

Auchenblae Messenger

Founded in 1999 by Donald B. Rennie

Christmas Edition

VOLUME 21 ISSUE 4

DECEMBER 2019

From The Editor

I find it hard to believe that yet another year has almost gone. It has been an eventful year in Auchenblae and will surely continue to be so. Once again my grateful thanks to all the contributors, and we now have one or two new ones. The Messenger is yours and you are all welcome to contribute.

I will be collecting for the next issue in mid February at barpollybar@gmail.com

Very best wishes to you all for Christmas and the New Year.

Barbara



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Auchenblae Memo

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



The "Clubbie".

"Glad till the dancing stops, and the lilt of the music ends. Laugh till the game is played; and be you merry my friends."

The clubbie is, of course, the Friendship Group. I think that it was Mary Craig who first called it that and the name stuck. As usual we have had lots of fun, plenty of laughter, music and an all round good time. Once again old friends have come to entertain us. We must be getting it right because they keep coming back which makes it easy to plan a programme.

There really is something for all but the main reason for our existence is fellowship and a desire to be with other people. We are looking forward to our Christmas lunch which will be at a garden centre so that we can combine it with some Christmas shopping. We will have two weeks off over Christmas but then it's back again for more fun. We have room for more of you to join us. Do give us a try.

Very best Christmas wishes to you all.

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



Auchenblae Guild

We have had a very interesting session so far this year. We were pleased to welcome visitors from Fettercairn, Drumlithie and Luthermuir to a talk from a member of the Malawi Fruits charity who gave a very interesting, illustrated talk on the work that they are doing to help young farmers there. They are supplying solar pumps so that they can irrigate their crops. Malawi is a very poor country and this is a way of allowing them to augment their income.

Another interesting meeting was a show and tell with among other things and old bible, a Viking longship and a goose egg cup and saucer. It was decided to enter a Christmas Tree at the Fettercairn Festival and the theme for the decoration is Guild projects around the world.

On Monday 2nd December our speaker will be Mrs. Ann Rennie who will give a talk on her "Guild Journey." We will also be finalising the Carols, Candles and Christmas Pies Service which will be held on Friday 6th December in the Church at 7.00pm for 7.30pm. We seem to go from strength to strength each year and look forward to seeing as many of you as possible there. The Church will once again look amazing.

On behalf of all the Guild our very best wishes for a Joyous and peaceful Christmas and a Happy and prosperous New Year.

Auchenblae Parks Committee



As 2019 draws to a close, as a committee we would like to thank everyone who helped us throughout the year by volunteering at the Den Clear Up day in the Spring and at the Bike Pump Track back in October.

Also, thank you to those who baked for these events - traybakes, cake and sandwiches make these work days a great community event!

The Den and surrounding areas always receives compliments about how much fun it is and how lucky Auchenblae is to have these facilities. They really are unique to the area, as they're not maintained/funded by the council, and we're always grateful to people who visit and leave donations in the honesty boxes.

The Parks Committee AGM will be taking place on February 24th 2020. Meetings wise, we meet once a month for a couple of hours (except for July and December). If you would like to join the Committee please come along to the AGM and find out more about what we do.



Thanks to all those who have taken out memberships for the past season, and also to those who have just paid as you played. We hope you have enjoyed the course, and made the most of the relatively positive weather this year.

For those who haven't played before, there are no set tee off times, so why not give us a try.

This year Auchenblae Golf Club celebrated its 125th year anniversary, and held a few competitions to mark the occasion, as well as our standard competitions from April to September. However, as with the golf course we would love to see new members join. If you are interested, further information for both are available via:

<http://auchenblaegolfcourse.co.uk/index>

<http://www.auchenblaegolfclub.co.uk/>

Furthermore, if people do have feedback for the course, we would welcome constructive comment so that we can strive to improve and meet expectations. The course can be emailed via

auchenblaegolf@gmail.com



West Mearns Parish Church

Dear Friends

Thank you for the incredible support on Remembrance Sunday. Thank you to the Scouts, the Guides, the Brownies and the Rainbows who participated both in Auchenblae and Fettercairn services. Also, a special thanks to William Milne for being our Piper on the day.

