

## GRANT HALL 100th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION!

### History of the Hall

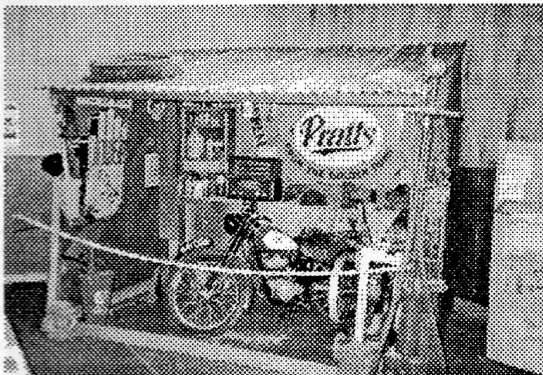
Built in 1898 as a new Town Hall, its use for this purpose was very short lived, only twenty years, before The Town Hall (Rothes) Ltd. went bankrupt. It was then bought by the T.A. who used it until the 1960's and then followed a period of disuse.

In 1968 the Rothes and District Community Association was formed after two public meetings called by the Rothes Town Council and a plebiscite.

There followed a period of extensive fund raising and with some funds in hand Mr. R.J. Cumming, Banff, was approached regarding his property at 6 - 16 High Street which was considered a suitable site for a new hall. After correspondence, meeting and discussion Mr. Cumming donated the property for a new hall, the only snag being two sitting tenants in the block.

It then came to light that the 'Drill Hall' was available and was bought by the R&DCA in the early 1970's for £1400. It was extensively renovated with grant assistance and became a community centre when completed in 1977 and continued as such until reorganisation of Local Governments in 1996 when Local Authority funding was no longer available. It was handed back to the people of Rothes who renamed it The Grant Hall in memory of three sisters named Grant who had left money for a new hall in the 1930's.

To mark the 100th birthday of The Grant Hall - (the memorial stone was laid by Mrs. Grant, Glen Grant on 4th June 1898) - a Centenary Exhibition was organised.



Raymond & Craig's Popular Display

The event was a great success and much enjoyed by over 300 visitors from a wide section of the community and many ex-Rothesians who returned for a nostalgic visit. The event realised over £600 which will go towards Hall funds. The cake donated by Walkers Shortbread Ltd. who also celebrated their centenary recently, was won by Helen and Robbie Mackie, Land Street, Rothes.

The organisers are grateful to everyone who helped with or donated items for the exhibition. In addition, special thanks go to Raymond McDonald and Graig McGregor for the garage display, Graham Jefferson, Betty Johnston and Sheila Brumby for the photographs, Rothes Primary School for their frieze and Rachel Paul for her efforts designing the stage and wall displays.

By popular request, the Hall Committee will be giving some thought to a future similar event, probably an extended edition for the millennium.

### VISITORS' CENTRE

Rothes Visitors' Centre is open once again for the months of July and August. This year the Chivas and Glenlivet Group has generously offered the use of 72 New Street (formerly Sissortrix) for the two months.

The Visitors' Centre provides information on transport services, local B&B and hotels plus recreational facilities within and without the Speyside area.

It is hoped that we can also display some of the pictures of Rothes Past and Present as this was very successful at a Coffee Day earlier in the year.

Plans have also been mooted to hold a quiz (or quizzes) about Rothes - something which would suit all ages.

There is a 'Good as New' in the same building, with proceeds going towards the running costs and excess going towards the purchase of Church Hall tables.

The centre is manned entirely by volunteers. If you think you could give up two hours or even one hour each week, or be a reserve, please contact Sheila Brumby on 831 588 or Betty Johnston on 831 550.

# SCHOOL NEWS

## Speyside High School

A large number of Rothes children received awards at the Speyside High School end of term Award Ceremony. Congratulations to them all.

