter the race as they were too interested in what had been going on ashore. A Portsoy boat, BF1167 was first to enter the harbour amidst loud cheering. In a speech by the Rev Mr James McIntyre, Chairman of the Harbour Committee, he said that the name, Portknockie had Celtic and Latin origins and meant "that harbour among the little hills". He went on to say "although he did not think the fisherwomen would agree to this

description when climbing up from the harbour with their heavy creels".

Forty of the workers who had built the harbour were treated to a dinner at The Fishermen's Hall and 500 local children were given tea, sweetmeats and fruit in the school playground.

In the afternoon a Banquet took place in the Free Church Hall which was beautifully decorated with evergreens and pot plants. Apologies came from local MPs Mr Duff and Mr Asher who were in London. Speeches and many toasts followed – the Rev. Mr McIntyre said "the people of Portknockie, not being able to find room for their natural increase at home, found it necessary to move to Banff, MacDuff and several other places and now they were the backbone of these fishing communities" and this attracted applause from the audience. "He hoped now that the fishermen of Portknockie had got a good harbour at home they would increase and multiply to make Portknockie a most successful place in the Moray Firth". A fair prediction!(Ed.)

That night there was a concert in the School where a twenty-four voice choir entertained. There were a number of quartets rendered with solos such as The Better Land, The Banks of Loch Lomond and Rocked in the Cradle of the Deep. It was a night enjoyed by all. Rockets were let off over the harbour in the evening to finish this momentous day for Portknockie.

#### **HAME-MADE COOKING' RECIPES – Mary Butler.**

Shortbread is associated with Christmas and Hogmanay. The large round ones were notched to represent the sun and are said to have derived from the traditional Scottish Yule Bannock.

**For two large shortbread:** take 7 oz (200g) plain flour, 1 oz (25g) of rice flour, 4 oz (110g) of butter and 2 oz (50g) of caster sugar.

**Method:** Mix the dry ingredients and rub in the butter in pieces with your fingers until evenly distributed. Knead the mixture well to form a soft dough (not sticky) which you then divide into two. Use your hands to shape into two rounds about three-quarters of an inch (2cm) thick. Decorate the edges then place on a greased baking tray and bake at 325 F/160 C (gas mark 3) for about 45 minutes or until brown. Cool and serve – perhaps with a sherry.

**NB** Mary really wants you the reader to send in local recipes so let us hear from you. Take them along to the Library. For the next issue try to come up with recipes suitable for Easter.

### THE PORTKNOCKIE DIRECTORY

Useful emergency telephone numbers :

**Police:** (Buckie) 832222  
(Cullen) 840222  
**Doctors:** (Cullen) 840272  
(Buckie) 831555  
**Seafield Hospital:** 832081  
**Dr Grays, Elgin:** 01343 543131  
**Aberdeen RI:** 01224 681818  
**Dentist:** (Buckie) 831163  
**Chemist:** (Portknockie) 840268  
**Optician:** (Buckie) 832239

**Plumber** (Portknockie) 840052  
**Electrician:** (Portknockie) 840066

**Hydro-Electric:** (24hrs) 0800 300999  
**Scottish Gas:** (24 hrs) 0800 111999  
**Scottish Power:** (24 hrs) 0845 2727999  
**Scottish Water:** (24 hrs) 0345 437437  
**BT:** (24 hrs fault reporting) 151  
From a non-BT line 0800 800151  
From a mobile phone 0800 800151

**Coastguard:** (24 hrs) 01224 592334

**Moray Council:** 01343 543451  
Out of hours 0345 565656  
**Buckie Access Point** 837200

Travel Information telephone numbers:

#### Bus & Coach:

Bluebird (Macduff) 01261 833533  
First Aberdeen Ltd. 01224 637047  
Highland Omnibuses 01463 233371  
National Coaches 0990 808080

#### Airports:

Aberdeen 01224 722331  
Inverness 01463 232471

#### Seaport:

P&O Passenger (Aberdeen) 01224 572615

#### Trains:

National Rail Enquiries 0345 484950

**Taxis:** (Portknockie Private Hire) 840875  
**Note this is a change of number, apologies to the Mairs)**

**AA** 24hr breakdown service 0800 887766  
**RAC** service 0800 828282

**Portknockie Post Office:** 840201

**Local Holidays 2000:** April 3<sup>rd</sup>, June 12<sup>th</sup>,  
July 31<sup>st</sup>, September 11<sup>th</sup> and October 16<sup>th</sup>.

