

The

# Auchenblae Messenger

Volume 8 Issue 1

February 2006



## DO YOU USE OUR LOCAL SHOPS?

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Trish MacEachern asks an important question

**AT THE START** of this week I was having a conversation with friends about the number of shops that used to be in Auchenblae in days gone by. Personally I don't remember them, but have been reliably informed that there were about 12\* in all. As time went by and more people bought cars these shops dwindled and one by one they have closed until there are only three remaining.



These shops we have in our village at the moment provide a very valuable service to us and we need to use them or they too could become distant memories like the others have become over the years. This is a reality, and not just speculation on my part!



As the snow time comes round again and it is more difficult to get around, how many who would not normally do so, will use the shops, folk who prefer instead to drop in past the supermarket on the way home from work in Aberdeen?

Have these people thought that the shops may not be there for their convenience if they do not support them on a regular basis? We are so

very lucky that the range of goods which can be bought in Auchenblae is fantastic. When did you last go into the shops to see what was available to purchase? If you have not been in for a while or have never been, please do go and have a look. There are some things the local shops have which are difficult to source elsewhere, and they are price competitive with other local shops. Why drive to Laurencekirk or Stonehaven when we have on our doorstep all the basics we need?



### USE THEM OR LOSE THEM !

\*In William Cramond's little book "On Stra'finla Top" published in 1894 there are advertisements for no fewer than 17 shops in Auchenblae. Those were the days! Ed.

## West Mearns Parish Church & Auchinblae Guild



**Every Sunday (except 1st) 11.00 a.m. Auchinblae Church**

**1st Sunday—11.00 a.m. Glenbervie Church**

In addition to Sunday School, there is now a crèche for very young children every Sunday at Auchinblae and Glenbervie

**VISITORS AND THEIR CHILDREN WELCOME AT ALL SERVICES**

**Please Note: After each Sunday Service in Auchinblae Church there is an opportunity to meet with friends over tea and coffee and some Fair Trade goods are always on sale as well.**

### **EASTER SERVICES 2006**

The dates & times of all Easter Services will be published in full in the April Memo which will be printed and delivered before the end of March

### **Auchenblae Guild (West Mearns Parish Church)**

At the first meeting of the New Year members enjoyed a Scottish Lunch followed by a lively session of “Grumpy Old Women” in which every member aired her pet “grumps”. In February, the guest speaker was Mrs Carol Medlock of Haulkerton Farm who tackled the very serious topic of “Organic Farming” in a manner which was both enlightening and amusing.

On **Wednesday, March 15<sup>th</sup> at 2.30pm** in the Church Hall, the A.G.M. will be held, thereafter the Committee will lead a “Do it yourself” programme based on the discussion topic for the year – “Let’s talk about H.I.V./A.I.D.S.”.

The much acclaimed Ury Players from Stonehaven will be taking the stage in the Village Hall on **Wednesday March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7.30pm** when they will entertain the audience with their colourful musical revue. Tickets price £3.00 will shortly be on sale. The usual popular feature of Auchinblae events, a raffle, will close the evening’s entertainment which is in aid of Guild/Church funds and the project for this year – “Walking with the displaced”

## From this Month's Editor—Donald Rennie

### **How do you like our New Road ?**

Right away, someone is going to point out that it isn't a new road at all – it's just the old road resurfaced. Quite correct. I thought someone would spot the deliberate mistake. And all of us in Auchenblae must be mighty glad that at last something was done about the road that rattled all our cars or lorries or buses for so long. So in terms of the 'brickbats and bouquets' (see Carol Shea's Family Page) there's a bouquet for the lads who made a proper job of the repairs. We may feel like indulging in a few brickbats that it took so long, but now the job's done and we're all the better for it.



**The Resurfaced Road at the Waters,  
Auchenblae**

But isn't it true that we're all much better at the brickbats than the bouquets? Why should that be? Because it's easy to throw bricks at the folk who don't do things the way you think they *should* be done – especially if you don't have any responsibility for the things you're complaining about! And it's one thing to throw the bricks and another entirely to stand where the bricks are landing.

Take, for example the vexed question of wheelie-bins. Report after report has appeared in the press about the "fiasco" of this "ill thought-out scheme". Furore at public meetings has erupted and case after case has been cited of aged pensioners unable to trundle heavy bins around etc. etc. And there's a lot of truth in what has been said. But there's another side to the story.



What about the number of folk who are now looking after the interests of their elderly neighbours and making arrangements to see that their bins are out at the appointed time ? After the brickbats, a bouquet or two might not be a bad thing, and who knows, *you might be one of the people who deserves one*.