### **Awards for Attainment**

#### *First year*

Gavin MacPhee, Leanne Barry

#### *Second Year*

Louise Borthwick

Scott Bremner

Marjorie Johnston, Kirsty Shortreed

### **Awards for Application in Second Year**

Mhorag Catto, Ruth Smith

### **Awards for Attainment in Third Year Standard Grade Courses**

Kevin Allan, Ryan Bruce, Scott Geddes, Kevin Shortreed, Lori Walters

### **Awards for Application in Third Year**

Leanne MacKenzie, Amanda Kilgour, Michelle Simpson

### **Awards for Application in Fourth Year**

Alan MacPhee

### **Awards for Attainment in Fifth Year**

Jaimie Cameron, Catriona Graham, Nicola Kelman, Scott Shearer

### **Awards for Attainment in Sixth Year**

Tracy Mitchell, Susan Webster

### **Awards for Application in Sixth Year**

Dawn Webster, Mark Watt

### **Awards for Sporting Achievement**

#### *Winners of Scottish Volleyball Association National Festival*

Elaine Borthwick, Jaimie Cameron

#### *Runners-up in Second Year Highland Hockey Tournament*

Fiona Webster, Emma Henderson, Jayne Mitchell

### **The Recycling Group**

David Hunter, Christopher Baker

### **The Young Enterprise Exam - Pass with Credit**

Jaimie Cameron, Gary Rizza

### **Engineering Project Crest Gold Award**

John Duncan, Mark Watt

### **Records of Achievement**

Tracy Mitchell

### **The Florence Gillies Prize**

Mark Watt

## BROWNIES COMEBACK

Please note that Brownies will commence their new session on Thursday 27th August at Rothes Primary School

## Rothes Primary School

Congratulations must also go to the following Rothes Primary School pupils who received the following awards:

### **Certificates of Effort:**

|    |                    |    |                |
|----|--------------------|----|----------------|
| P1 | Kaeleigh Thomson   | P2 | Chloe McDonald |
| P3 | Alexander Hutcheon | P4 | Brian Thomson  |
| P5 | Barry Johnston     | P6 | Samantha Imray |

**Award for Home Economics** Gemma Murphy

**Citizenship Quaich**

Julie Henderson

## **Rothesian Dies at 100**

John Stuart Craigie died peacefully last week at the Isobel Fraser Home in Inverness having just celebrated his 100th birthday.

Born in Rothes on 13th June 1898, his father was the village barber, John attended Rothes School before starting work with the Inland Revenue. Under age, he joined up in World War I with the Seaforth Highlanders as a signaller and served on the Western Front.

After demob he resumed his career, eventually becoming a tax inspector. After World War II he was involved with the complex task of reorganising the tax structure and helped set up a system which is still used for taxing Members of Parliament.

His wife, Margaret died in 1977 and for the past nine years John lived at the Isobel Fraser Home.

Throughout his life, John was interested in wildlife and residents at the Isobel Fraser Home fondly knew him as The Bird Man because of his remarkable ability to communicate with wild birds around the home.

Mr. Craigie never forgot his Rothes roots and maintained a strong interest in the life of the village. He made generous donations to The Grant Hall and to Rothes Primary School and will be remembered with affection by all who knew him.



# THE CASTLEHILL FEASIBILITY STUDY

Touchstone Heritage Management Consultants were asked by the Rothes Council to carry out a study into the feasibility of running a Visitors' Centre in Rothes for the benefit of tourists and of making the Castle Hill site and ruins a visitor attraction. They were also asked to investigate all possible sites for the Centre with their recommendations for the best site, how such a visitors' centre could be funded and run and what could be done with the Castlehill to make it attractive for visitors.

An interim report was received in April and was discussed widely with members of the Rothes Council and of the Grant Hall Committee as the Grant Hall was one of the sites considered. The Parish Church Board was also in discussion with the Grant Hall Committee and the Rothes Council as the old Free Church in the High Street might prove to be a better site for a Community Hall to cover all the needs of Rothes.

A meeting was held with Mr. Michael Glen of Touchstone and Mr. Sam Russell of Law & Dunbar Naismith, Architects, on 18th June and various points raised in the interim report were discussed. The second part of the study which will identify how the capital cost of a Visitors' Centre can be raised and the best way to finance the running of it should be completed by the end of July.

It will then be up to the people of Rothes to decide which of the various options would be the best.

## CASTLEHILL SHELTER

A meeting will be arranged with The Moray Council at the Castlehill site to discuss possible improvements to the shelter. If you have any views about how it could be improved or have any old photos of the shelter and site from bygone years please let us know.