The season of Christmas is busy and there are a number of events we would like to invite you to:

30th November/1st December

Christmas Tree Festival at Fettercairn Church

6th December

Carols, Candles and Christmas Pies 7:30pm Auchenblae Church

Best to come 7 for 7:30

21st December

Aves o' May Christmas Concert 7:00pm Auchenblae Church

An evening of Harp and Violin. Christmas and folk.

Not to be missed!!

24th December

Carol Service 6:00pm Auchenblae Church

Watchnight Service 11:15pm Fettercairn Church

25th December

Christmas Day Service 11:00am Glenbervie Church

Please join us for the four Advent Sundays of December

01 December Bigger in Faith Fettercairn 09:30 am

Glenbervie 11:00am

08 December Longer in Hope Fettercairn 09:30 am

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

Christmas Cards

As usual the Guides will be delivering Christmas cards this year. There will be a box in the Church Hall and another in the shop. This is for cards for the village only. Please address the envelopes as well as putting the name on them.

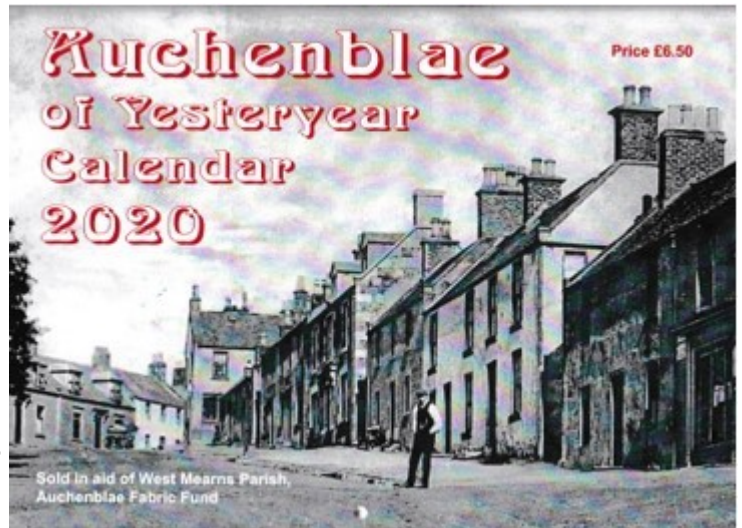
There is also a box in the Church Hall for crisp packets for the helicopter appeal.



Souvenir Edition of the Auchenblae Calendar

To mark the forthcoming year of 2020, a calendar depicting scenes of life in this quaint 'Conservation Village' stretching back more than one hundred years. Each monthly image comes from a private collection that includes previously unseen material.

Horses and carts are evident bringing goods from the nearby Fordoun Station to the various shops that traded then. These vital supplies allowed Auchenblae to remain self sufficient, and to cater for the many visitors who arrived annually during the summer months, to enjoy this country retreat.



Open gutters ran the length of the steep incline that forms the backbone of Auchenblae. This ancient system proved to be a very efficient means of draining the streets and pavements and would be welcome at times today!

Drinking water was drawn from hand pumps spaced at intervals up and down the street. One of these pumps is clearly seen in one of the oldest photographs.

Snowy scenes are reminiscent of winters common place in country areas back then.

"This year's edition is by far the best to date, and we are happy to share the historic images with those who are interested in days gone by".

The Auchenblae calendars have been published for several years and find their way to all corners of the globe with some ex-pats placing orders even before publication. Calendars costs £6.50 and are available on collection from Jenny (tel.01561 320245), from Premier Stores in Auchenblae or from Charles Michie, Chemist, and The Post Office, in Laurencekirk. All proceeds go towards worthwhile fabric projects at Auchenblae Church and Church Hall.



Auchenblae Bowling

BOWLING CLUB AIMS TO KEEP GROWING!

Auchenblae Bowling Club looks forward to 2020 aiming to continue growing its membership - especially to encourage more people to see bowling as a sport and game that can appeal to the whole family to share and enjoy.



Bowls can be played as Singles, Pairs, in a team of 3 (Triples) and as a team game of 4 players, so there is scope for parents and grandparents to encourage youngsters to learn bowling. The club each year provides group tuition to the P6 children at Auchenblae Primary School as this seems an especially ideal age for youngsters to start managing to handle bowls and focus their enjoyment with patience - taking turn in team play. The club aims to work with the Primary School again in 2020 to enable children to try out bowling.

