

Auchenblae Messenger

Founded in 1999 by Donald B. Rennie

Autumn Edition

VOLUME 21 ISSUE 3

SEPTEMBER 2019

From The Editor

Once again many thanks to all who have sent contributions to the Messenger. It has occurred to me that quite a few people in the village do not have access to social media and although you can now find us online they cannot and so a few copies are kindly printed for them by Macphies. I thought that some of you who like to advertise events on Facebook or whatever might in future send some of them to the Messenger. I will be collecting for the next one in mid November. You can contact me at barpollybar@gmail.com. Happy reading.

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Memo Date

Due to insufficient response the Memo production has been suspended but can be restarted if required.

The Messenger—e-Newsletter

Due to costs & 'staying green' The Messenger continues to be published online at www.mearns.org/auchenblae

The very few printed copies that have been requested are provided by the very kind assistance of **Joanna Fraser and Macphie**.

All the best,
Kevin (Publisher)

Auchenblae Friendship Group



"Friendship, like home, is where we go when nobody else will have us."

Where can you go to be singing along with the Laughing Policeman, Lonnie Donegan or Val Doonican? Another day you could be enjoying the company of Ian Bell, Dave Ramsay or Peter Morriss. You could be playing games. You could be doing seated, gentle Keep Fit. Later in the year there will be more singing of favourite songs and carols. All this can be found in Auchenblae Church Hall on Wednesday mornings from 10.00am to noon. We believe in the 3 Fs; Friendship, Fellowship and Fun.

Don't sit at home on your own. Join us for companionship. You don't have to be a pensioner. You don't have to be from Auchenblae. Whoever and wherever you are we would like to see you.

"We need old friends to help us grow old and new friends to help us stay young."

Auchenblae Guild

We are looking forward to our new session starting on Monday 2nd September at 2.00pm in the Church Hall. We have an interesting programme mapped out through into 2020. Our theme this year is Companions on the Road. We will start with a Welcome Back session and an update on last year's projects and an introduction to this year's. Guild Week has been brought forward and is now from 08 09 2019 - 15 09 2019. To mark it the church service on the morning of 15th September will be a Guild Dedication Service.

On Saturday 21st September we are holding a Coffee Morning in the Village Hall from 10.00am - 12.00 noon. There will be the usual stalls; produce, white elephant, books and raffle. We would be grateful for any contributions to these. We hope to see many of you there as it is the first we have held for a while. Entrance will be £3.

On the 7th October we will have an external speaker to give a talk on Malawi Fruits. one of the projects that we are supporting this year. It is a scheme to help young famers in Malawi, one of the poorest countries in Africa. We hope to see as many people as possible at the meeting in the Church at 2.00pm. You don't have to be a Guild or church member.

An advance notice for your diary. On Friday 6th December our ever popular Carols, Candles and Christmas Pies will be back. More details later.

Do come and give us a try. While much larger Guilds in the area are closing Auchenblae keeps going because we recognise that it is a worthwhile cause.

Souvenir Edition of the Auchenblae Calendar

It's hard to believe that it's coming on for twenty years since we celebrated The Millennium. Next year will be another milestone and to mark it, I have delved back into my collection of old postcards to create another souvenir edition of the Auchenblae Calendar.

This follows on from 2014 and 2018 when I used postcards from the late 19th century and early 20th century while other years we used coloured photographs taken in and around the village by various local people. And thanks to them we've been in production since 2010. The Auchenblae calendar finds its way to all corners of the globe, with people buying them well in advance to post off as Christmas presents. The proceeds, as usual, will be used to maintain the fabric of both church and church hall. The calendars are printed on high quality card and the images reproduce very well.

At the turn of the 20th century, postcards were the most popular means of communication and the period was known as the 'The Golden Age of Postcards'. A great many in my collection show either Auchenblae or Fordoun Post Office official stamps. Messages on the back make interesting reading too, where the sender describes the village and tells what they have done during their stay.

Auchenblae at that time was flourishing as a holiday destination with families from the big cities coming back year after year. It had been known for Doctors to recommend a stay at Auchenblae, where the air was clear and 'health giving' and sure to speed up recovery.

Most householders cleared a room so that they could accommodate 'summer visitors', and by doing so brought in extra income to the family budget. The vast array of shopkeepers in the village at the time looked forward to the influx of people to boost their trade. Hoteliers at the Kintore (Drumtochty Arms) and the Thistle saw a welcome increase in customers with room booked way in advance each year. Auchenblae was booming!