**FIT'S THE CLAIK!** do remember this is a column for you the reader to express local views of interest. You are invited to put your comments in the suggestion box in the Library.

- “Can you call in Moray Council to deal with a constantly barking dog?” The Council does have a Dog Warden (01343 563357) although it is probably better to have a word with the offending dog’s owner first. You would expect them to take the some action to keep on good terms with neighbours.
- “The Village in Bloom” entry is not something new for Portknockie a resident has claimed. He remembers when the village was known as ‘the Brighton of the North’ under Provost Faulkner. Two years running Portknockie was bonny village winner”.

#### BEST WISHES 2000

The Millennium approaches  
You’ll want to look your best  
So pop along to Scallywags  
They’re streaks above the rest  
A perm, a cut, a colour  
Your best you’ll always look  
Scallywags is the place to come  
So hurry up and book!

Avoid the rush phone **841711** today

**JACKIE  
DONNA  
CAROLINE  
LOUISE  
KAY  
JACKIE**

**Look good and feel great**

**Paid Advertisement**

## WHAT'S ON IN THE PORT OVER XMAS AND THE NEW YEAR:

**Portknockie Amenities Association** "Boxing Night Dance" tickets are selling fast – please contact Gill on 841703 if you have not booked yours! On the 29<sup>th</sup> December there will be a Quiz based on 'Who wants to be a Millionaire' in the Seafield Inn at 8.30pm. Entry is £2.

**Portknockie Playgroup** closes for the festive season on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December when they will be having their Xmas Party 10am to 12 noon.

**SOMY2GO** will be holding a Disco/Party in the McBoyle Hall on Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm. Entry is £1.50p.

**Portknockie Seniors** had a fine meal at the Vale Hotel, Fyvie and good entertainment at The Auld Meal Mill on the 20<sup>th</sup> November past. The Xmas Party will be at the Station Hotel, Portsoy on the 21<sup>st</sup> December (dep. 6.30pm) where the Committee expect to have the commemorative Millennium mugs to distribute to all members.

**Portknockie Church of Scotland:** The Sunday School Nativity is on the 19<sup>th</sup> December at 6.00pm. The Christmas Eve Family Service will be on the 24<sup>th</sup> December at 7.00pm. All the village are welcome to come.

**The Portknockie Fishing Fleet:** The boats are on their last trips of the year with the last market being on the 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 1999.

**Portknockie Junior Football Club** now has a membership of between thirty and forty boys and girls from Primary 1-7. The club is meeting every Wednesday evening from 6.00pm onwards. New members are always welcome as are Mums and Dads who can help out at any time. Please contact Alan Pirie, David Leslie or David Hendry for further information.

**Portknockie Primary School:** Primaries 1-3 hold their Christmas Party on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 1.30pm in the Hall. The older children begin their festivities at the same time on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup>. The Parents Support Group is arranging the food and drink for both parties. There is hope that a certain bearded gentleman will be appearing! Gavin Coull & Laura Cowie. The school Christmas Service will be held on 20<sup>th</sup> December in the Church of Scotland. The School will be performing a music piece called

"Hosana Rock" and the Christmas Story will be narrated. Fiona Johnson and Mark Simpson P7 look forward to seeing you all there.

Fiona Mair and Karen Taylor of P6 hope to hold a bring and buy sale to raise funds for the **BLUEPETER** annual Christmas Appeal to help premature babies. Donations of bric a brac, toys books, games, and homebakes are being sought

Finally **Out of the mouths of Babes:** Teacher: "What could we do to make our school better?" Infant pupil: "Cover it in glitter!"

## ISOBELA SLATER nee PIRIE by Wm Slater

It has just gone seven o'clock in the morning, Isie has dressed ready to do her fish round of about 15 miles. She is wearing a stout pair of lacing shoes, navy blue home-woven stockings, a blue, pink and off-white striped skirt, a white apron and a heavy woollen jacket nearly down to her knees. Round her shoulders is her traditional black shawl with its fringe. This will cover her head should it rain.

