

VILLAGE NEWS & AROUND:

News from the village website - At the end of April, Marie Murray from Ohio, USA contacted the website for details of B&B in Portknockie for two parties coming here in June and August. Marie's father was born in Portknockie and she recalls staying previously in the village with Mary Anderson at "Mizpah" in Seafield Terrace. Andrea Mair from Winnipeg, Canada has been in touch also hoping to find out more about her family before paying a visit to Portknockie some time this autumn or early next year.

Although the Portknockie Walk for "Village in Bloom" did not take place this year, well done to **Grant Mair** of 12 King Edward Terrace, who completed the better known London Marathon in just under 4 hours to raise £475 for his charity, The Meningitis Trust Foundation.

Welcome to Neil Hedley who has returned home from Aberdeen to set up house at 20 Harbour Place.

A big **Thank you** to Graham Lappin and his lads for the completion of the rock cairn along Patrol Road that displays the new visitor information panels describing the Three Creeks Shore and the Green Castle.

Dot & Lin Hill, recently moved into 9 High Street, would like to thank everyone for their very warm welcome to the village. They are settling in well and they are very happy here in David and Kitty Mair's old house. They are so enjoying the pace of life in Portknockie that they may well be unpacked by the end of the year!

They send a big **Thank you** to all the local tradesmen who have helped them out with their skills, but also for their local advice and chat. Their thanks are also extended to David and Kitty Mair for all their kindness. You have probably seen Lin limping around the village with Amber, her dog. She has joined the "Meals on Wheels" rota and is hoping that once she is fully fit she can "muck in" with other village jobs/projects.

Portknockie also welcomes **Stuart and Sharon McLean** who come from East Yorkshire and are renovating 7 Blantyre Place to bring it back into occupation again. Also a big welcome to **Mr & Mrs McRae** from Hampshire, who have moved into 17 Seafield Street.

A new **village map**, to be placed on the notice board in the Millennium Garden, has been designed for us by John Tasker from Drybridge. It will be possible to advertise local business on this map. Business card space can be rented for inclusion with the map.

Following the article about **Dr Morrison** retiring from the Cullen practice, Willie Slater has written the following appreciation that probably speaks for us all.

"To list all the good things about Dr Morrison is no small task. I have never heard a local patient have anything unkind or critical to say about him. I personally have found him to be everything expected of a doctor - my problems were his problems. I wish him a long and happy semi-retirement."

The **Moray Local Access Project team** has proposed creating two footpaths across the Cullen Golf Course. One leads from the Reid Roadie along the south side of the 8th fairway towards Cullen and the other would go along the north side of the 10th fairway to the Bore Craig. The Community Council has welcomed improvements to the section from the Whale's Moo to Jenny's Well but suggests leaving folk to walk as customary across the sands to Cullen.

The Community Council also feels that it might be better to leave the Reid Roadie path as it is and, instead of creating a path extension, to use any available funding to create steps down from the Cycle track at the western end of the viaduct to give quicker access to the beach and car park at Cullen.

The Access Project's third proposal is for a Findochty to Portknockie Circular path that comes along the Cycle Path to join Patrol Road, then proceeds via Reidhaven Street, Bridge Street, the old Railway Cutting to Hill Street, King Edward Terrace, the Slack path past the reservoir to the Bauds Road and back to Findochty via the link between the A98 and the A942. This route has been used by us in the past for the Fun Run to raise funds for "Village in Bloom".

On Tuesday 24th June the **Grampian Police Underwater Investigation Unit** dived in Portknockie harbour on a training exercise. This unit of 12 policemen serves an area that spreads from the River Tay to the Shetlands.

VILLAGE IN BLOOM 2003

This year's "**Village in Bloom**" volunteers have been busy setting in place the various features of the floral display. Once again there is a focus on permanent planting with the use of bark chipping to reduce maintenance. The Funds were boosted considerably by the successful Gala on Saturday 3rd May when £1 728 was raised towards plants, tools, compost etc. Thanks to all those who worked so hard for this event, to those who turned out and to "Heather, the weather" for a much better day than was forecast.