And another for the folk who distribute *The Messenger* in these blustery days of February ...and a third for all the people who read it when they get it. Hope you enjoy this copy!

D.B.R.



### **Ury Players (Stonehaven)**

present

### **A MUSICAL REVIEW**

**Auchenblae Village Hall— Wednesday 22nd March 2006**

**7.30 p.m.**

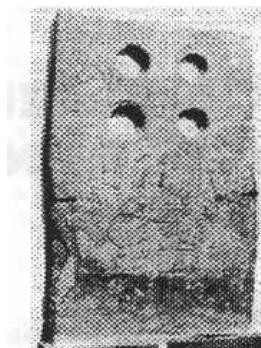
**Tickets available from Auchenblae Guild Members or from the Post Office and Metelski's Store.**

**Tickets priced at £3.00 in aid of Guild Project and Church Funds**

## **Auchenblae & District Heritage Society**

**Monday March 6<sup>th</sup> 7.30p.m. Auchenblae Church**

Slide presentation by Ian Bell, local historian :  
“The River Luther – the source to the sea”.  
Come and find out about our local ‘river’ and its mills.



A Short AGM will precede this talk and refreshments will follow.

All are Welcome.

Don’t forget – we want your photos of sites of local interest, particularly historic buildings. The best of the photos will appear in the leaflet we are in the process of producing – “A Historic Walk round Auchenblae”. There will be prizes for good photos!

For more information about the Heritage Society or the photo competition phone  
**Gillian (Secretary) 01561 320360.**

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## **AUCHENBLAE OAPs**

Firstly, Jean, Wendy and Tracey wish to thank everyone who gave their support through our first year on the committee. It was hard work but rewarding in the end. We would like to add some dates for your diary :

**25<sup>th</sup> March : Easter Coffee Morning at Jean’s house 10 a.m. – 12 noon.**

All welcome. (36 Hillview Road)

**22<sup>nd</sup> April Tracey’s Coffee Morning 10 a.m. – 12 noon**

All Welcome. (2 Burnett Street)

At present we are raffling a hamper in the bottom shop.

This will be drawn at Jean’s on 25<sup>th</sup> March.

Hope you will all continue your support in 2006.

We all look forward to seeing you at our Coffee Mornings.

Lastly, we are looking for quality bric a brac for our annual stall at the Vintage Rally this year. Details of this to follow in the next *Messenger*.

## **Auchenblae & District Community Association**

### **Disco – Stage & Screen Theme**

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March – 8 ‘til late’

Auchenblae Hall, where Harry met Sally, Laurel met Hardy and Bonnie boogied the night away with Clyde – dress to impress, join in the fun – rub shoulders with the ‘famous’! See posters soon for details.

### **Auchenblae Village Hall— Electricity Charges**

Recent increases in electricity costs, as notified by our electricity providers, have regretfully meant an increase in the charge to all hall users to 15p per unit.

### **Auchenblae Village Hall—Public Entertainment Licensing**

As from January 2006 hall management committees will be required to apply for a Public Entertainment Licence. As a Community Association, who also administrate the Village Hall, we are in the process of finalising an application for the licence (to be submitted by March 2006).

Inevitably, the implementation of the conditions contained within the new licence will involve some change in hall booking procedures. It is envisaged that a mutually convenient booking and confirmation system will be put in place for the benefit of all hall users.

Prior to the full implementation of the licence regulations, and as it will require the co-operation of all who hire the hall, it is planned to meet with the regular hall users to discuss the terms of the licence and provide further information.

Alice Morgan

Secretary



### **MEARNS SKATEPARK PROJECT**

Following our last very successful band night at the Drumtochty Arms

we plan to hold another one in the middle of March.

Look out for details at the P.O. Notice Board and shop.

Thanks to the ‘Drum’ for having us!!

Proceeds go towards the skatepark to be built in the Park at Laurencekirk. Building to commence shortly/

For information, ‘phone Jamie 01561 320 360

## Auchenblae Friendship Group

Our membership is on the up and we now have six new members. We extend a welcome to all over the age of sixty, or to anyone else who has time to spare on a Wednesday morning. Do come and join us in the Church Hall at 10.15am. If you require transport Jean will pick you up with the school bus and deliver you safely there and home again.

Coming up this session we have a craft morning, music and dancing, quizzes, keep fit and various other activities. There really is something for everyone.

Our thanks go once again to George and Ina at the Clatterin' Brig for the really good Burns Lunch that they served us with. They look after us very well and it is much appreciated.