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## SENIOR CITIZENS

On Tuesday 19th May, 71 of us set off for Dingwall where we enjoyed a lovely meal. For some, the shops were to be the next stop while others were happy to enjoy sitting in the sunshine watching the world go by.

We then left for the Mosset Tavern, Forres where we had afternoon tea then weary, but happy we made our way home!

### SCHOOL REUNION

Graham Jefferson has organised a reunion of Rothes School pupils from 1957 on Saturday 26th September.

## FLOODING UPDATE!

At the June meeting of the Rothes Council, members of the public affected by flooding problems came along to listen to and put their points forward to representatives of the Moray Council and North of Scotland Water Authority (NOSWA). Mr. Ritchie of Moray Council explained that a damaged drain at the Filling Station was in the process of being repaired, several ditches had been cleaned and others had been earmarked for cleaning. The Council are aware that water courses from the hill are changing and more work is being done to get a clearer picture of the changes. Mr. Ritchie also agreed to meet with residents of Burnside Street to discuss problems in that area and also to investigate the burn area beyond Provost Christie Drive.

Mr. G. Low of NOSWA explained that one of the problems in the Land Street area was the dual use of sewer drains for surface water, a problem which crops up in older sewage systems.

Both gentlemen agreed that this was a joint problem for their authorities but one they were prepared to work on to reach a solution.

Members of the public got an opportunity to ask questions and to give information which was helpful to all parties concerned.

Moray Council have set up a Flood Prevention Working Party to collect information and set a programme for future flooding works. This group has met several times and it is proposed to spend £24,000 of this year's revenue budget on the Rothes problems with £9,000 being considered for next year's revenue budget. £18,000 of this money is being used to separate the sewage and surface water in Land Street which is a joint scheme with NOSWA who have expressed their commitment to these works although final confirmation is still awaited. £2,000 is for A941 south ditches, £3,000 for Burnside Street / Burn of Rothes and £1,000 plus £9,000 being considered for next year's revenue budget for land acquisition and ditching south of Land Street. A more costly capital budget scheme is being investigated for the Rothes Burn but as the total capital costs required for Flood Prevention in Moray is around £9 million, the timescale for this scheme is unlikely to be clear cut at this time.

Meetings between Moray Council and the Scottish Office to discuss possible grant aid for this problem are ongoing - Council policy has been agreed that all communities involved be kept informed of short and long term plans.

Mr. Ritchie has requested an opportunity to again meet with the Rothes Council and the public; this will be arranged for a meeting after the summer recess.

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## ROTHES MEDICAL CENTRE

An Autoclave Steriliser at a cost of £2,100 has been purchased by the medical centre as a result of recent donations from the community. Dr. Johnston and staff are extremely grateful for the donations from the public which made the purchase of this important equipment possible.

## **ROTHES GALA**

Iain Paul, Chairman of the Gala Committee would like to thank all who helped to make this year's Gala another successful programme of events. The help and donations given by individuals, organisations, groups, the local Primary School, local firemen and businesses play a vital role in the success of the Gala and this participation is greatly appreciated by the Gala Committee.

For this year's Gala new equipment was bought which included new flags for around the town.

The Committee were delighted to have local lad, Scott Brown of Grampian Television to open this year's Gala Day which proved to be extremely successful in spite of the cold weather. Scott also judged the Fancy Dress competition where the winners were:

|           |                              |
|-----------|------------------------------|
| Best Girl | Shannon MacKenzie            |
| Best Boy  | Corrie MacKenzie             |
| Best Pair | Corrie Warwick & Dog Trapper |

Best Group Playgroup

Other winners were:

### **Pet Show**

|                      |                                    |
|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1st Prize £5 voucher | Afghan belonging to Mrs Crooks     |
| 2nd Prize £3 voucher | Peke belonging to Mrs Gray         |
| 3rd Prize £2 voucher | Alsation belonging to Mrs Chisholm |

Other Prizes included:

|                     |                                      |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Happiest Dog        | Collie belonging to Lynne Martin     |
| Most Obedient Dog   | Westie belonging to Mrs MacGillivray |
| Dog most like owner | Belonging to Jenny Paterson          |
| Most Showiest Dog   | Belonging to Inez MacKenzie          |
| Best Cat            | Belonging to Julie Henderson         |
|                     | Ben Aigan Hotel                      |