This summer we are only entering the **Moray Best-kept Village** competition. Judging will take place between 2.45 and 3.45pm on Tuesday 5th August. The judges will be Mr & Mrs Finlayson from the "Beautiful Scotland in Bloom" judging team. Last year we won the Best Village in Moray competition and this summer there are 22 communities competing for our title. Would everyone in the community go out of their way to keep Portknockie tidy and to make your own place as colourful and attractive as possible over the next two months? It will be great to make it two wins in a row. The Awards Ceremony will take place in Elgin Town Hall on Friday, 5th September.

To give you some idea of where we need to put in the effort to win this competition the marking scheme contains the following sections:

Overall Impression - as seen by a visitor entering the village (10 marks); **Floral Quality and our permanent planting** (10); **Institutional** - that is village hall, church, school, war memorial etc (20); **Residential** - tidiness of private gardens (20); **Community Effort** - by volunteers (20); **Cleanliness** - absence of litter, graffiti and tidiness of empty sites (20); **The General Appearance** -play areas, bus shelters, picnic areas (20) and **Bonus marks** for extra effort tubs, hanging baskets and improvements to unsightly areas (20). The maximum marks available are 140. The Junior entry, "Industries of Scotland" in Hill Street has been organised this year by the Ceramics Group. This section carries a total of 50 marks - 25 for overall appearance and 25 for the imaginative effort shown.

Please do not think you are being pushy if you take it upon yourself to make Portknockie look more attractive. If you notice a weed, clear it

out. If you come across graffiti or rubbish clear it up. If a tub or hanging basket near you looks parched, give it a drink - preferably water! If you have an idea for brightening up a bare site in the village offer it to Catherine Ritchie or any of the other volunteer diggers and planters you see around. If you have not yet tried putting out a tub or hanging basket go for it this year. This year it is proposed to give a prize for the best front of house hanging basket display. **Village in Bloom** is a whole community thing and evidence of widespread involvement is important in the judges' eyes. The more that participate the better we can all feel when folks say, as they do "Isn't Portknockie a bonny place!"

This year we took the decision to proceed with the idea of creating **three flowerbeds** in the McLeod Park, despite some warnings of dire consequences. The beds already look well-established and on Sunday, 22nd June the Minister, Graham Austin, with 25 villagers and an anonymous West Highland dog (!) blessed and dedicated to God the bed that is maintained and presented by the Church of Scotland group. The flower bed has a smart inlaid panel listing the 14 different plants as described in the Bible with a brass plate that reads - "The cross and plant legend design is by Fiona Jagger, aged 11 of Portknockie Sunday School." Any group in the village is very welcome to nominate itself as a sponsor or manager of a floral feature in the village or to propose and run with a new idea.

NEED ANY PLUMBING JOBS DONE? Give Cliff Smith a ring on 840052

COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWS:

The planning authority for the **skateboarding** facility in the park was granted finally at the end of April. Mark Stevenson has excavated the turf and foundations for the concrete work, which is the next stage of this project. This generous contribution by the Stevenson family is very much appreciated.

SUSAN'S KUI N KURL
LADIES & GENTS HAIR STYLIST
Susan, Kerry, & Claire
In Park Street



840366

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 July.

Moray Council has made its **annual grant** to Portknockie to cover the administrative costs of running the Community Council. The grant was for **£582**, which is made up of a flat rate of £557 plus 2p per head of the electorate. (2001 census).

The new **mini recycling unit** has been installed in the McLeod Park at the end of the Wood Place banjo. There are banks for bottles and cans and a special dog mess bin. The old bottle bank by the garages at the junction of Admiralty Street and Patrol Road has since been taken away. The compost box, built by Mr I McLeod, that was there will be re-located to the Millennium Garden.

Here is a reminder of the pick up time for **waste paper and cardboard** by Moray Council. The container lorry parks at the junction of Mid Street and Pulteney Street outside the old Bank building between 10.30 and 12 noon every other Saturday. Upcoming dates are July 5 and 19, August 2, 16, 30 and September 13 and 27.

Dog Owners: It has been decided to put up a notice for dog owners in the harbour asking them to ensure that their pets do not frolic in the paddling pool, which could put the health of our youngsters at risk. Moray Council has promised to paint the pool again next year.

This summer your Community Council loses the services of **Paula Hedley and Rachel Munro, our student members**. They have our best wishes and thanks as they proceed on to higher education. A fresh election is required now to nominate two student members for the coming year. Student members are aged between 16 and 18 and enjoy full voting and speaking rights at every Community Council meeting. It is important that student members are elected to our Community Council in order to give a voice to the young people of Portknockie.

