



# Auchenblae Messenger

Founded in 1999 by Donald B. Rennie

Spring "Bumper" Edition

VOLUME 20 ISSUE 1

MARCH 2018

## From The Editor

I do urge you all to read the poems written by the children in P7 and p2/3. The standard was very high. We have some very talented children in Auchenblae. As you can see there is a vey varied programme of events coming up in the next few months. I have heard it said "Auchenblae is boring!" Surely not. There is something for everyone out there.

Do try to find us on line . We look quite spectacular. [www.mearns.org](http://www.mearns.org)  
I will be collecting for the June issue in mid May and can be contacted at [barpolly-bar@gmail.com](mailto:barpolly-bar@gmail.com)

Note from Kevin—we still have a problem with the Messenger printer and so, once again this issue is electronic. If you know of anybody without access to the internet and would like a 'hard' copy please contact me—  
[kevin@auenblae.com](mailto:kevin@auenblae.com)

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## Memo Date

The Next Memo is scheduled for May 2018 if you have any upcoming event dates please send them to :  
[auchenblae\\_memo@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:auchenblae_memo@hotmail.co.uk) or call Lindsay on **01561 320242**. by 20th May 2018

Please see an important message on page 7 about the future of The Messenger

## Auchenblae Guild

Unfortunately we had to cancel our January meeting, not the weather this time, but the rather nasty flu that was doing the rounds. To make up for it we have some exciting times ahead. On Wednesday 21st March Rebecca Tennant is coming from Edinburgh to talk to us about the very valuable work that Crossreach do. They are the social work arm of the Church of Scotland. I have been told that the talk will be very inspiring. We invite anyone in the community to come along to the Church, not the Church Hall for 2.00pm on that day. You do not have to be a regular attender at Church, or a Guild member. You are all very welcome.

In April, as well as our regular meeting on the 18th, which will be a "show and tell" session, as well as our AGM we have something special lined up for all. On the 27th and 28th April we are holding a wedding dress festival in the Church. We are inviting anyone who might have a wedding dress we could borrow, or bridesmaids dresses, accessories, a christening gown made from a wedding dress, albums and photos, to please contribute to this occasion. We promise to take good care of them. This is to replace our usual spring coffee morning although refreshments will be served in the Church Hall.

We do hope that as many people as possible will join us. Both will be very interesting.

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**Kincardine and Mearns Citizens Advice Bureau (KAMCAB) runs an outreach appointment service at Laurencekirk Medical Centre every Thursday mornings.**



**NEAR  
FOR  
YOU**

We are here to offer free, confidential, independent and impartial advice and can advise on the following: Debt and money, Benefits, Employment, Housing, Consumer, Utility and Relationship issues.

To make an appointment please call the Stonehaven office on **01569 766578**

# Mothers Day Afternoon Tea

**Sunday 11th March 2018  
2pm-6pm  
Auchenblae Village Hall**

**Afternoon Tea, Prosecco  
Pamper & more**

Lots of delicious cakes, scones, savoury sandwiches, tea & coffee as well as a glass of bubbly or alternative soft drink.

(Additional Glass of prosecco £3.50\*)

Pamper yourself with a Gel Nail application available on the day from **Studio M**  
(By appointment \*)

Photo packages from **Laura Walter Photography** also available to capture a moment from your day  
(By appointment\*)

**A fundraiser for Auchenblae Tennis Club**

**Raffle on the day**

**Tickets available from Isabelle's Pop-up Catering 07740704548**

**£15 per person for Afternoon Tea & Prosecco**

**\*additional charges apply for Gel Nail application, Photography Package & additional glasses of Prosecco**

## Auchenblae Friendship Group



"Friendship cheers like a sunbeam; charms like a good story; inspires like a brave leader; binds like a golden chain."

We have been very lucky so far this winter and have not yet had to cancel any meetings, in spite of the very cold weather. We are always reluctant to cancel as we enjoy getting together so much, but we do have to think about safety, especially as quite a few of us now have mobility problems. If there is any black ice around we cancel.

We are definitely non-PC. We greet each other with hugs when we meet. Some may call it harassment. We call it acknowledging that everyone needs a hug. With so many living in isolation these days it could well be the only hugs they get. We still have new members joining us but there is always room for more. We never turn anyone away. Do join us for the three Fs, FRIENDSHIP, FELLOWSHIP and FUN. Ask any member about us or phone **Barbara on 320911**.

"There is no desire so deep as the simple desire for companionship."

## Auchenblae Community Association



The Auchenblae Gala week commences Sunday 20th May with an event on most nights ending with The official Gala Day @ The Den on Saturday 26th May.

If you or your group would be interested in hosting an event on one of the days please get in touch. Any profits you might make from your event would be yours to keep but we do ask for a donation to the Auchenblae Community Association. A couple of the dates are booked already. Looking forward to some new ideas and different events.

Please contact **Isabelle 07740 704548** for more information or to register your interest.