### **Interpub Challenge**

#### **Raffle**

|                   |                |
|-------------------|----------------|
| £100              | Denise Clyne   |
| Gallon Whisky     | Mike Mitchell  |
| £50               | Mr. J. Eadie   |
| Meal - Glen Hotel | Scott Munro    |
| Walkers Hamper    | Peter MacGowan |

Plus various other prizes

### **Treasure Hunt:**

1. The Pretty Paulies
2. The Pagnies
3. Lynne's Layabouts and Chris

The Treasure Hunt had a total of eighteen teams entered and the Fun Run had over ninety entrants. Other events which saw a large turnout were the Prize Bingo and the School Ceilidh.

The Gala this year had realised a sum of over £5,500 from which expenses have to be deducted, however, some money is still outstanding and a final figure of just under £4,000 is forecast.

It would be helpful to the committee if any outstanding Fun Run money could be handed in to Iain Paul, 23 Seafeld Square as soon as possible.

A meeting of the Gala Committee will be arranged for August when a final figure will be announced.

## **NEWS OF THE MAJORETTES**

1998 began for the Majorettes with their monthly trip to Glenrothes Festivals where the girls were very successful. March took them to Berwick upon Tweed where they stayed for a week long festival. Each day the girls compete in different events and the totals are collected for the presentation on Thursday. The girls were very successful with each one receiving overall trophy for her age group and Leigh Fenton age 8 receiving overall trophy for her age group plus the Berwick Juvenile Champion Trophy plus the Festival Sash. As a village, we should be very proud of all our young girls representing Speyside so well.

The Majorettes have performed many displays in the area as well as further afield including: Inch Gala, Portsoy Gala, Dufftown Gala, Cooper Park Elgin, Archiestown Fete, Walkers Centenary Day, Aberlour Hospital and Grantown on Spey. A Majorette Camp is proposed in October which will be held in Elgin for around 15 Majorette Troups from around Scotland and will culminate in a festival in Elgin Town Hall.

The Majorettes are desperately in need of new outfits which will cost around £1,000. A fund raising weekend has been organised on 21/22/23 August starting with a Talent Show. A Coffee Morning with sandwiches and a sweet will take place on Saturday with the annual fete on Sunday. Do come along and support the Majorettes.

## **QUIZ ANSWERS**

Here are the answers to the Grant Hall Centenary Quiz which appeared in our last edition

The centenary of the Grant Hall is this year, but what is the exact date of the laying of the Foundation Stone?

*Answer: 4th June 1898*

Who laid that Foundation Stone and where did they live?

*Answer: Mrs. Grant, Glen Grant*

What happened in the Seafeld Square area on 1st. May 1982?

*Answer: Opening of the Anvil Gardens*

What was originally on the site opposite what is now the Rothies FC Social Club?

*Answer: J.A. Grant, Wheelwright and Blacksmith*

The Rothies Coat of Arms is displayed outside the Burgh Chambers, but which family shares it with Rothies?

*Answer: Leslie*

What does S.P.E.A.R. stand for?

*Answer: Society for Preservation and Enhancement of the Amenities of Rothies*

# CAUGHT Do you remember Rothes Cinema?

The recent Centenary / Museum / Exhibition in the Grant Hall brought to mind happy memories for many Rothesians and ex-Rothesians. Among those was ex Rothesian Sandy Buchannan of Elgin who has many happy memories of the *Roths Pictures* which were for many years held in the old Church Hall and were attended by young and old alike.

Sandy went to the Roth's Pictures the evening before leaving to start his National Service duty and was given a programme by a friend of the films to be shown during the summer months of 1950.

During his National Service with the 1st Battalion, Seaforth Highlanders, he carried the programme with him to Malaysia and his various postings which included Temerloh, Kuantan and Tapah. On through the years he kept this reminder of his picture going days in Roth's.