WHAT ARE K'NOCKERS LIKE? - the 2001 census results for Moray have been published.

The 2001 census shows that there are **1 217 people living in Portknockie** of whom 640 are women and 577 are men. The last time the

population in the village was this low was back in the 1860s. About a fifth of the population is aged over 65 with nearly 1 in 10 over 75. Yet there are also 240 under the age of 15. Of those over the age of 16, 495 are married, 23 are separated, 47 are divorced and 94 are widowed. 549 profess to be Church of Scotland, 37 Roman Catholic and 215 other Christian with 1 Muslim and 1 Sikh. 1040 were born in Scotland, 150 in England, 4 in Wales and 3 in Northern Ireland. 10 are from other EU countries and 9 from elsewhere in the world. Ethnically, 1062 from the village describe themselves as White Scottish, 2 are Pakistani, 4 are other South Asian with 2 from mixed background. That leaves 147 who describe themselves as Other White British, White Irish, Other White or simply Other.

Rather worryingly 245 say they are suffering from **long term illness** and the number of people providing unpaid care amounts to 134. Amongst people aged between 16-74 we have 288 full time employed, 106 in part time work, 79 self-employed, 36 unemployed and 153 retired. The numbers working in fishing are 33 with 67 in manufacturing, 67 in health and social work and 53 in the retail and wholesale trades.

We have **514 households in Portknockie** of which 53% are detached, 38% are semis and 6% are terraced. 40% of the accommodation is owned outright, 34% is on mortgage and the rest is rented or rent-free. 93% of homes have central heating and a bathroom but 31 do not have central heating and 2 are said to be without bathrooms! 25% of the village does not own a car or van, 276 villagers own one car or van and 5 claim to own four or more vehicles!

This is just a sample of the detail in the 2001 Census, which is Crown Copyright. You can refer to the Library for the fuller details.

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

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds asks its members each year to do a **count of the Sparrows** seen in their gardens. We seem to have our fair share of them here but this is not the case apparently in other areas of the country. One of the more frightening statistics comes from a survey of Kensington Gardens in London where the numbers of Sparrows counted have dropped from 2 600 (1925), 885 (1948), 544 (1975) to 8 (2000).

There are many theories as to why the UK's Sparrows have declined so dramatically from about 27 million in the last quarter of the 20th century to the current total of around 13 million but so far nothing conclusive can be drawn. The Independent newspaper has even offered a reward of **£5 000** to anyone who discovers the cause of this decline. Carl and I took part in the count this year and we managed to see 12 birds maximum at any one time in a period of a week. My mum's house in Moray View had even more but then she has a more varied menu of bird food than we do. In her garden the birds get treated to the odd Yorkshire pudding plus the usual stale fruit cakes and even birdseed and nuts!

Our garden in Bridge Street has lately been visited by up to three pairs of **Siskins**. I have heard these birds calling before but this year is the first that I have actually seen them. Siskins are usually associated with conifer plantations so it is good to have them here in Portknockie, where trees are few and far between. It has just occurred to me that maybe they have come along with the fashion for planting *Leylandii* hedging.

Another bird that I got quite excited about was the **Goldfinch**. They are just so beautiful with their red and white faces and gold wing bars and we had two pairs visiting our feeders over a period of a few weeks in the early spring. (Ed. I have also seen these birds on the cliffs near the Meeting Hall along Patrol Road.)

Whilst on the subject of birds but moving away from the garden varieties has anyone else noticed the amazing numbers of **Eider ducks** around our coastline? There seems to be more than ever this year. The male is very attractive with his black and white plumage and pale green nape. They do have the most unusual call though - a sort of cooing as though they have just heard a piece of juicy gossip! They feed entirely on shellfish, especially mussels so their food supply must be abundant for there to be so many here in Portknockie. They lay 4 to 6 eggs and they can live to the ripe old age of 30. (Ed. take a look at the information panel along Patrol Road for further details about the Eiders who nest on the Three Creeks Shore.)

Another fascinating bird around our cliffs is the **Fulmer**. They look a bit gull like but actually they are related to the Albatrosses, which becomes obvious when you see them banking low over the waves looking for food. They will

protect their single egg or chick by spitting out foul smelling oil at any would be attacker. You can see them on all the high cliff ledges around the coastline and hear their cackling calls.