# **Auchenblae Den Work Day**

## **Saturday 24th March 10am**

### **If you use the Den we could use your help!**

The Auchenblae Parks Committee kindly ask for a few hours of your help in tidying and maintaining the Den & Play park. There are loads of jobs to do, whatever your age or experience.

If possible please bring tools - wheel barrows, lawn rakes, forks, wellies, rubber gloves, spades & secateurs. There is a list of jobs available for guidance.

Lots of the wooden equipment requires a coat of preservative and the wooden benches require painting so if this is something you fancy remember to bring a boiler suit!

**A FREE lunch is available on the day with tea/coffee & cake breaks whenever you need one - the kettle is always on!**

**If the weather is too bad on Saturday we will try again on Sunday 25th March.**

**For more information Contact Isabelle 07740704548**

## INVITING YOU TO TRY BOWLS AT AUCHENBLAE DEN

One of Auchenblae's treasures is our own lawn Bowling Green in the Den - OPEN daily to young and older folk in the village to enjoy from mid-April to September

Individuals and families - DO come and try the game of bowls! Will you give it a go this summer?



Auchenblae Bowling Club wants more members and will give you a warm welcome.

No special kit is needed - just flat shoes or trainers with a very flat base (i.e. not deep ridged soles). The club has spare bowls to let you try. Just wear whatever you're comfortable in for walking and light activity – NO special clothing.

Bowls is gentle exercise. A game can be short – or as long as you choose in a variety of ways of playing -singles, doubles, trios & team game that's fun for mixed abilities.

We hope more families - parents with young children or teenage youngsters will try out the green and the fun of bowling.

If you want to try it on your own with individual help at a quiet time - a club member will be happy to arrange this for you.

If you want to bring the kids and learn it as a team game, club members will be happy to welcome you at a time to suit on a weekend or weekday to help you get going.

We plan to open the bowling green in the last week of April - weather permitting.

Meanwhile to find out more, contact: Auchenblae Bowling Club via:

**Anne Matthews on 07552 952 006 or [anne.am.am@gmail.com](mailto:anne.am.am@gmail.com)**

**or George Wilson on 01561 321174 or 07985593374**

**or <https://www.facebook.com/auchenblaebowling/>**

## IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM THE PUBLISHER (Kevin)

You will have noticed that this is the second issue that has been distributed electronically. This is due to a major failing in the printer that the team use to print The Messenger. I'm pretty sure it is terminal or at least quite expensive to fix. Through generous donations & a few grants ( and sometimes my own money ) I have managed to keep this aging printer going for the last few years. It was 5 years old when it was donated and in IT terms is probably beyond economic repair. I have been unable to persuade a professional company to even look at it for free but my description of the problem has received the same response—"expensive!"

In the meantime I have published the last two issues on the [www.mearns.org](http://www.mearns.org) website that is maintained solely for The Messenger. I have offered ( again at my expense) to run off a few hard copies for people who are not able to access the internet. So far I have had only one request.

I have had many suggestions on a solution but, trust me, I believe I have explored all avenues. Here are some facts to help you understand what we are up against. These are for The Messenger only:

Copies printed annually:  $4 \times 275 = 1100$  copies = 13,200 A4 pages equivalent  
Cost per page (colour) 3p = 36p per copy = £99.00 per issue = £396 per year excluding maintenance & capital cost of printer.

Grants from the like of the Midhill fund can only be obtained for capital cost of equipment not running costs.

Obtaining donations from local companies is getting more difficult. I already go round with the begging bowl for other groups and you can only ask so many times. I manage to get donations of paper which keeps us going from hand to mouth.

Yes, there are cheap printers out there but we need a laser printer that will survive 13,000+ copies a year and that means paying a lot more than your average home printer costs. Add A3 paper and the costs become untenable.

I would hate to see the Messenger fold but in my professional opinion it is time to bite the bullet & go completely online. There is also the added advantage of 'helping the environment' to add to the argument.

If someone has a better suggestion, let me know—[kevin@auchenblae.com](mailto:kevin@auchenblae.com)

Photo credit: Christian Aid

Vilia Odino lost her home in the earthquake that hit Haiti in 2010, but Christian Aid's partner KORAL built her a new disaster-resistant home.

Thanks to the lessons she learnt from her mother, Vilia feels well rounded, strong and alive. But sometimes strength isn't enough. Sometimes you need someone else in your corner too.

Vilia and her family lived in Port-au-Prince when the earthquake hit. Vilia was on her way home when she heard people running and shouting. She saw wires fall and houses crumble. The streets were confusing and terrifying. She couldn't even recognise her home or neighbourhood. As she searched for her home and for her mother, she had to step over bodies lying on the ground.



Vilia never found her mother. Her mum was an incredibly strong woman, but strength alone wasn't enough to save her from the earthquake. Vilia never got to see her mother again, and still doesn't know how she died. It's still a deeply painful source of sadness for her.

Bereaved and homeless, Vilia went back to her hometown with her husband and seven children. But life was a struggle, and she had nowhere safe to stay.