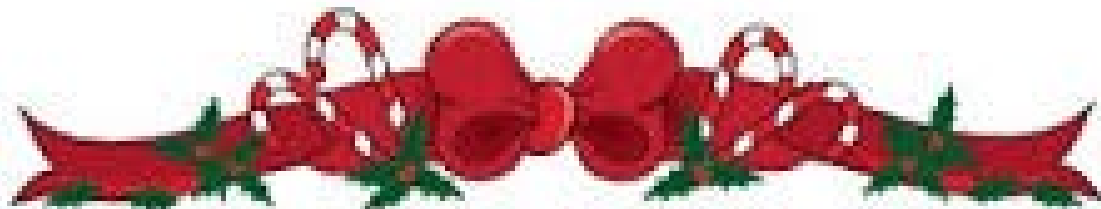
From an all-time low of just 8 adult members back in 2014, the club has sought to attract new players and was delighted at the start of the 2019 season to welcome 4 new members so that senior membership doubled to 16 + 1 new junior member.

An overcast day lacking sunshine slightly took the gloss off the Bowling Club's annual Gala Day Open Competition which attracted 26 players from across the Mearns. The entry was slightly fewer than the previous year. This bowling event is a a long-established popular fixture in the wider Aberdeenshire bowling calendar claiming its regular date slot last weekend in May. As part of the Auchenblae Gala programme, it contributes a buzz to the village Gala Day itself by drawing in the competitors from far and wide and by providing entertainment for spectators throughout the afternoon of the Gala Day.

Auchenblae Bowling Club entered teams in both the major Aberdeenshire bowls competitions and was heartened to reach the finals of one of the contests. Auchenblae Men's, Ladies' and Pairs winners of our own in-club competitions represented Auchenblae in the Aberdeenshire Champions Play-offs among the top bowlers from every club across the whole county area from Deeside to the Mearns. Thanks to the arrival of the four new players this season, Auchenblae club was able to stage for the first time in several years its trophy match for Novice players - won by Aileen Ogilvie.

The club completed all matches in each of its in-club competitions this summer - an achievement celebrated when all the club's various trophies were presented to winners at the Club Awards Night in October. This success came after a disappointment in 2018 when several trophies had to be left in the cupboard unawarded because matches had not been completed by September's end of season. A new system of entry lists with defined closing dates for completing club matches will be introduced in 2020 for those players wishing to compete for the historic club trophies.

The 2020 season is due to start next April and anyone interested in taking up bowls is invited to contact club chairman George Wilson on 07985 593374. The Club's AGM will be held in February 2020, date yet to be announced.



CHRISTMAS OVER THE MEARNS

A stumbling mist cradles brooding hills,
gaunt peaks shoulder their tired skies,
Ragged winds scatter fallen remnants of
autumn, under frosts tenacious grip a cold
earth sighs.
To a snow cast landscape the holly's blood red
beacons burn bright,
Advent candles turn the gloom from darkness
to light.



As a child is born, in a stable, in the still of the night.

Throughout the Mearns tall majestic beeches
parade with naked bough,
'Tis the harbingers of Christmas that echo
across Kincardineshire now!
Frost borne winds tease Cairn O' Mount's
heather lined ridge,
Drumtochty Forest evergreens extol in
silvered foliage;
Fettercairn's merry burns banter to their
rippled notch,
On Yuletide's eve sombre pines, sentries of
the slopes keep silent watch.

As a child is born, in a stable, in the still of the night.

As nature scribes winter's chapter to season's
book,
Festive lights a'twinkle spread cheer across the
Mearns homely nooks;
On Christmas day, church bells message of joy
ring clear,
Heralding Christmas and a Holy day drawn
near.

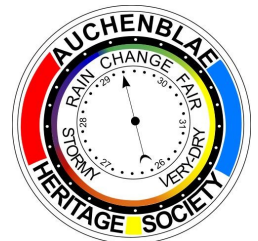
As a child is born, in a stable, in the still of the night.