A couple of years ago, after some very stormy weather, we came across a Fulmer near to Jenny's Well that had become waterlogged. It was very cold and weak and Carl managed to get close enough to pick it up and put it up out of harm's way. I am glad to say that next day there was no sign of it so hopefully it had recovered and flown away. Luckily for Carl it had been too weak to spit fishy oil at him!

Another lovely seabird we have here is the **Kittiwake**, which really does say it's own name when it calls. I think they are very pretty birds with their small yellow beaks and very dark eyes. They have short black legs and noticeably black wing tips too. Their nesting sites seem to be on the very steep slopes of Bow Fiddle Rock. They feed on sand eels, which could account for their decline in some areas where there is a shortage of this food. According to the books Kittiwakes spend the winters out in the Atlantic Ocean. Where do they land?

Finally, did anyone see the optical illusion of an oil tanker floating in the sky one Sunday in early April? I came round the headland towards Bow Fiddle Rock and saw the floating ship and for a good few moments my brain could not make sense of what I was seeing ahead of me. Even when I realised that there was a mist causing the illusion I still could not convince my brain!

POETS' CORNER

No poems were offered for this issue! However, to keep the section alive here is an interesting offering that was published in one of our sister village newspapers, the "Dufftown Speirings".

Accountability: A story about people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody.

"There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that, because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought that Anybody could do it but Nobody realised that Everybody would not do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done. Later, Everybody called a meeting but Nobody went."

Good health and thanks to Davie Mair who has since given us permission to use any of his poems, if we are short again.

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WHEN THE LOCAL PAPER "TOLD IT LIKE IT IS." Received through the letterbox at the Bield just as it is!

"The ither nicht Ah wis reddin-oot the dra'ers in an auld desk, far ee're supposed tae ken far athing is fan ee come tae look for thim; bit, fegs, they're nearly aye somewye else, clowtered amang lots o' ither dross that someane has stappet in - jist for a meenittee - tae fin' oot fa's dirlin at the front door, instead o' comin roon tae the back, liftin the sneck, shoutin an speirin "Are ye in?" afore comin ben-a-hoose on hearin "Come away in, an gae's yer claik."

Whither it wis a freen at the back door, or a nae-weel kent body at the front, the stuff in the dra'er wis mair than likely left in tae be seen till later on. Since syne, athings been gaitherin stew, tae swirl aboot wi ma reddin an sortin, and fair makin me sneeze an wheeze; so that Ah hid, perforce, to lay aff fae ma labours, hae a guid blaa tae clear ma snoot, sit doon for a fylie we a wee glessfa to clear ma thrapple, all the better tae read a newspaper cutting which Ah'd jist come across. I hid obviously filed it away, bit surely nae without its source or date? - probably the front door-bell jingled!

At least the fotie-copie des hae the author's name, and that o' the noo-defunct paperie it wis printit in, so hopefully the K'nocker will be able to reprint this fascinatin story of how it came to the licht o' day agin, and its intriguing insights into the daily events, attitudes, personalities and mores, the Claik o' Lang, Lang Syne."

It was signed "Yer Auld Freen, Gersh"

Now was it telling me that I have got this village newspaper thing wrong? Are these the stories you really want in the K'nocker? These extracts have been taken from an article written by Peter Mowat - possibly in the P&J.

Dod's Stoon

Dod Farquhar got a gey fleg fin his gallusses broke and his breeks cam adrift. He telt oor reporter, "I wis tryin on ma new gansey fin something skytit up and dirlid ma lug. Neesht I raxt ma oxtter gitten in a trachle takkin it aff again. I wis fair scunnered."

Droll

A puckle aul craiters were bletherin ower a heech kinna gairden wa' "Z'at you, Maggie Jean?" "No. Z'at you, Leeby?" "No" "Weel wid ye credit that. There's you thinkin it's me and me thinkin it's you and it's neen the twa o's"

Tatties ower the side

The service bus ca'd ower a cairt yestreen fin its hinner ine skiddet in some dubs, coupin the tatties and neeps a' doon the Bakers' Brae. Replyin til the prosecution, the driver said "I hiv a doctor's line t'say I wis in a dwam at the time ower the heeds o'a muckle dunt to ma nib." The Prosecution pointed out that the injury was sustained after, not before, the accident. The driver asked for two previous fences and a dyke to be taken into consideration.