Barbara Strouts



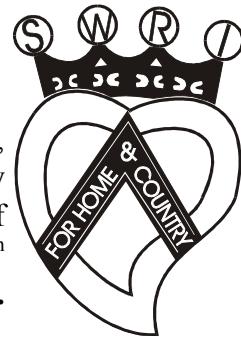
### Not a pretty sight!

The area in front of Auchenblae Church was in former days the site of the Paldy Fair before it moved to Herscha Hill. Nobody seems to be absolutely certain to whom this ground belongs, although for many a day it has been the car park for the Kirk on a Sunday morning. In more recent times it has been much used by parents of children at Auchenblae School since parking on the brae has been severely restricted by the presence of yellow lines.

In the Church we have tried to preserve the grass sward in front of the church hall, but in spite of our best efforts drivers of heavy lorries, buses and other vehicles have been using the grass area as a turning point, until today it's just an impossible muddy mess.

Very recently approaches have been made to Aberdeenshire Council to see if something can be done to improve the situation, and we are hopeful that before long, we shall be able to report that the matter has been dealt with to everyone's satisfaction.

## Auchenblae W.R.I.



The year began with an interesting talk on genealogy by Ian Bell of Laurencekirk, an Auchenblae loon whose father was the weel kent “Bobby” Bell in days gone by when every village had its own policeman. At the February meeting a number of members tried their hands at ceramic painting while the rest looked on. The 78<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party will take place in the Village Hall on **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March at 7.30**. The President, Lorna Bey, announced that after the judging of the Bulb Competition, the rest of the evening would be a surprise planned by herself. Bulbs on show will be a bowl of daffodils, a bowl of tulips, amaryllis and a bowl of own choice. The competition for the evening is a sewn article for the Fettercairn Show and for the Thomson Cup the article is a cheesecake. Cath Riddoch is the duty committee member for the evening. The cost will be £5.00.

### Aberdeenshire Library Service

On Monday each week, the Mobile Library visits Auchenblae. First stop is the School then 10.30 sees Gordon, our Librarian, parked in or near the Square and at 11.00 he stops at Glenfarquhar Crescent for the benefit of those who live at the top of the village.

The Library may be small but it contains a wide selection of books (as you would expect) but also there are CDs and video tapes. On the shelves are large print books as well as those in the normal type sizes. There is a colourful selection of storybooks for young children and some shelves more suited for the older ones and teenagers. Whodunit fans have their own special shelves as do the more romantic readers. Plenty of choice is available on the rest of the fiction shelves in hardback or paperback form. “Serious” readers can find books on every subject from cookery to gardening to pets, from biography to geography to history, all classified according to the Dewey Decimal System to make it easy to find what you want – but you can always ask Gordon who is happy to answer any question you care to ask. Beside the door there is a local history section so if you are new to the district and would like to know more about where you live, have a browse there but, be warned, these books are very popular! If there is any book you would like to read but it isn’t there, the best thing is to ask Gordon if he can get it for you. It is possibly already out, on a shelf at Headquarters or in a Branch Library in each case a request can be made for it on your behalf. If Aberdeenshire does not possess the book that you want and you really need it, Gordon can arrange for it to be borrowed from another library using the Inter-library Loan Service.

If you are a Senior Citizen everything is free but if you are a wage earner there is a charge for borrowing discs and videos, for requests and inter-library loans. You may also be fined if you keep the books too long! The normal loan time is four weeks but unless someone else has requested it, you can check your book out for a further four weeks. To become a registered reader all you have to do is pop into the van and speak to Gordon. You will be issued on your next visit with (yet another) plastic card which will entitle you to borrow books from Stonehaven and Laurencekirk Libraries also.

The more we borrow the less likelihood there is of this service being curtailed or even axed so come along, join up and get to know the Auchenblae booklovers. Ann Rennie

## FAMILY PAGE

Walk this way .....

I'm sure we are all aware how important it is to take regular exercise and with that in mind, given the lovely area we are blessed to live in, two things came to mind.

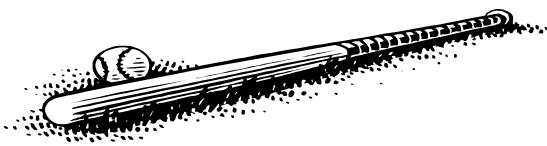
Firstly, where to find details of good walks around the village and its neighbouring areas – the sort of thing you can walk out of your door and start. We would also need to know about access through fields and lanes etc. I am sure that there may be some 'old' walks that are little used these days. It would be lovely to explore those that are accessible. The Messenger might be a good place to start sharing such information. I would be happy to be a contact and co-ordinate entries.