She picked up her creel, which has been lined with dried rashes then filled with cod and haddock and a few smoked haddock wrapped in paper on top. Her smaller basket is lined with a pillow slip and filled with cooked fish roes and covered with a dishtowel. Her 12 year old son was left in the house until it was time for him to go to school.

Leaving Portknockie she would make her way over the turnstile through Cruats field, down the steep bank, over the burn and climb up the other side. Going through the Golf Links was easy but she had to walk up hill all the way to the top of Cullen.

Each fishwife had her own customers and these could be some distance apart. It was nearly all barter, very little actual money changing hands so that she often had a heavier load coming home. Potatoes would go straight into the creel, oatmeal would go in the pillowslip she carried for that purpose but room was always left for butter and cheese. These two were worth the most money. Her handbasket was kept for hens and ducks eggs. She did her best to be home before dark.

Next day she would have to barter again with her local grocer to exchange her goods for his, then

go and get more fish for the following day with, maybe, some roes to be boiled as they were fragile in the raw state. Then after that there were clothes to be washed, the house to be cleaned and remember that was after spending twelve hours that day with at least 50 to 60 pounds weight on her back and 15 to 20 pounds weight in her basket.

I remember once telling a lady from a way down south more or less this same story and her reply was "How quaint, did they have any hobbies?" Well that was Isie, my Granny.

Ian & Katherine and  
All our staff at the  
Mace & Post Office  
Would like to wish  
All their  
Customers a very  
Merry Christmas  
And a Happy New  
Year



**WE'LL PUT 'MAIR' SMILES ON YOUR FACE WHEN YOU SHOP AT THE 'KNOCKIE' MACE – Bargains galore throughout the store. Deliveries free. Festive bread orders being taken now.**

**All offers subject to availability from 6.12.99 to 31.12.99**

### **FESTIVE CHEER**

6 Metres of Santa Wrap for 99p  
Mace Vodka only £6.99  
70cl Tullibadine Malt £19.99 + 70cl  
Mackenzie whisky free  
Croft Original Sherry £4.99  
35cl Famous Grouse Whisky £6.99  
1.5l Lambrini Bianco only £2.39  
10x 25cl Mace Dutch Lager NRB £2.99

**SPECIAL CHILDREN'S COMPETITION  
DRAWN ON 21<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER: When did  
Ian & Katherine start work in the Post  
Office?**

**A 1st Dec 1994**

**B 1<sup>st</sup> Dec 1995**

**C 11th Jan 1995**

**Entries to Ian.**

**A paid Advertisement**

### **COMMUNICATIONS IN PORTKNOCKIE By Mary Butler:**

Communications, as we all know, have moved at great speed over this century. Today, for instance, people on Planet Earth are trying to listen for noises on Mars.

One charming Portknockie lady recalls how information was communicated in the village near the beginning of this century. One was a town crier, called Sammy Begg, who used a drum to attract the attention of the inhabitants. He would then call "Notice" and announce important information such as that a coal boat had docked in the harbour.

As a child this lady remembers the sound of the laden carts as they rumbled by. It might be coal that was delivered loose in a heap at the door which you then had to shovel into your shed.

The next town crier used a bell and subsequently notices were placed in shop windows. And now we also have the K'nocker to spread the news.

Funerals were announced by one's door being opened and someone calling in "Attend the funeral of Mr X" – usually at 2.00pm.

An invitation to the "buiken-nicht" was also announced by someone calling at your door. This took place when a marriage was being registered and the bridegroom went to see the Minister about having the banns called. That was a night for partying!

**PORTKNOCKIE SCHOOL NEWS:** The school now has two Combi television units (tv and video combined) which are to go in our infants rooms. A new Polaroid camera costing £40 has also been purchased (Vicki Cormack & Graham Smith). P7 pupils celebrated the Hind

Festival of Light (Diwali) this term by cooking and sampling Aloo Kit Kaya, Barfi and Bombay Potatoes. Delicious! (Ella Walford & Matthew Reid).