The Den, of course, was a great attraction with the new tennis courts and bowling green ready for play. A maze of local tracks criss-crossed the surrounding area providing a choice of routes. It was claimed that visitors could take a walk every day over a two week period without retracing their steps once!

Jimmy's Granny, who lived at Glenfarquhar Cottage on Inverurie Street, kept good dishes wrapped in brown for her summer visitors. When we emptied Auntie Peg's house, we found these same dishes, in the top shelf of a wardrobe, still wrapped in brown paper and tied with string.

The calendar, priced £6.50, gives a fascinating insight of village life in bygone days. I won't use any photographs that have appeared in previous publications so you can look forward to something new for the year 2020. Orders can be place by contacting me on jennythomson1@hotmail.com or telephone 01561 320245

Jenny Thomson



Auchenblae Parks Committee



Auchenblae Den

We've had a great summer this year at the Den, lovely to see the area looking so busy; thank you to everyone who cleaned up after themselves, always good to see full bins!

A quick reminder to all to clean up after your dogs, dog poo bags are still available in the ladies toilets at the pavilion.

Bike Pump Track

HELP REQUIRED

We are planning a work day for a few hours at the bike track and require around 10 volunteers to help out, a date has yet to be confirmed but if you're able to help please could let either myself, Jim or Margo Titmuss know. Tea and cake will be on offer for those helping on the day.

Donations

A reminder that there are donation boxes in the Den, by the car park and at the pavilion, as well as at the football pitch. All donations are gratefully received and go towards help keeping these areas in an excellent condition.

For more information about Auchenblae Den, Auchenblae Golf Course, Auchenblae Tennis Club and Auchenblae Bowling Club please find us on Facebook using the following links:

<https://m.facebook.com/AuchenblaeDen/>

<https://m.facebook.com/auchenblaegolfcourse/>

https://m.facebook.com/groups/597456246940546/?ref=group_browse

https://m.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100008091937384&ref=content_filter

Clare Ptaszek
Auchenblae Parks Committee



Auchenblae Golf Course is delighted to offer discounted membership for the remainder of the 2019 season.

Membership Type:	Cost:	Discounted
Full	£185	£135
Senior (65 and over)	£175	£125
Junior (8 - 17 years old)	£45	£30
Youth (18 – 21 years old)	£100	£70
Parent & Junior	£200	£150

This allows unlimited play until 31st March 2020.

If you are interested in becoming a member, please get in touch by:

- Email auchenblaegolf@gmail.com
- Visit the pavilion
- Check out our Facebook page



This discounted rate can not be used in conjunction with any other offer.

West Mearns Parish Church

Dear Friends

Auchenblae Church is one of three Church of Scotland Churches in the West Mearns Parish. The other two are Glenbervie and Fettercairn. In the kirk yard is the ruined chapel of St. Palladius. Consecrated by Pope Celestine in 431 A.D.

In the vestibule is a Pictish stone from the 6th century, and is still in very good condition, discovered during a renovation, it is now mounted on display.

The last burial in the crypt was that of Rev. William Forbes, parish minister who died in 1771. In 2006 this ancient chapel was made a safe ruin in an enterprise run jointly by Aberdeenshire Council and Historic Scotland.

A symbolic memorial to one of Scotland's most famous Protestant martyrs can be seen to the left of the entrance. As a boy, George Wishart of Pittarrow worshipped in the mensal church of Fordoun. He was burnt at the stake at St. Andrews in 1546. Many historical items of interest are displayed within the church itself. The church can be opened on request and it is a worthwhile visit.

Our regular services are held on Sunday mornings at 11:00 am (except the 1st Sunday of the month when we are at Glenbervie Church. Every Sunday evening at 7:00pm we meet in the Wishart Room for a time of quiet reflection. Normally guided and very gentle. The ideal place to prepare for the week ahead or let go of the week past. Everyone is welcome and you do not need to be a member of the church or any church for that matter.

We have a number of events coming up so look for us on our website www.westmearns.com, download our app from Google play store and also follow us on Facebook.

Pet Blessing 1st September

Remembrance Day Service 10th November

Russian Choir returns 15th November (Friday)

Pet Blessing Service at Auchenblae Church, Sunday 1st September at 4:00pm. Please join us.



WEBSITE and APP

If you would like to know more, please logon onto to our new website at www.westmearns.com. We also have a Church App currently only available on google play. Search for West Mearns Parish.

Website QR code



Blessings
Rev. Brian Smith

AUCHENBLAE ART SHOW

AUCHENBLAE VILLAGE HALL

FRIDAY 6th – SUNDAY 8th SEPTEMBER 2019



OPENING EVENING Friday 6th September -18 years & over 7 – 11pm

Cheese and wine / beer (1st drink free) Tickets £10.

