

Auchenblae Messenger

Founded in 1999 by Donald B. Rennie

Christmas Edition

VOLUME 20 ISSUE 4

DECEMBER 2018

From The Editor

On 23rd November it was 20 years since I came to live in Auchenblae and it was the best thing I ever did. I am so happy here. It occurred to me for most of that time I have been connected to the Messenger in one way or another. Originally I was dubbed "The wrinkly reporter". Auchenblae is somewhere where people are for each other and there is still a strong community spirit. May it long continue. Once again my thanks to all the contributors. There is always room for more. In mid-February I will be collecting for the March Issue. I can be reached at barpollybar@gmail.com.

Happy Christmas. Barbara

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Memo Date

The Next Memo is scheduled for January 2018 if you have any upcoming event dates please send them to :

auchenblae_memo@hotmail.co.uk or call Lindsay on **01561**



The Messenger continues to be published online at www.earns.org/auchenblae

I am still negotiating to get hard copies to the very few who requested it.

Please bear with me.

Thanks,

Kevin

MERRY CHRISTMAS!



JUNE 16TH CAMP DAY



Auchenblae Guides

The Guiding Leaders were asked to run an evening during Gala week and chose a kids 'Shorts and Shades' disco on the Friday night, split into 2 age groups, great disco music by Will, husband of Brownie Leader, and a tuck shop. Everyone had a good time and raised funds shared by Gala and units.



2018 is the centenary year for Laurencekirk and Fettercairn Girl Guides

A District event was planned for all the units on 16 June, which turned out to be the wettest Saturday of the whole summer. However, in good Guiding tradition everyone had fun, the Guides from Laurencekirk, Fettercairn and Auchenblae camped from Friday evening to Sunday afternoon. On Saturday Brownies from the district came for the whole day, they learned how to light a fire and boil an egg, did archery, iced biscuits and crafts.

Rainbows arrived at 4pm, just as the worst of the rain came on, but no whinging, off they went into the wood for hunt the teddy bear wide game and into the dining shelter for craft.

Our DC Tracy Fraser is a genius, she booked "What's the Fork" chippie van to come along, everyone pre-booked their tea and a hot chippy tea was just what we needed. They were amazing and fed 102 girls and 25 adults. The Guides built a campfire and our new District Commissioner Sandra Miller came along to lead the campfire songs.

The Rainbows and Brownies left after campfire, but what a great time they all had.

Rainbows had a disco at Dizzy Rascals for their end of term treat, Brownies have done lots of nights in the den in the wonderful summer.

Guides last night was at Stonehaven Open Air pool, followed by chippy tea and of course, Auntie Betty's ice cream.

All units were represented with Scouting at the Remembrance Day service and the walk to the War Memorial.

Girl Guides helped in WW1, we had a letter from the British Legion saying how the girls were used to carry confidential messages from MI5, they had used Boy Scouts but found them to be too talkative and excitable to be trusted with carrying confidential material so replaced them with Guides.

The most interesting fact I found was that the Guides collected sphagnum moss which was used to dress wounds.

4 Auchenblae Guides, Joanne Riddoch, Ella Bruce, Lexie and Katie Cochrane have all completed their Baden Powell award, this was the highest award in Guiding, but will now be replaced by a Gold Award in the new programme, so we are very proud that our girls are among the last to gain this award.

Girlguiding has a whole new revamped programme to start working on, this will be phased in by end of 2019. News, skills, new badges, new adventures for all. Not another uniform change though, thanks goodness.

Auchenblae Guides was first registered in January 1920 so we will also have a centenary to celebrate.

Our Rainbow unit is currently full and has a waiting list, Brownies numbers are OK but have spaces, but Guide numbers are down, new girls age 10+ are welcome.

If anyone is interested in volunteering or looking for a girls space please log onto

www.girlguiding.org.uk/joinus

Or give me a call 320362

Evelyn and Laura - Auchenblae Girlguiding

Auchenblae Friendship Group



"Friendship is..... temperate and equal, a constant established heat, all gentle and smooth, without poignancy and roughness."

I read recently that the Duchess of Cambridge said, at some function or other that everyone needs a hug. How right she is. If you are feeling lonely and are fed up with your own company do come and join us on Wednesday mornings in the church hall at 10.00pm. We certainly believe in hugs and we believe in being there for each other. As one of our members keeps reminding us we need to develop our chuckle muscles, and we certainly do that. We will not be meeting during the school Christmas holidays, but weather permitting, we will certainly be back in January. You don't need to be a native of the village, many of us are incomers. You don't have to be a pensioner. We are always happy to welcome anyone as a new member. For more information ask any member or phone Barbara on 320911.

A happy Christmas and prosperous New year to all.

"Friendship is the shadow of the evening which strengthens with the setting sun of life."