© Peter Morriss

Auchenblae Heritage Society

Monday 2nd December

Whether we number ourselves among the many "in aboot comers" to the North East of Scotland or are proud to have been born and bred here, we are all familiar with phrases such as "fou's yer dous?", "aye mighty aye!" and - increasingly in the villages of the Mearns, Auchenblae included – "a'm awfu sair needin the lavvy"! If you would like to hear more about the Doric – no doubt interspersed with anecdotes – then come along to the next meeting of the Auchenblae Heritage Society where Jim Brown – well-known for his love of Scottish language and dialect and his promotion of the culture of the North East – will be giving a talk on the Doric. The meeting will be held in the Church Hall, Auchenblae beginning at 7.30. All welcome!



Mearns and Coastal Healthy Living Network (MCHLN)

Mearns and Coastal Healthy Living Network (MCHLN) is a local Aberdeenshire charity working with communities, families and carers to support the well-being of older people, to tackle social isolation and loneliness, to ensure continuing community participation, to do all we can to 'Lend an Ear and Give a Voice' to their views and interests and to challenge stigmas and perceptions too often associated with older age.

We work in partnership with national and local charities and other Third Sector Organisations, local care homes and businesses, and with Aberdeenshire Council; and inter-generationally with the pupils and staff of local high schools and primary schools across our region.

We are in the fifth and final year of funding from the National Lottery and have also been generously supported by Aberdeenshire Health and Social Care Partnership, the Corra Foundation, the Bank of Scotland Foundation, ScotMid, Castleton and the Tesco Bags for Life Scheme thanks to the support of customers in Tesco's Brechin and Montrose stores.

We provide a range of activities, services and support to maintain and improve the health and well-being of older people living in Kincardineshire and the Mearns and along the Coast, from Portlethen to St Cyrus, Fettercairn and Edzell Woods - and all the villages and towns in between. Our services and activities aim to support people to live independently at home and to remain involved in local communities.

Resources are focused on the things that older people tell us are important to them for 'Independent Living', including transport, shopping, gardening and help with small jobs at home. There is a high demand for our services. We know how much of a difference they make to people's lives, enabling them to attend health care and hospital appointments, to maintain their gardens and homes, to have easier access to shops and shopping and to take part in social activities, which support their physical and mental well-being and increase their sense of community participation.

We also provide a range of group meetings and activities to promote health and combat social isolation and loneliness. Our gardening groups, Past Times groups, health walks, chair-based exercises and lunch clubs are much enjoyed by those who take part in them. The gardening groups provide and maintain the flowers and plants at Laurencekirk and Portlethen Stations in partnership with Scotrail and Keep Scotland Beautiful to brighten both stations and create a more pleasant environment for local commuters.

We have developed our services this year and increased our support for people living with dementia and for their families and carers through two new initiatives: a Dementia Friendly Film Club at the Mearns Academy Community Campus and a monthly Memory Café at the Masonic Hall and The Venue in Laurencekirk.

We could do none of this without our fantastic volunteers, who give generously of their time and talents and the dedication and hard work of our Project Team, all of whom are part-time. Volunteers are the lifeblood of Mearns and Coastal Healthy Living Network and with the team form our charity's frontline. We are very grateful to them all, as we are to all our funders and supporters.

Actively communicating with and listening to those we support, their families, our members and volunteers are integral parts of meeting the needs of our communities and ensuring that we evolve to meet changing needs and adapt to face new challenges. By continuing to promote an open and inclusive culture we hope to encourage and enable everyone involved with Mearns and Coastal Healthy Living Network to shape and contribute to the growth of our charity.

It is always a pleasure to serve those we help in the community. With your help we will do more. If you would like to benefit from our services and activities, know someone who would, or if you want to be part of Mearns and Coastal Healthy Living Network, become a volunteer or supporter, please contact us by phone at 01561 378130 and by e-mail at mchln.office@gmail.com

David Middleton
Project Manager

Jane Mitchell Chair

Auchenblae Surgery—Important message!

Carol Brown will be retiring from the Surgery on
December 20th.

For anyone who wants to say, "Goodbye" any cards/
donations may be left at reception.

Auchenblae Art Show 2019

The proceeds from our successful Art Show were £1,000. We donated the funds towards projects at Burnside Care Home, Laurence-kirk.

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.

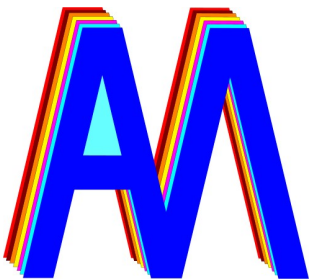


Dates for your diary

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



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