### **A home as strong as Vilia**

Christian Aid's partner KORAL saw how dire Vilia's situation was, and reached out to help her. They built her a new home, safe and strong enough to stand up to natural disasters. Vilia will never forget her mother, but our help has allowed her to move on from the other things she lost.

The new house made Vilia incredibly happy, but it's done more than that. It's been a safe haven for dozens of people when they needed it most.

On that terrifying night when Hurricane Matthew hit, Vilia's neighbours quickly realised that her house was the only one in the area sturdy enough to cope with the hurricane. One by one, they fled to her house and she welcomed them in. As the storm raged on, she shared food and a safe shelter for several days.

54 people sheltered safely from the hurricane in Vilia's house. That night, she potentially saved 54 lives.

Despite the ferocity of the hurricane, her house lost only one roof panel and wasn't damaged in any other way. Many other homes in the area were totally destroyed.

Vilia's crops and livestock were swept away, but KORAL helped her with a water filter and seeds for beans, sweet potatoes, yams and plantain. This meant Vilia could start to rebuild with crops that help soil retention, helping to protect her crops in the future. Not long after Hurricane Matthew, another tragedy struck and Vilia's husband passed away. This time, KORAL gave her the cash she urgently needed to keep sending her children to school.

### **Vilia's neighbours**

During Hurricane Matthew, Vilia and her house were at the heart of the community, and it's the same in good times. She's the president of her marching band, which plays music using basic drums and other instruments at weddings, funerals and during communal farming. But they do more than play music: as a group of marginalised people, they pool their resources, forming something between a credit union and a community insurance policy. They work on each other's land and help out when someone is sick or dies.

Vilia is incredibly grateful for the help she's received, and she's used it to help others. But she knows there are still many others in her neighbourhood who are struggling. She wishes we could help them too.

Could you give this Christian Aid Week to help more people like Vilia?

Christian Aid Week brings tens of thousands of Christians together to achieve incredible things with some of the poorest people in the world. We need you to join us so we can do more, and make sure that none of Vilia's neighbours have to fear the next hurricane. If you raise £210 this Christian Aid Week, you could train a local builder in Haiti to build homes as sturdy as Vilia's. That would give more of her neighbours a safe place to weather the next disaster, and a fighting chance to build a better life.

Together, we're stronger than the storms.

**Contact June Scott on 01561340482**

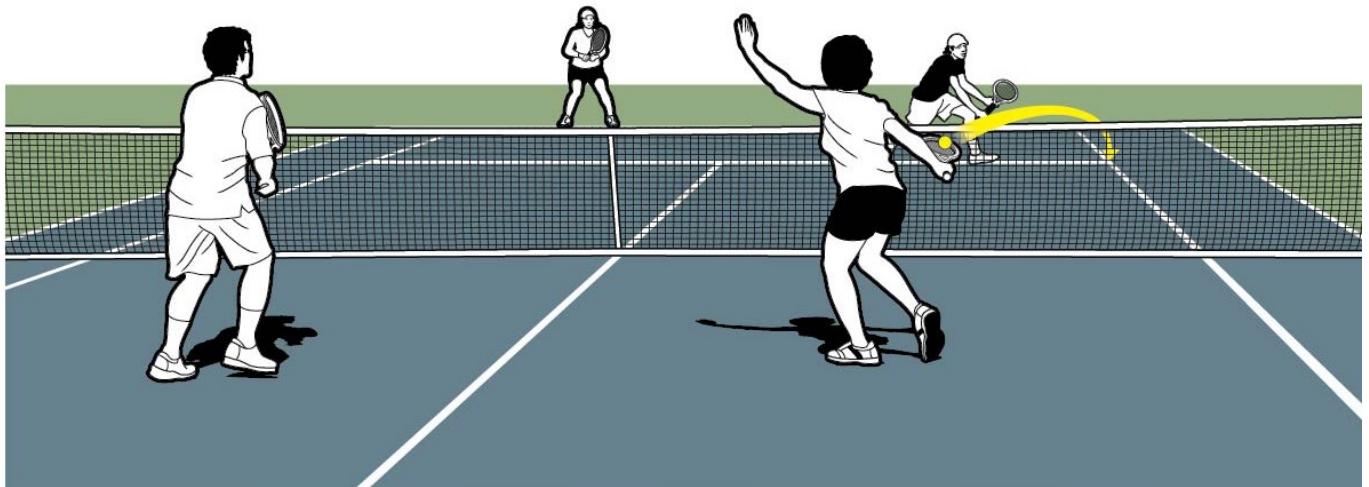
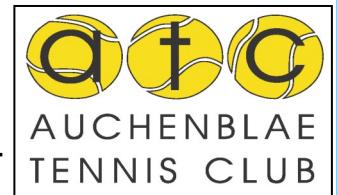
Vilia and her sons in front of the house Christian Aid's partner KORAL built her. Vilia sheltered 54 people when Hurricane Matthew hit, because her house was the strongest in the area



## Auchenblae Tennis Club



The outdoor season starts on 17th April, and will run through the year till 25th September. We play on the lovely village courts in the Den on Tuesdays/Wednesdays, and once again Isabelle's Pop-Up Café will be open on these days, offering delicious hot meals and refreshments. In addition, we have a fun programme of social events throughout the year, and club membership includes a season ticket allowing free access to the courts at all times. We welcome new members of all ages, from 4 upwards, and all experience, from absolute beginner to Murray. Have a look at our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/Auchenblaetennisclub/> for further details, or contact Lindsay Shaw via FB or email ([lindsayshaw467@btinternet.com](mailto:lindsayshaw467@btinternet.com)).