Nature Notes

Plowterin aboot in his back green, the editor heard the first puddock o' spring, then saw it loupin aff an aul kyeest ower a pailin an awa. Or it micht have been a spuggie wi' something the maitter wi't.

Fitba

Portrochie Jags lost 19-0 to Macshooch Dribblers on Saiterday. The skipper's verdict: "It wis sair tyauve. Ah've nae fusion left in ma hochs. Thon geypit nowt in goal wisna muckle ees, wis ee?" Keeper Ogstoon Troot replied: "Och, it's aye me that gits the wight o't."

The Wither

Hale watter dinging doon till it stops. Dreich kine. Starvation, so hap up warm at nicht or ye'll jeel.

THE PORTKNOCKIE DIRECTORY

Police: (Buckie)	832222
(Cullen)	840222
Doctors: (Cullen)	840272
(Buckie)	831555
Seafeld Hospital:	832081
Dr Grays, Elgin: 01343	543131
Aberdeen RI: 01224	681818
Dentist: (Buckie)	831163
Chemist: (Portknockie)	840268
Optician: (Buckie)	832239
Plumber (Portknockie)	840052
Electrician: (Portknockie)	840066
Harbour Garage	840099
Hydro-Electric: (24hrs) 0800	300999
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	543000
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
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Trains:

National Rail Enquiries	0845	748950
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Taxis: (Portknockie)	840875
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Portknockie Post Office	840201
Portknockie School	840244
Portknockie Library	841149
The K'nocker (Bob Croucher)	841291

A FUN QUIZ devised by Pearl Murray, Portknockie's Fun Queen!

Answers to Pearl at 14 Addison Street but please do not argue over the spellings. You have to work out the following anagrams of local landmarks e.g. HTELLBHIIN = The Bin Hill.

- 1 GCASLHTNEERETE
- 2 CDLIRAESEHT
- 3 QGTELUHANAY
- 4 BDLEORDOEWHTKFIC
- 5 DTSRMAAUS
- 6 CHAVTEPEHRACEERS
- 7 LOMOHWSETEHA
- 8 CHTERESKE
- 9 SRTBEHBERAKAE
- 10 DOPRHEYTT
- 11 BEHLEHTLLACOYM
- 12 BBLLDAINNE (one for fun).

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PUBLIC SERVICE MESSAGES:

Meals on Wheels: The call for help item in the Easter K'nocker prompted two local volunteers for this valuable service but more are still needed. It normally involves being on duty one week in four or five and delivering meals to about half a dozen homes in Portknockie on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. It does not take up much time and petrol costs are refunded. If you can help, or would like further information please contact Mrs Margaret Main, 3 Netherton Terrace, Findochty, telephone 832229.

The Queen's Golden Jubilee Award for unsung heroes.

This new annual award recognises groups of people who volunteer their time to help others in their community. If you know of a group who regularly devote their time to helping others, who help improve the quality of life for others

and who have provided an outstanding service for at least three years then nominate them! You can obtain a nomination form from: www.goldenjubileeaward.gov.uk or gaward@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk or by calling 0845 000 2002 or by writing to The Queen's Golden Jubilee Award Office, 19 Allington Street, London SW1E 5EB.

The closing date for nominations this year is 15th September 2003.

Crimestoppers Grampian/Highland, 45 King's Gate, Aberdeen AB15 4EL.
Telephone: 01224 337048 or e-mail crimestoppersnorth@tiscali.co.uk

Crimestoppers is a charity organisation set up to fight crime in the community. It now has a local operation, the first Scottish area to have one. To call anonymously with information about crime you phone the freephone number 0800 555 111. You are not asked for your name, address or any personal details and your call cannot be traced. You are not visited by the police or required to sign a statement or come to court. Because of its anonymity Crimestoppers receives information that is not accessible in any other way. 63% of people arrested as a result of information passed on to Crimestoppers are unknown to the police or not suspected of the crime.

Crimestoppers has been working with young people to make them think about the choices they face in life and the way crime affects their ability to fulfil their dreams. Its next campaign will be "Hands Up", a visual arts project for older people, people with disabilities, lone parents and victims/offenders. Please get in touch, using the Aberdeen number, if you need any more information about how you can help keep your community safe and prosperous.