Luxury Hamper Raffle.

Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th September 2– 4pm

Tea/Coffee and Homebakes. Adults £3 under 12's £2 and pre-school free.

A display of work from local artists, a social get together with original, affordable art available to buy over the whole weekend.

Once costs are covered any surplus funds will be donated locally.

For Friday Tickets & further information contact Alice 320081

alicemorgan@btinternet.com

Auchenblae Bowling

In the past 5 years Auchenblae Bowling Club has doubled its membership! But don't get too excited...it adds up to a total of membership of 16 playing this year, ie 8 more players than there were in 2014 when membership was an all time low of just 8 members!



The Club is delighted that it has attracted 4 new players just this year while being very sad that 1 member decided to retire after very many years of membership and 2 younger members were unable to continue this season due to the demands of busy careers leaving too little time to enjoy bowls.

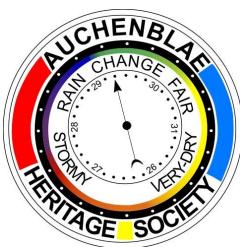
Despite being one of the smallest clubs in the Aberdeenshire League, Auchenblae bowlers has ensured the village's representation in the 2 major League competitions and Auchenblae Club players represented the village club in the annual Aberdeenshire "Champion of Champions" competitions for both men and ladies singles and pairs. These see the top players across all Aberdeenshire battle it out for overall champion titles. All the Auchenblae representatives notched up points on the scoreboards but did not progress beyond their first rounds.

The club in June hosted 'try bowls' learning session for P6 pupils of Auchenblae Primary School - greatly enjoyed by the children and the club 'tutors', albeit rain forced 3 sessions to be cancelled.

When Auchenblae hosts competing teams from visiting clubs at the annual Gala Week Open Competition and at League milestone matches, it is vital that the Den Green is in the best possible playable condition to ensure the Club keeps up its reputation within the League as a viable club with a good quality green. The Club wishes to thank the Parks Committee and the Den and Bowling Green maintenance team for bringing the Auchenblae green up to a very good standard this season - achieving it best condition for some years.

The club is now winding down its season but anyone is still welcome to come to sessions on Tuesday's at 1.30pm and Friday 6pm into September, to give bowls a try. The club hope for next year is to grow more members. For more information contact club chairman George Wilson on 01561 321174 or 07985 593374

Auchenblae Heritage Society



On September 2nd the 2019 – 2020 season of the Auchenblae Heritage Society will open with an exciting double bill! Two "weel kent" residents of Luthermuir will give us a talk on the village. Luthermuir today is a thriving village with amenities such as a church, a school, a pub, a hall and recreation grounds. In the past Luthermuir, with its "clay beggins", was known as a home to labourers and weavers. Mrs Janette Anderson and Mr Dave Stewart will tell us more about the village and some of its history. The meeting will be held in the Church Hall, Auchenblae beginning at 7.30 and will also include a short A.G.M. and the collection of subscriptions (£5 for the year). All welcome!

WANDERING FREE

Where can I wander? I asked the wind,
Come-
Wander with us, shouted the clapping winds.

Where can I roam free? I asked the distant hills,
Come-
Roam free among us, beckoned the distant purple
headed hills.

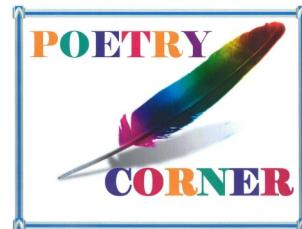
Where can I walk free and at will?
I asked the open moorlands,
Come-
Walk freely among us, the wild wind swept open
moors called.

Where can I meander free? I asked the rushing rills,
Come-
Meander free with us, the chasing pebbled rills
called.

So! Once more up to the high country under their
epic skies-

I roamed free.

© Peter Morriss 27.09 2017



Auchenblae Pre-School Group

**AUCHENBLAE
CHRISTMAS MARKET**

FRIDAY 29TH NOVEMBER 2019

Stall holder applications now open!

Email apsgfundraising@gmail.com for your application form today!

CLOSING DATE: 18 SEPT 2019

 A promotional poster for the Auchenblae Christmas Market. The background is a light green color with faint, large, stylized blue and green maple leaf outlines. The text is in a bold, red, hand-drawn style font. The main title 'AUCHENBLAE CHRISTMAS MARKET' is at the top. Below it is the date 'FRIDAY 29TH NOVEMBER 2019'. At the bottom, it says 'Stall holder applications now open!' in a white, cursive, italicized font. The poster is decorated with white, five-pointed snowflake illustrations of varying sizes scattered across the green background.