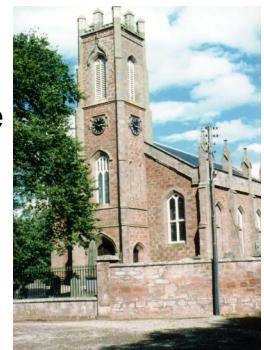


## West Mearns Parish Church

Dear Friends

Time “flies”. How do I know this? The request for a submission to the next magazine came so quickly.

Thank you for making our Christmas program so “successful”. Each of the events were well supported and it was lovely to see so many people come out on what I remember to be quite cold evenings.



Looking forwards, we will be holding a special Maundy Service on Thursday 29th March at 7:30pm. On Good Friday we have a combined service at the Laurencekirk Parish Church at 7:30pm and please consider joining us on Easter Sunday, April 1st in Fettercairn at 09:30am or Glenbervie at 11:00am.

We are also in the early stages of planning an Alpha course (for more information: <https://alpha.org/faqs/>) and if you would like to be involved on the Alpha team, please let me know at [Bsmith@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:Bsmith@churchofscotland.org.uk). We will be looking for hosts, leaders and musicians.

Finally, there is a lovely story of two monks walking on a path alongside a river. As they rounded the bend, they saw a woman stranded in the middle of the river calling for help.

The young monk didn't hesitate and waded in, picked up the woman in his arms, carried her safely to the river bank and placed her down, feet safely on the ground. The two monks continued their journey. After a long while, the older monk said to the other monk, “I'm not sure that it was appropriate for you to have carried that woman in your arms like that.” To which the younger monk replied, “when I got to the river bank I placed her on the ground. How come you are still carrying her?”

Moral of the story: Sometimes we hold onto things that we ought not to. Is everything that you are holding onto worthwhile, life giving and helpful? Let go the negative, life-sapping and unhealthy thoughts. Celebrate that which is good.

Blessings and Peace  
Rev Brian Smith





11th March 2pm-6pm Mother's Day afternoon prosecco tea @ The Auchenblae Village Hall. A fundraiser for Auchenblae Tennis Club £15 per adult ticket, £5/£8 per children's ticket available from **Isabelle 07740704548**

24th March 10-4pm Auchenblae Den Work day - a FREE lunch to those who lend a hand getting the Den ready to open in the spring- **contact Isabelle 07740704548**

28th April - 11am-7pm Auchenblae Den Open Day (TO BE CONFIRMED). A fully licensed bar and food available at the Den Pavilion with activities for the children. 33% of all profits donated to The Auchenblae Parks committee. **Contact Isabelle 07740704548**

15th & 16th June Down @ The Den with Burnside Brewery. A family friendly weekend with lots of fun, licensed bar and pavilion pop-up cafe serving hot and cold food and snacks all day and evening. **Contact Isabelle 07740704548**

17th June 11am- late. Fathers Day Brunch. A family friendly fundraiser for Mearns Football club. All welcome. Licensed bar, vegan breakfasts, vegetarian breakfast and Scottish breakfast. Dads V kids football, duck race, raffle. Price TBC

3rd & 4th August Down @ The Den. A family friendly weekend with lots of fun, licensed bar and pavilion pop-up cafe serving hot and cold food and snacks all day and evening. **Contact Isabelle 07740704548**

### **A note from Councillor George Carr**

On Tuesday Cllrs Wilson and Hutchison and myself had the Council Chief Executive Jim Savege for a full day.

This was not a day for meeting groups but for Cllrs to discuss strategy and for Cllrs and the CE to take time, showing him their Wards and big issues requiring attention.

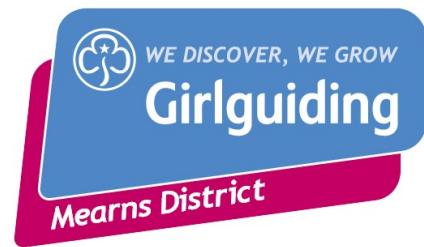
We drove from Castleton to Auchenblae – taking in the horrendous state of that road – so hopefully we will see action there too!

The challenges of the village were noted and we took him over the Golf Road, dwelling on how that can be upgraded.

Kind regards, George

# Auchenblae Guides

We would like to thank everyone who used Guides Christmas Card delivery service , we raised £80.00 for Guide funds.