P7 pupils, Craig and Sarah found an old book dating back to 1966 belonging to Jennifer Bowie whilst researching in the school library. The book is called "Jesus calls his Disciples" and was awarded to her on the 19<sup>th</sup> June, 1966 by Portknockie Church Sunday School. We have discovered that Jennifer is now Mrs Grey and she lives in Portsoy. Her Mum still lives in Portknockie and her Dad was a local electrician.

P7 pupils are using a Tuck trolley, which has replaced the Tuck Shop. The Tuck shop will become a waiting area. The work starts soon and will make the entrance to the School very attractive as it is to be carpeted. The Tuck Trolley is 1.39m long and is fitted with steel sides. Sausage rolls have been selling well lately. The infants have their "Sausage Roll Day" on Tuesday and the seniors purchase theirs on a Thursday. The Tuck Shop Committee welcomes suggestions for Tuck Trolley goodies. All the profits go to benefit our school and pupils. (Jodie Campbell & Simon Smith of P7).

This month Portknockie School has been collecting Christmas boxes for the Romanian children in orphanages. Wendy Smith of the New Hope Trust visited us to talk about their work. We were asked to fill a shoe box with toys and clothes and wrap it in Christmas paper with £1 stuck to it to help pay for the expense of getting it to Romania. So far we have raised 70 boxes! It is good to know that we have helped to make someone's Christmas happier. Sarah Donaldson and Michael Wilson of P7).

Scott Farquharson, a Fire Education Officer, has been teaching P6 about fire safety and how dangerous hoax calls are. We all got a certificate to show that we know how to get out of our houses if a fire does start. (Vicky Hay and Katie Mair).

**THE K'NOCKER EDITORIAL TEAM** comprises Bob Croucher, Mary Butler and Margret Wood. If you want to contact us or provide copy or adverts for printing ring The Bield, Harbour Place (841291) or give your copy to Margret in The Library. We reserve the right to edit any contributions to fit our format We are

trying to be very accurate in what we print but we ask your indulgence if an error creeps in. On your behalf we would like to thank our distribution volunteers and wish them a very happy Christmas and New Year. The next K'nocker will be published at the end of March 2000 and any contributions should be offered between now and the start of that month.

**The team of volunteers who deliver your K'nocker include:** Mrs P Murray – Addison Street and Mairs Street; Mrs M Reid – Admiralty Street; Craigview and Sampson Street – Mrs H Sammon; Geddes Avenue, Logie Drive, Wood Place, Slater Crescent and Falconer Terrace – Mrs S McLean; Samson Place and Bruce Place – Mrs S Simpson; Seafield Street and Terrace – Mrs L Findley; Reidhaven Street, Park Street and part Bridge Street – Mrs M Cavilier; New Street, Victoria Place and Dover Street – Mrs R Duddigan; Gordon Street, Union Street, Mid Street and Victoria Street – Mrs D Coull; Blantyre Place, Patrol Road, Seaforth Street, Harbour Terrace and Commercial Road – Mr J Butler; Harbour Place, Cliff Terrace and Hill Street – Mr R Croucher; Pulteney Street – Mrs L Selwood; Church Street and Bridge Street – Mrs C Dawson; High Street – Mrs J Rose; Moray View and Seaview Place – Mrs A Lumley; Haig Street and Haig Place (needs a volunteer?); King Edward Terrace and Findlater Drive – Mrs M Wood; Braehead, Station Court, Station Road and Firthview – Mrs A McKay. **A big Thanks.**

**FOOTNOTE:** Portknockie seems to like its poetry so we end with an extract from a poem called "The Pull of Home". If someone can identify the author and when it was written the whole poem could be included in the next Issue. It goes on to identify local scenery from the Cradlies to the Shooting Crag.

The pull of home I'm feeling,  
Portknockie 'tis for me,  
That precious jewel sparkling  
In setting by the sea.  
Her sons abroad are scattered,  
In distant lands and near  
No other place can equal  
Their native coast so dear.

If there are exiles out there who would like to contact The K'nocker and tell their story you can contact Bob Croucher by e-mail at [rncdram@btinternet.com](mailto:rncdram@btinternet.com)