Auchenblae Guild

At our November meeting we were given a very inspiring talk by Vanessa Wilhelm of the Aberdeen Cyrenians. As some of you will know we have been collecting for them in the church for some years now. They require all kinds of tinned food and toiletries. They do a fantastic job looking after rough sleepers, the homeless and others who desperately need help. They cook meals for them but also do food parcels. Their work is vital especially at tis time of the year when so many charities close down for Christmas and our contributions are greatly valued. There are boxes in the church where donations can be left. You don't have to be a church or Guild member to contribute. We intend to keep this community service going and would like to encourage more people to join with us.

On Friday December 7th we will be holding our annual Carols, Candles and Christmas Pies Service in the church at 7.30pm. This has become an increasingly popular event over the years. The church looks stunning with all the candles and the Christmas tree. There are a few readings and musical interludes but it's mainly for you to come along and sing favourite carols. Afterwards there is fellowship with mulled wine (non-alcoholic), tea, coffee, mince pies and shortbread. It is very much an evening to look forward to at the beginning of advent. Come and join us. People join us from far and wide.
Seasons greetings to you all from Auchenblae Guild.

Merry 
 *Christmas*

2019 Auchenblae Calendar

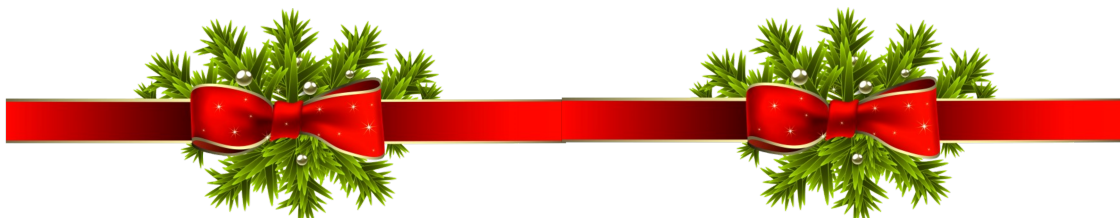
On sale at the village shop
(by kind permission of Billy and Sabz)
or contact Jenny Thomson 01561 320245
Featuring twelve scenes taken, in and around
the village, by Auchenblae photographers

£6.50



Proceeds to church hall improvements

This little hall is used regularly by many groups
including: the Friendship Group; the Beavers;
the Guides and Rainbows;
the Mother and Toddler Group;
and the Lunch Club.



West Mearns Parish Church

CHRISTMAS IS ALMOST HERE

West Mearns Parish has several services worth noting.

Carols, Candles and Christmas Pies

Auchenblae Church
7th December 7:30PM

CHRISTMAS EVE Carol Service

Auchenblae Church
6:00pm

CHRISTMAS EVE Watchnight

Fettercairn Church
11:15pm

CHRISTMAS DAY

Glenbervie Church
11:00am



Christmas is many things. For Christians it is the celebration of the birth of Christ. It is also family time, holiday time and a time of pretty decorations. It is also the time where grief feels deeper, loneliness feels overwhelming and poverty is a blatant contradiction to the Christmas story and season.

So here is an invitation to be “mindful”. Mindful of not spending too much. Doing something together is better than getting something – a positive experience is worth more than physical gift. Mindful that the neighbour you live near may be just the person who needs a kind word or deed, especially now. Mindful that many charities close over Christmas and so those who stay open need more. More volunteers and more donations.

The people of West Mearns Parish Church wish you love, joy, hope and peace, and above all Christ – the reason for Christmas.

Blessings
Brian (Rev)

Ps. It sounds a bit preachy – but then again – it is that time of the year.



Carols, Candles and Christmas Pies

To welcome the arrival of Advent and the Joy of the Christmas Season, our annual Carols, Candles and Christmas Pies evening will be held in Auchenblae Church on Friday, 7th December.



This special event grows in popularity year on year, so if you've never been before, please come along and experience an evening you won't forget.

There will be a short interlude from carol singing to get your breath back, when you can enjoy Phil on guitar and Georgie on violin - always a delight.

Mulled Wine; Mince Pies; Shortbread; Tea, Coffee and Juice, served as usual by Guild members.

Children are most welcome.

Doors open at 7 pm and singing starts at 7.30 sharp. Come early to soak up the atmosphere.



Auchenblae Bowling Club

As well as plentiful sun putting its shine on Auchenblae Bowling Club's 2018 season, highlights included

- honouring Bill Aitken as senior member playing his 58th season,
- welcoming 3 new members
- greeting visitors who took up our invitations to "come and try bowling"

The Club again has actively promoted informal bowling 'hat' sessions alongside its sporting competition events and fixtures. This approach will continue as the club aims to attract more players.

We were delighted that our annual OPEN 7-ends Competition on Gala Day drew a good entry of 25 players from across the Mearns - recognising Auchenblae's long-standing place in the extended bowling circuit. And of course, this event provides spectator sport as part of the Gala Saturday activities at the Den. Long may it continue!