Rainbows, Brownies and Guides have just celebrated Thinking Day on 22nd February, this date was chosen as it was the joint birthday of Lord and Lady Baden Powell.

We try to make the girls aware that they are part of a large family all over the world, usually with craft, songs and of course food.

Our Rainbow Leader Katrina Jackson has completed her Leadership training and Heather Murdoch is well on the way to completing hers. Katrina was a Fettercairn Brownie and her old Brown Owl , Helen Thomson is very proud of her and of course I am pleased and proud that Heather was Brownie , Guide and Young Leader with me and is now a Leader. Laura Nicoll is coming up to her 20 year service award as a Leader having also been one of my Guides and Young Leader . Another of my Guides , Julie Macfarlane (Mason) is a Rainbow Leader in Laurencekirk , Lynsey Thow is a Brownie Leader in Aberdeen , Claire Braid has recently moved to work in Livingston and is getting involved with local Guiding there. Guide leaders have fun and make new friends as well as the girls.

Next year will be Auchenblae Guides centenary so we will be having a community event to celebrate with all our girls ' old and new ' . We are very lucky to have former Guiders still living in the village and lots of archive photos ( how the hours can go by when these come out ).

Anyone who is interested in Girlguiding for themselves or their children please enter your details in [www.girlguiding.org.uk/join us](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/join us). this generates and an email to local leader who will contact you.

Evelyn Richardson  
Assistant to Laura Nicoll  
Auchenblae Guides



### The Christmas Fox by Allannah Cowie P7 — First Place

It's Wednesday night, i look through the window and I can see a big tree with shining blue lights.

What is this tree for I ask to myself?  
Can I know more? I think to myself

It's Thursday night, I look through the window and I can feel thick snow on my paws as I tread.

What is this snow for I ask to myself?  
Can I know more? I think to myself

It's Friday night, I look through the window and I can hear a great cheer - 'I can't wait for Presents!'.

What are presents? I ask to myself?  
Can I know more? I think to myself

It's Saturday night, I look through the window and I can taste candy canes hanging from the tree.

What is this cane for I ask to myself?  
Can I know more? I think to myself

It's Sunday night I look through the window and I can smell a big feast being made.

What is this big feast for I ask to myself? Can I know more? I think to myself

It's Monday morning I hear a great cheer 'Hooray, Hooray! Christmas is here!'

What is this cheer for? I ask to myself  
Could it be Christmas I think to myself

### I Believe by Eva Milne P7 Second Place

I feel nervous waiting for Santa

I feel the frost on my tongue like icing sugar on water

I hear the carol singers singing but some men are out of tune

I am more nervous as the clock strikes noon.

I smell the sweet mince pies and cookies by the fire

I see something pass my room

Something big

Something red

I started following the man down stairs

He saw me and I whispered

'I believe'

## I won't tell by Dylan Osbourne P7 —Third Place

I won't tell  
I hear Hooves on the roof  
And a cheery kind of sound  
I smell the carrots and mince pies in the kitchen

I touch the wooden banister  
As I walk down the stairs  
I taste the cold air in my lungs

I see the door about to be open  
But it closes  
I hear someone climb up the chimney  
I feel excited as I open the door  
All the presents are there  
I know who it was  
But I won't tell

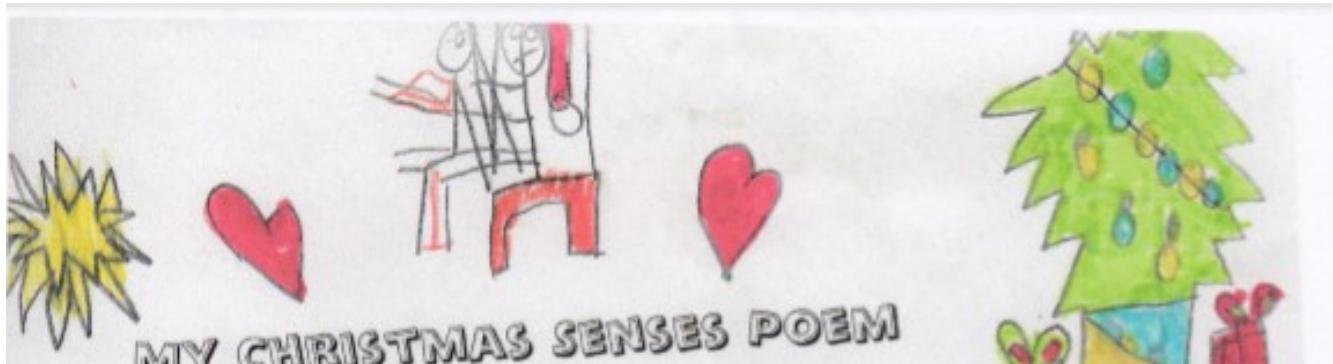
## Auchenblae Parks Committee



Are you a golfer? Tennis player? Footballer? Dogwalker? Bowler? Cyclist? Walker? Or do you simply enjoy the outdoor areas of our beautiful village?