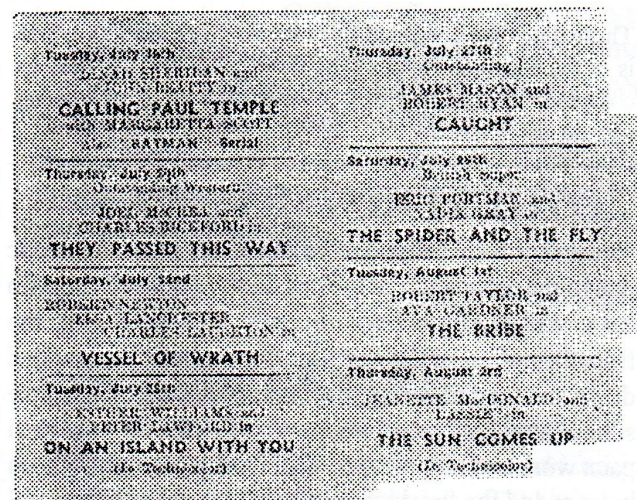
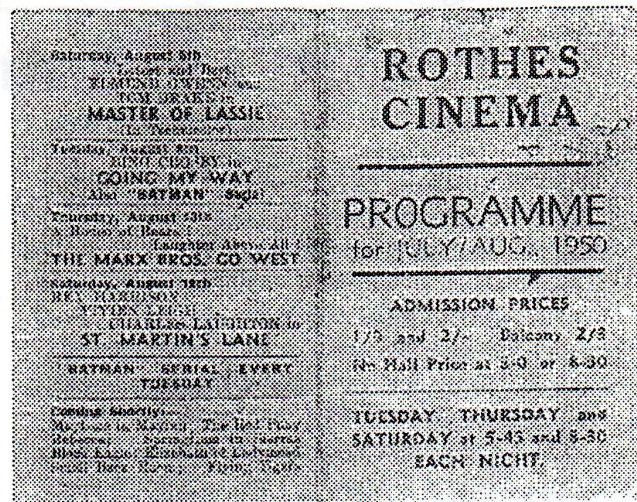
When the Centenary Exhibition was advertised recently, that programme of nearly fifty years ago triggered some happy memories for Sandy.

The old coal stoves with their high chimneys and double doors which had to be topped up during the show. The Caretaker, the late Bess Balfour's uncanny knack of refuelling the stoves when the picture was at an exciting bit and the howls of protest from the audience, especially the young ones when the clatter of coal drowned out the dialogue.

Despite the stoves, some of the girls had devised other means of keeping warm! They arrived at the pictures with leather shopping bags with their hot water bottles hidden away inside. The boys got great fun from guessing which of the lassies engrossed in the film had their feet tucked cosily inside a shopping bag!

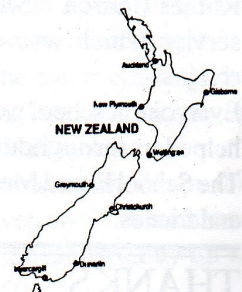
Sandy recalls that the first picture shown in Roth's was *Nanook of the North* but he cannot remember what the last picture was or for how long the picture house was in operation. Perhaps this copy of Sandy's programme will remind some former picture goers of the films they saw. If you have any happy memories of the *Roth's Pictures*, if you can tell us the name of the last film or if you know how long the *Pictures* were in Roth's, please let us know before the next edition of the Rothesian.

Please contact Pearl Paul, 56 Land Street or Sandra Ross, Coronado, Spey Street.



## DOWN UNDER

Bernadette Rout the neice of Sandy Taylor, North Street, Roth's has been on holiday with her husband and two daughters. Bernadette, the daughter of Ivy Taylor and granddaughter of the late Sandy and Mary Taylor, 52 Land Street, left Roth's forty years ago when she was six years old to live in New Zealand. This is her first visit home. Bernadette's son Jonathan came to visit Roth's a year ago where he met Karen Shanks of Aberlour. They were married in early July and have now left to take up residence in New Zealand's North Island where Jonathan's family and grandmother Ivy still live.