To encourage more people of all ages to try bowling as gentle healthy exercise, social fun and sporting competition, we linked with Auchenblae Primary School and provided coaching sessions for P6-year children. We hope to do so again in 2019.

Our players represented Auchenblae Bowling Club playing in a range of Men's, Ladies' and Mixed singles and team fixtures in the Mearns and Aberdeenshire. Within our own club we played and completed almost all our traditional fixtures list.

We rounded off the season with our Prize-giving Social Evening at the Church Hall on 27th October when winners were presented with impressive, historic silverware engraved trophies which are competed for every year. Winners include new member John Findlay collecting the Club Cup and returning member Sandy Noble notching up two singles trophies as well as jointly taking the Men's Pairs trophy with Colin Hay. Colin was joint winner of the Mixed Pairs Shield with Mrs Adelaide Murray.

Mrs Murray kindly undertook the presentation of the trophies and was thanked by Club Chairman George Wilson. A thank you gift was presented to former Treasurer Alistair Jamieson and his wife Hazel who have stepped down after 14 years in the role.

The Club will hold its Annual Meeting in February, date to be confirmed. To find out more about joining the club contact George Wilson on 07985 593374



Photo attached is Club chairman George Wilson on left having presented the Begg Pairs Competition Shield to 2018 winners Adelaide Murray and Colin Hay.



AUCHENBLAE

ART SHOW

2018



The proceeds from our successful Art Show were £1,300. We donated £782 to Auchenblae Surgery for the purchase of 3 Blood Pressure Monitors and we propose to donate the remaining funds for the refurbishment/replacement of cushions/seating/ amenities etc., at the Church Hall for the benefit of the Friendship Group, Lunch Club and the many other groups using the venue.

Thanks to all who supported and contributed in any way to the success of our event.

Alice Morgan, Margaret Muiry, Gina Easter, Jenny Thomson, Sue Hodgson.

YULETIDE PEACE

Across the Mearns, homely
nooks fires set to amber flame,
How still the night lies that clear star strewn
skies acclaim;

The blessed spirit of Christmas
on children's faces given lease,
A landscape in the quietness
of Yuletide Eve at peace.

© Peter Morriss



YULETIDE THOUGHTS

in the late of night,
When the stars shine bright,
And an owl serenades the Moon,
When the stars twinkle on the Milky Way,
And materialistic things sink into
insignificance and fade away.
In pale moonlight where a frost laden
air has teased the ground,
A myriad of diamonds sparkle all around.

Then in the quiet of Christmas Eve
when the little ones in their beds soundly
sleep
And thoughts turn to that far off Holy place
And how God gave his only son for all
the human race
Thoughts of when Jesus was born and in
a manger lay,
And how three wise men for the Christ child
brought gifts on that special day.

© Peter Morriss



Auchenblae Christmas Market

FRIDAY 30TH NOVEMBER 2018



6.30-8.30PM | AUCHENBLAE VILLAGE HALL
MONBODDO ST, AUCHENBLAE, AB30 1XQ

featuring fantastic products by

*local artists, artisans,
crafters & traders*

including homeware, gifts, decorations, books, woodcraft & much, much more!



Tickets

Adults - £3.50 | 12-18 year olds - £2.00 | Under 12s - Free

Family Tickets (2 adults + 2 Kids 12+) - £10

*a mince pie and mulled wine
included with every admission!*

for more information, visit us on Facebook:



/AuchenblaePreSchoolGroup

all proceeds to benefit Auchenblae Pre-School Group

Auchenblae Pre-School Group is a Registered Scottish Charity SCO21752





Growing in our garden, learning in our playroom,
thriving in our community

AUCHENBLAE PRE-SCHOOL OPEN DAY

Saturday 8th December 10am – 12pm
The Playroom, Auchenblae Village Hall

Come and join us at the pre-school and find out what we are achieving within the community, and what we can offer your family.

- Play equipment available for the children •
- Refreshments for all •
- Consultation on what service you would like to see •
- Meet the staff •
- Admissions forms and Welcome Packs •

Baby & Toddler Group

2s Group

Pre-School

apsgadmissions@gmail.com

auchenblaepreschool.wixsite.com/apsg

Registered Scottish Charity SCO21752

Dates for your diary

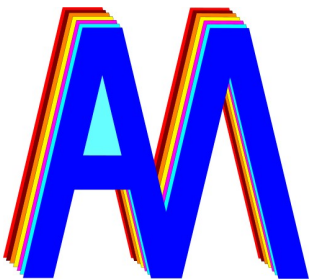
Carols, candles & Christmas pies
Pre-School open day

Church
Hall

7th December—7p.m.
8th December—10a.m.—12



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



Auchenblae Guides Christmas cards delivery service

Billy has kindly agreed to a collection box in the shop and there will also be one in church hall. This is partly a fund raiser but also gives the Guides an opportunity to provide a community service .



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