These facilities are managed and maintained by a group of enthusiastic volunteers on the Parks Committee – and we are looking for more villagers who would like to help us! We meet once a month, and take much pride and pleasure in ensuring that the golf course, football pitch, cycling track, and all the wonderful facilities in the Den are maintained to the highest standard.

If you'd like to play your part, then please contact us via <https://www.facebook.com/AuchenblaeDen/> and you will be made very welcome!



## MY CHRISTMAS SENSES POEM

I CAN SEE PEOPLE SITTING ON  
SANTA'S KNEE  
AND TWINKLY LIGHTS ON THE  
SPIKEY TREE

I CAN HEAR THE REINDEER  
GALLOPING  
AND GOLDEN CHURCH BELLS  
RINGING

I CAN SMELL CHRISTMAS PUD, MMM  
AND I CAN TASTE CHOCOLATE IN MY  
TUM

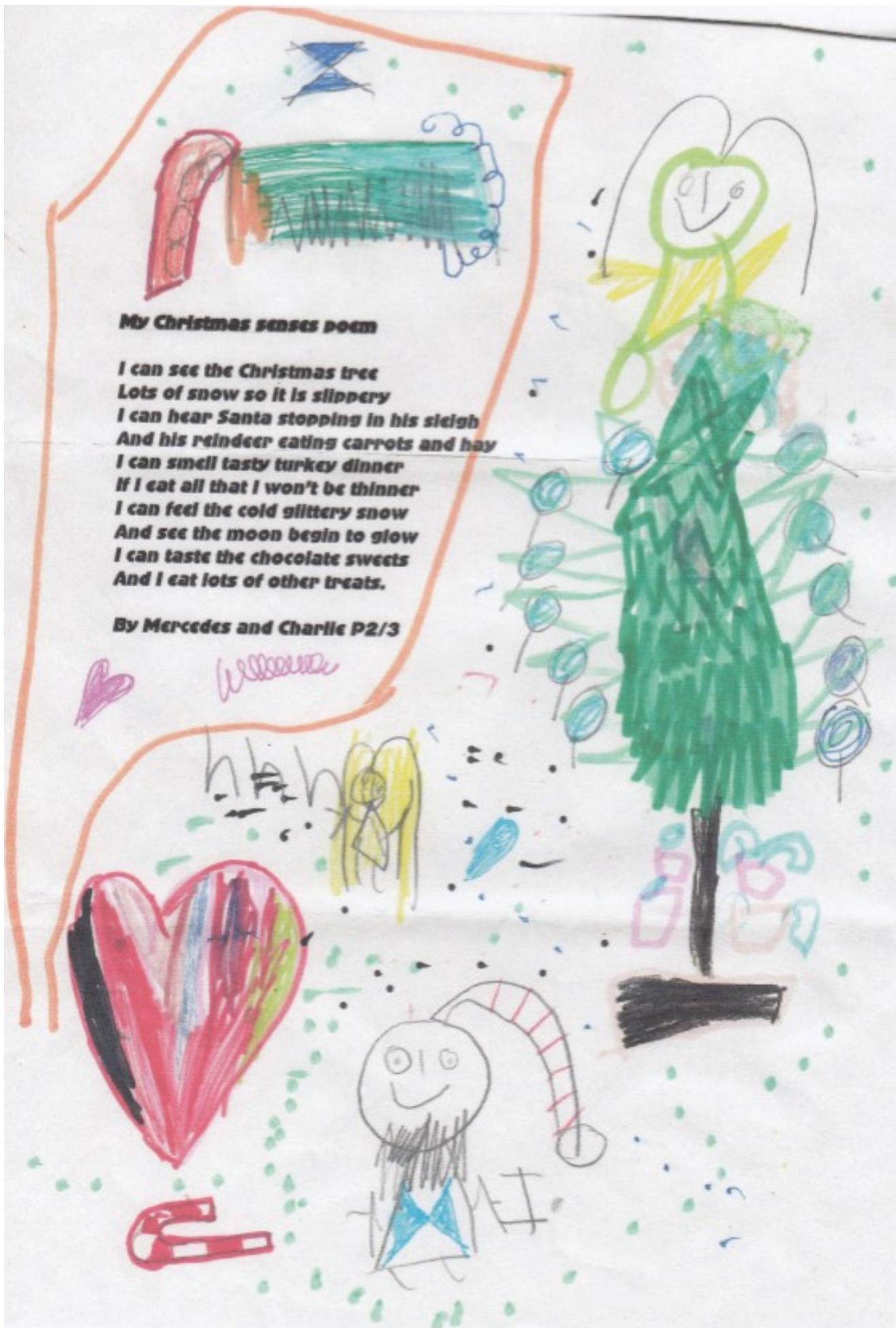
I CAN FEEL MY MUMMY GIVE ME  
LOVE

AND THE SNOW FALL FROM ABOVE

I CAN TASTE CARROTS FOR MY TEA  
OH IT'S ALL SO CHRISTMASSY.