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

|                |                                                                                                                       |
|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 18th July      | Coffee Morning at Linnburn                                                                                            |
| 25th July      | Dufftown Games                                                                                                        |
| 25th July      | Golf Club Ladies Section Bingo                                                                                        |
| 1st Aug        | Aberlour Games                                                                                                        |
| 3rd Aug        | Judging of Best Kept Village in Moray                                                                                 |
| 4th Aug        | Roths Judging of Best Kept Village in Moray                                                                           |
| 9th / 10th Aug | Keith Show                                                                                                            |
| 16th Aug       | Roths F.C. Funday at McKessack Park                                                                                   |
| 18th Aug       | Schools reopen for new session                                                                                        |
| 21 Aug         | Majorette Talent Show                                                                                                 |
| 22 Aug         | Majorette Coffee Morning                                                                                              |
| 23 Aug         | Majorette Annual Fete                                                                                                 |
| 30th Aug       | Treasure Hunt and BBQ for<br>Roths School PTA Funds                                                                   |
| 5th Sept       | Roths Flower Show in Grant Hall                                                                                       |
| 3rd Oct        | Silver Jubilee Dufftown Highland Dance<br>Festival - Whisky Festival at Dufftown<br>Quiz Night in Roths at Grant Hall |
| 31st Oct       | Roths School PTA Coffee Morning                                                                                       |

These dates are compiled from the Roth's Calendar which is in the entrance foyer of the Grant Hall and are held on computer by Sandra Ross. If you have an event coming up, do get in touch.

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## **ROTHS PRIMARY NEWS**

The end of term proved to be especially busy and hectic due to the renovation of the hall floor. Those of you who have visited the school recently will have seen the transformation of the corridor floor after it was sanded down and treated during the Easter Holidays. The whole school now looks very impressive and the new external paint work and outdoor play area for the younger children have added the finishing touches. We are now hopeful that the playground will be resurfaced sometime soon.

The poor weather delayed many of our end of term activities but sports day and nursery mini sports eventually took place during the last week.

The classes enjoyed visits to The Rainbow Castle in Elgin, The Buckie Drifter, Archaeolink and Leith Hall and our end of term service and award ceremony was held in Roth's Church. Mr. Warwick led a most memorable service which was especially appreciated by the P7 children.

Everyone at school would like to thank all those who have helped us throughout the year especially Mr. Warwick, The School Board Members, members of the PTA, parents and friends.

## **THE HONEYPOT PLAYGROUP**

The Honey Pot Playgroup has evolved from the well established Dormar Playgroup, and meets three times a week upstairs in the Grant Hall in Roth's.

The aims of the group are to provide a safe, friendly and stimulating environment for 3 - 5 year olds to learn through play and interaction with others of a similar age.

The management of the group is undertaken by the parents of attending children in combination with the play leaders who are employees of the group.

The Honey Pot Playgroup is completely self funding. Fees are kept to a minimum and regular fund raising events are organised to replace equipment, pay for parties and outings and maintain the low fees.

Playgroup terms mirror the local school terms, taking all local holidays.

Office bearers are elected at the AGM which was held this year on 24th June.

Contact Jean Richardson for further information.

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## **ROTHS GOLF CLUB**

Roth's Golf Club is hoping to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the opening of the course by opening a new club house.

Planning approval has been granted to replace the existing, 25 year old prefabricated building with a new one incorporating the refurbished and renovated Blackhall Farmhouse, the cost of the project being in the region of £150,000 which includes an upgraded access road. Fund-raising efforts are well under way and include grants of £30,000 from the Foundation of Sport and the Arts and of £73,000 from the Scottish Sports Council Lottery Fund (i.e. The National Lottery). Approaches to local businesses have been made and help or offers of help have so far been received from Walkers and Cutty Sark; the LEC have indicated that they should be able to make a grant when our final costings are known.

The new club house will complete stage three of our development following the laying out of the course and the acquisition of the ground but extension to a full eighteen holes is unlikely in the foreseeable future owing to lack of contiguous ground.

New members are always welcome and at £75 per annum, with reductions for families, Senior Citizens, 'Country' members and Juniors, the fees represent good value. Jock Eddie, 1 Forsyth Avenue is Treasurer and will be pleased to give you an application form.

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## **THANKS**

This edition of The Roth'sian has been produced by:

*Sandra Ross, Pearl Paul, Jean Allan, Ann Appleford & Hamish Taylor*