ART TUITION WITH ARTIST JENNY WATT COLBECK
AT BRIDGEND STUDIO IN AUCHENBLAE



KIDS AND TEENS ART CLASSES

There are a few spaces left for some classes below:

S1/2/4 Mondays 4.30-5.45pm
P7 Tuesdays 3.30-4.30pm
P4 Wednesdays 3.30-4.30pm
P5/6 Wednesdays 4.45-5.45pm
P5 Thursdays 3.30-4.30pm
S5 Thursdays 5-6.15pm [Fortnightly]

Cost is £9 per class and [£11 for the S4 and S5 classes.]



ADULT DRAWING CLASSES

I also host beginners and intermediate drawing classes for adults.

For further information

CONTACT JENNY ON

01561 320998

jennycolbeck1@gmail.com

www.jennywattcolbeck.co.uk

NEOS



north east open studios

THIS YEAR OUR LOCAL ARTISTS ARE JOINING OVER 300 ARTISTS OPENING THEIR STUDIOS TO VISITORS THROUGHOUT THE NORTH EAST OF SCOTLAND.

HERE ON THE MEARNS TRAIL WE HAVE:

HELEN FORREST AND KAREN HADJITOFI
BETWEEN ARBUTHNOTT AND FORDOUN.

SHELIA MOIR AND MARK O'BRIAN AT FORDOUN MEMORIAL HALL.
JENNY WATT COLBECK AT BRIDGEND STUDIO AUCHENBLAE.

BRENDA FORBES, WENDY PAGE AND FIONA HADDOW
AT DENMILL ANNEX AUCHENBLAE.

PAULA HARRIS AT STUDIO 3, AUCHENBLAE.

MARGARET PITT, APRIL PRESSLEY, AND SANDY NOBLE
AT CRANN TARA STUDIO TEMPLEHILL
NEAR AUCHENBLAE.

FOLLOW THE YELLOW SIGNS DURING THIS TEN DAY
FREE EVENT FROM 14TH – 23RD SEPTEMBER.

N.E.O.S CATALOGUES AND MAPS AVAILABLE FROM
BRIDGEND STUDIO AND OTHER VENUES IN THE MEARNS.

Dates for your diary

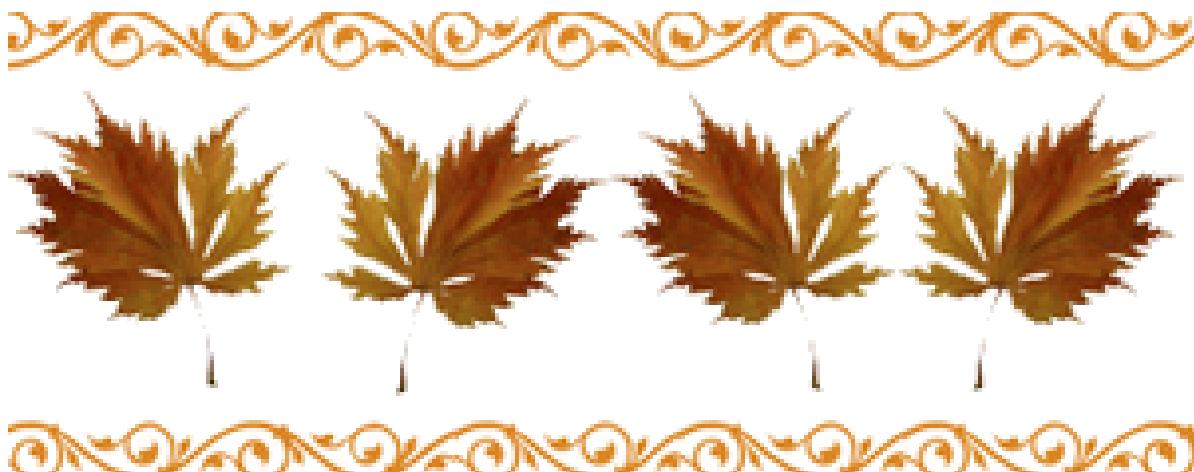
Art Show	Hall	6th-8th Sept.
NEOS	Various	14th-23rd Sept.
Guild Coffee Morning	Hall	21st Sept. 1000



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/)



The Auchenblae Messenger is available online for convenient reading or ex-residents wanting to stay in touch. Find us at www.mearns.org/auchenblae



Messenger Production Team—Barbara Strouts, Kevin Newstead, Eddie Cairns
Memo Production—Lindsay Cochrane
The publisher for this issue was **Kevin Newstead**