BY ISLA AND BETSY P2/3





**Between Auchenblae & Glernbervie—14-31st March 2018  
Inverurie Street to Galloquhine— 19-23rd March 2018  
Information courtesy of Councillor George Carr**

**TEMPORARY RESTRICTION OF TRAFFIC ON**

**C19K  
(At Kinkell Cottage)**

**BETWEEN AUCHENBLAE & GLENBERVIE**

Please note that owing to .... **Surface dressing prep works**.... It will be necessary in the interests of public safety to apply the following temporary restriction to traffic -

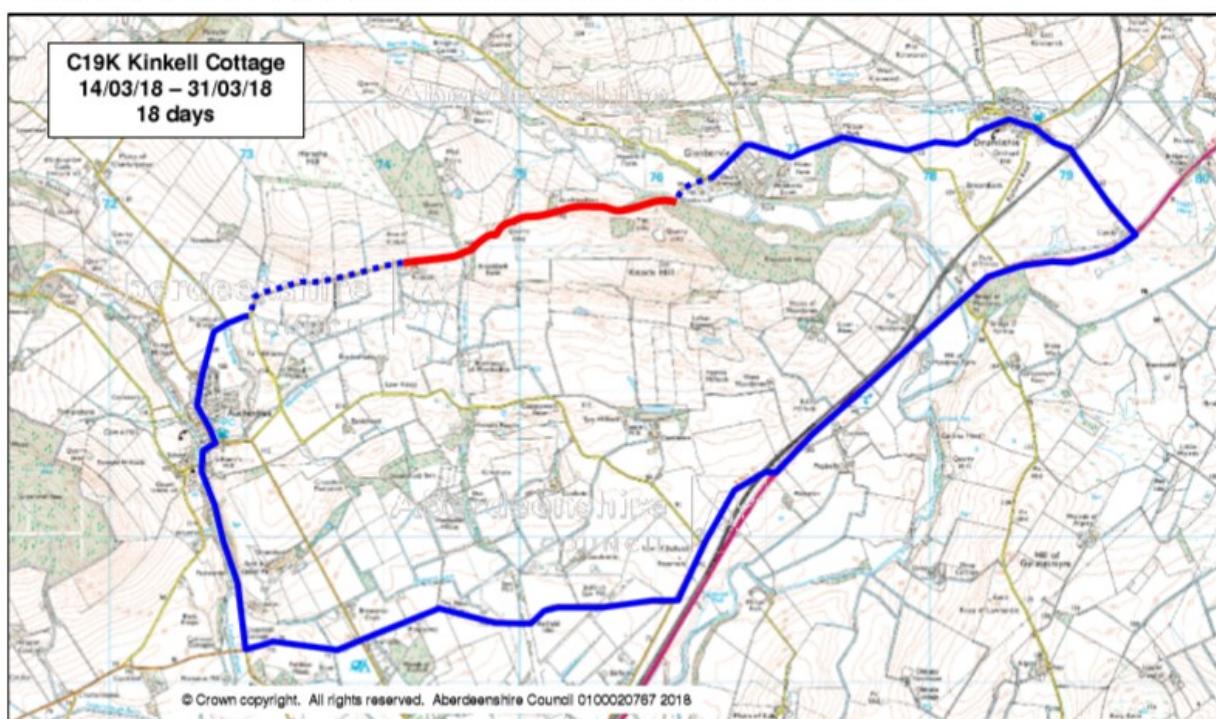
- (a) closure
- (b) one-way
- (c) prohibition of waiting
- (d) weight limit .....
- (e) any other type .....

On C19K for a period of **18 days**

Commencing On... **Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

Site notices will be erected in due course indicating the temporary restriction to traffic and the alternative route via **C19K – C1K –C7K – B966 – A90 – C19K and vice versa.**

**EMERGENCY AND PEDESTRIAN ACCESS TO BE MAINTAINED. VEHICULAR ACCESS TO AFFECTED PROPERTIES TO BE MAINTAINED WHENEVER POSSIBLE**



Closure   
Local Access Only   
Diversion 

Aberdeenshire Council  
Infrastructure Services

## TEMPORARY RESTRICTION OF TRAFFIC ON

### C7K (From jcn with Inverurie Street to Galloquhine)

#### AUCHENBLAE

Please note that owing to... **Aberdeenshire Council (Roads Section) carrying out urgent patching repairs & drainage works**..... It will be necessary in the interests of public safety to apply the following temporary restriction to traffic -