Alison Chandler, Projects Organiser.

The Moray Council - Local Holidays 2004

The proposed local holidays for Portknockie next year are April 5th, June 14th July 26th, September 6th and October 11th. The May Day Holiday will be observed on Monday 3rd May, 2004. The same set of dates is also proposed for Cullen. Findochty will have similar dates but its June local holiday will be the 7th.

FOUR-FOOTED FRIENDS:

Do you know Benson, Brin, Nelson, Shadow, Sinclair and Woody? You have probably met them along with other four-footed friends in the village and quite likely spoken to them!

A while back **dogskins** were used for fishing net buoys or 'bows' in this and other Moray fishing villages. The Editor has an article on this custom by H.D.Shepherd that was handed in for use in the K'nocker but he is not sure how well it might be received today. Apparently, the dogs were prepared for their after life fishing aid role down in the Three Creeks Shore.

Today we rather fuss over our dogs and a survey of **200 000 UK pet owners** has found that we now prefer to give our animals human names. The top dogs' names this year are Ben, Sam, Max, Toby, Holly, Charlie, Lucy, Barney, Bonnie and Sophie! Only a few eccentrics name their dogs Rebel, Spartacus or Attila - the latter was quite incongruous on a geriatric dog! A senior lecturer in psychology at Edinburgh University has said he believes owners are increasingly treating their animal relationships like human ones. Pets can be looked upon as baby substitutes and people respect animals more now than past generations did. **What do think about that?**

HAME COOKING:

We used to run a recipe section. Now a request has come in to locate some biscuits that were popular some 50 years back. Were they called "Gamrie Knotties" or something like? There is also a rumour about a soft biscuit speciality from Cullen. Anyone know about these biscuits and can provide a recipe for "**Sweet-tooth of Portknockie?**"

KIN E' MINE THIS? THE YEAR 1953:

Rail excursions from Portknockie to Aberdeen ever Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday were 9 shillings (45p in our money!)

At the School Prize-giving Mr Moyes, Rev J Robertson, Provost & Mrs Sudding presented prizes to the Dux, Eunice Sutherland with 2nd Doris Wood and 3rd Alexander Pirie. A special Bible prize was presented to Lilian A Wood. Prizes for perfect attendance went to Mary Jane

Mair (4), David Pirie (5) and Mary Mowat (7 years!).

The Gala Queen was Miss Mary Slater of High Street with attendants, Marka Mair of New Street and Doris Wood, Jubilee Terrace. (this is now called Craigview Road - Ed)

You could order a Made-to-Measure suit from Hepworths in Buckie for £8-15s to £12-15s.

A 17 year old Troop Leader, William Addison obtained the Queen's Scout badge.

Council Rates were down by 10d! Now 18s-8d against 19s-6d the previous year.

1973:

Robin Hill, a Midlothian Company was keenly interested in a proposed development project for the harbour area. It lodged an application with Banff County Council for "planning permission in principle" for the development of sailing facilities, Association accommodation and residential property. Plans could be viewed at Portknockie Post Office. The proposal included plans for holiday flatlets, a hotel, club and restaurant and the maintenance and servicing of boats. After much debate this proposal was rejected by the Council.

At a ceremony arranged by Buckie High School's Conservation Club (one of whom was Lorna Donaldson) 3 trees, donated by Seafield Estate' were planted in Samson Place and Station Road by Provost William Mair. The Provost expressed the hope that they would be allowed to grow and add to the burgh's already scenic beauty.

A new Chrysler 180 car could be purchased for £1 598.02p from Millbank Garage, Buckie.

Joint winners of the Dux this year were James A Bruce and James Slater.

Tenders amounting to £63 436 were placed for the erection of 10 houses to fit into gap sites in the village - 8 in Admiralty Street and 1 block (2 apartments) in Reidhaven Street.

There was a record entry of 70 Pairs at the Portknockie Bowling Club Annual "Pot Luck" competition.

Spend £1 on groceries in the Co-op and you could purchase a bag of sugar for 8p! Bells Whisky was £2-40p, Martini was 89p and Smirnoff Vodka was £2-64p.

(researches by Margret Wood).

SHEAR DEZIGN

Hair by Lisa

Open Tuesday - Saturday with late night Thursdays.

Phone 841711 for an appointment

WHAT'S ON IN THE PORT:

Portknockie Best-kept Garden Challenge:

This year's competition will be judged on Saturday 2nd August. Every nominated garden is visited by the judges and each one awards up to 10 marks for Floral Display (variety of plants, colour, condition) and 10 marks for Visual impact (design layout, co-ordination, ideas).

There are **4 categories for nomination:**

Best Private Garden - a cup with runner up plaque. **Best Council Garden** with cup and runner up plaque. **Small space display** plaque and the **Best front of house** hanging basket or pot display. This is a new category this year to encourage street displays. Please note the Small space category covers very tiny garden areas or door stop and patio displays only.

Up to **10 Commendation Certificates** are also awarded to displays that reach the highest standard. There are also **4 Community Awards**, two for voluntary effort to our "Village in Bloom" preparations and two for outstanding support provided by local businesses.

This year the Awards presentation will take place in the garden of the Private Garden cup winner.

To nominate an entrant to our Garden Challenge simply hand in a slip with the details of name and address to any of the Community Councillors. This list will be closed on Saturday 26th July. Do tell those you nominate that the judges will be trying to get in to see their garden!

Portknockie Seniors had a lovely bus run on the 10th June to the Falls of Shin with a high tea in Tain. There was some serious spending in the local branch of Harrods! On the 5th August an

open to all run to Kirkaldy is planned with a high tea at Coupar Angus - notices are in the shops for further details. **16th August** - a date for your diary - it's the joining night for the Seniors' next year meetings. All are very welcome.

Fishing is getting more bureaucratic by the day - foreigners seem to be allowed to do what they like while our boats are harangued by rules and regulations. On a lighter note a few mackerel have been seen by some of the local boats so, hopefully a good season will prevail in the next few weeks.

Church of Scotland Sunday School: Sarah Reid , aged 8 writes - "On Saturday 21st June we went to Garmouth for our Sunday School Picnic. There were two buses from Portknockie and one from Findochty. We had ice cream, sausage rolls, crisps, juice and home bakes. We did the sack race and tattie and spoon race. There was a race where you had to put on a hat and some clothes then crawl under a net and through a hoop. There was a three-legged race for the adults. We played rounders, football and played in the park. The weather was nice. It was good and I had fun." Sarah.

The Sunday School Prize Giving was the next day during our Family Service. The children sang some new songs and said poems. At the end of the service the children all received a book. Well done kids for your excellent behaviour throughout the whole weekend. The Sunday School will restart at the end of August - look out for our posters. Any queries ring Val on 841240

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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's available on the internet at www.Portknockiewebsite.com This paper is for the village and its friends. We want memories, comments, ideas, complaints and praise, where it is due. Hand in articles to the Library or to "The Bield", Harbour Place. Try not to wait until the last minute!

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PORTKNOCKIE SCHOOL NEWS

June 25th was the School Sports day and the Closing Service and Prize Giving takes place on Thursday July 3rd. The last day of the 2003 session will be a Games Day and "come as you please". All pupils will be dismissed at 2.30pm.

School restarts for pupils on Tuesday 19th August at the usual time. Although the School Roll has fallen again we should stay at four classes which will be P1/2 with Mrs Hall; P3/4 to be announced; P5 with Mrs Walker and P6/7 with Mrs Thain.

LATE NOTE: Moray Transport Initiative, a project of Moray Voluntary Service Organisation is developing a Service Directory of all transport provision in Moray. Your help is sought in identifying bodies who either own or have access to mini-buses or who run car share schemes.

The published Service Directory will include information about scheduled buses and trains, school buses, patient transport services and the availability of mini-buses, taxis and car sharing schemes. It will also provide details about who is eligible for which service. The idea is to have a one-stop number contact for information about any form of local transport service.

The first version of this Directory is planned for July 2003 and will go out for consultation shortly after this. It would be most helpful if you could provide any relevant information as soon as possible. The Directory will come in paper and electronic formats.

Moray Transport Initiative is based at the MSVO office at 30-32 High Street Elgin. Elaine M Cooper, the Co-ordinator can be contacted on 01343 541713. She is in the office Wednesday to Friday from 0900-3.00pm. or on transport.mvso@moray.gov.uk