- (a) closure
- (b) one-way
- (c) prohibition of waiting

On the C7K for a period of **5 days**

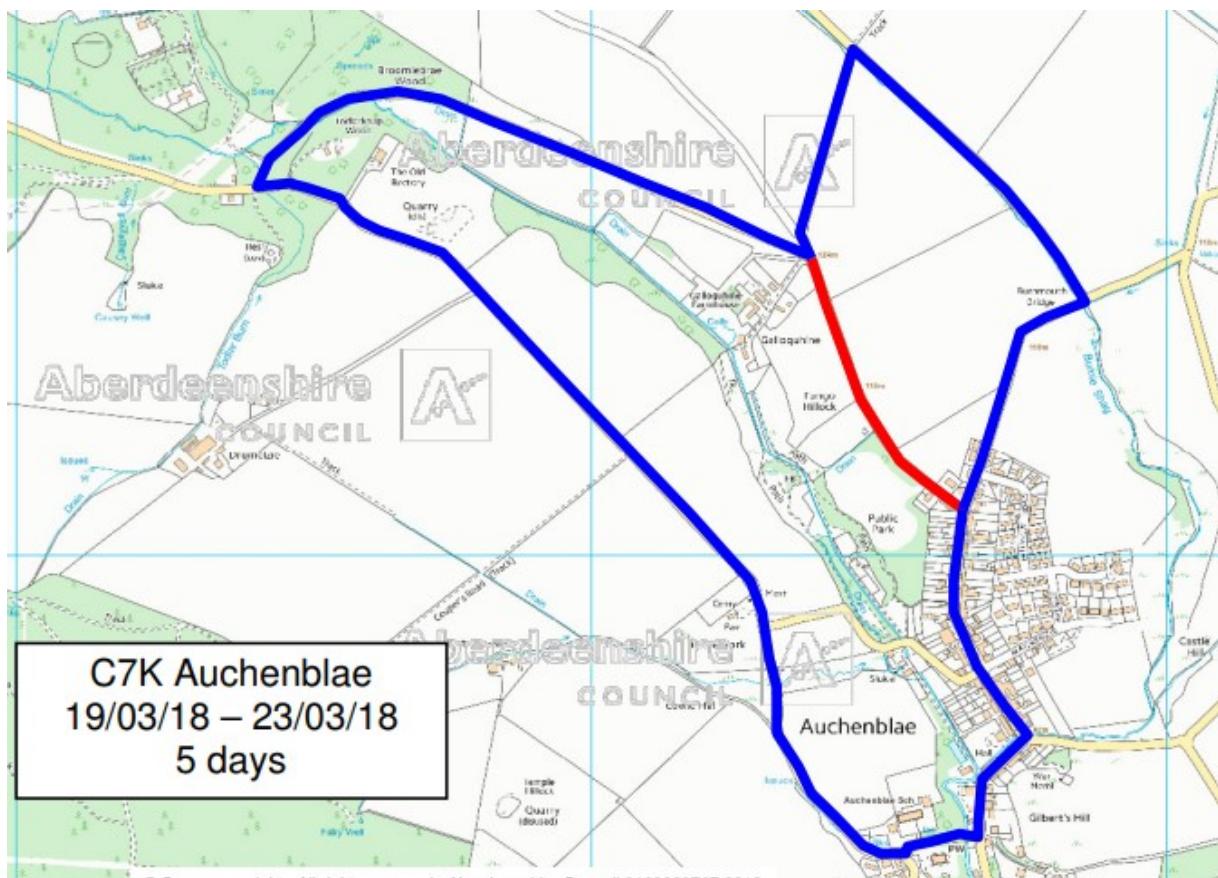
Commencing ... **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

Site notices will be erected in due course indicating the temporary restriction to traffic and the alternative route via **U110K – C1K – Glenfarquhar Road and vice versa.**

Or

**Via Inverurie Street – High Street – Kintore Street – Monboddo Street – Burnett Street – C1K – U110K – C7K and vice versa**

**EMERGENCY AND PEDESTRIAN ACCESS TO BE MAINTAINED. VEHICULAR ACCESS TO AFFECTED PROPERTIES TO BE MAINTAINED WHENEVER POSSIBLE**



# Dates for your diary

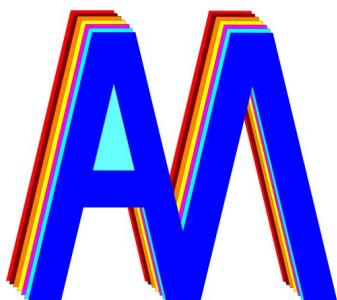
Den Work Day

The Den

24th March 10.00 a.m.



Check out the social community network online, advertise events, book the hall, promote your group and lots more: [www.http://theblae.org/](http://theblae.org/)



Also, did you know the Auchenblae Messenger is available online for convenient reading or ex-residents wanting to stay in touch. Find us at [www.mearns.org/auchenblae](http://www.mearns.org/auchenblae)



**Messenger Distribution Team**—Anne Anderson, Sue Barrie, Anne & Sheree Caird, Hilda Findlay, Therese Hendry, Jeanette Hoedl, Trish & Robert MacEachern, Gillian & William Milne, Carol Nelson, Barbara Strouts

**Messenger Production Team**—Barbara Strouts, Kevin Newstead, Eddie Cairns

**Memo Production**—Lindsay Cochrane

The publisher for this issue was **Kevin Newstead**