Secondly, if a few people are interested in walking, a time and place could be arranged to walk as a group. Again, I could co-ordinate if people contacted me.

If you have any information or ideas, or would like to get something started, please call **Tracey Harrison-Lewis on 01561 320596**

We might even be able to produce some little maps/flyers (so long as we don't breach copyright) and sell them at fairs etc.

### BRICKBATS CAMPAIGN CORNER



Go on, what gets your goat. Just get it off your chest or do something more constructive about it. Start a campaign! There are only 2 rules. It **MUST** be short. It must **NOT** be personal. e.g.: **Too much packaging on food.** With the need to reduce our waste, this is my big bugbear, and one of the best reasons I can think of buying local meat, fish, fruit, veg and groceries etc.



We've had the brickbats (see left) so now for the bouquets.

My vote goes to all of the people who keep the fronts of their houses nice, with pots, tubs, window boxes and baskets. They always make my day.

Thank you!

So if you have a 'Brickbat (something that really gets your goat) or would like to send a virtual Bouquet, then let us know and we'll include it next time. **Carol (01561 320748)**

### Moments with (crumby) Mummy – Tracey Harrison-Lewis.

I don't know about you but my lad has certainly changed a lot since starting school last September. He seems to have learned a lot of new words, phrases and actions – not all of them to be proud of! Somehow, it's hard to believe my baby will soon be six; time just flies by. I am sure the next ten years will be just the same.

Children today have so much information to take in, it's no wonder they are old before their time. I recall when I was sixteen all I had to worry about was 'boys meeting girls, cider and cigarettes. Children today have such a lot of 'choices' too and that's without the worry of exams and just fitting in.

While reading one of the newspapers recently it was reported that in most cities in Britain you could get a line of cocaine cheaper than a cup of cappuccino. More widely reported was the case of the poor 11-year-old girl addicted to smoking heroin. What sort of person thinks it is acceptable to sell or give drugs to any young person, especially one just into double figures! I suppose all that can be done is to keep talking with your children, answer their questions honestly and really listen to what they have to say. Who knows, us oldies might stay 'hip with the yooff!'

(Any other mums or others with thoughts/concerns to share? It is as Tracey says, a difficult and fast changing world out there.)

## Food for Thought - Season's Eatings!

SEASONAL BEST— Cod, Scallops, Mussels, native Oysters, Mackerel, Pork, Red Cabbage, Cauliflower, Watercress, Spring Greens, Rhubarb, Bananas,

As this publication is due to reach you at the beginning of March, what better time to look new growth, lighter and fresher foods on our plates. Thanks this month go to Gina Easter and Margaret Johnston for recipes and tips.

### Hearty Spring Soup

#### Ingredients

1 large onion, chopped  
2 or 3 rashers of bacon or pancetta, chopped  
1 clove garlic (optional)  
2 or three sliced and rinsed leeks  
1 large potato, diced 1 tbspn plain flour  
1 ½ pts chicken or veg. stock (home made or cube)  
½ small spring cabbage, finely sliced & a tin of butter beans



**Method** Gently fry onion in a little oil with bacon or pancetta (omit bacon if vegetarian) until soft but not browned. Garlic, if desired, can be added at this point. Add leek and 'sweat' for a minute or two. Sprinkle on flour and mix well. Add stock, bring to the boil and simmer until vegetables are just cooked. Add spring cabbage and butter beans and simmer until the cabbage is just tender. Season to taste and enjoy, perhaps with some lovely granary or cheese bread!

**FOOD FACT.—DID YOU KNOW** ...that 'brown bread' may just be highly processed white bread that has had colouring added? Buy Wholemeal or Granary.

### Rhubarb and Custard Cheesecake

To those of you of a certain age this may sound rather cannibalistic, but I can assure you it is delicious and easy too. What a great way to use up your own rhubarb (or beg some from a friend).

#### Ingredients

225g Digestive Biscuits	3 leaves of gelatine, soaked in cold water
100g melted butter	450g cream cheese
450g Rhubarb (cut into 1cm pieces)	250ml ready made custard
200g Light Soft Brown Sugar	100 ml double cream, whipped.
juice of ½ lemon	

#### Method.

1. Crush the biscuits to fine crumbs and stir in butter. Press mixture into base of 22-25cm loose bottomed cake tin and refrigerate to set.
2. Put rhubarb and brown sugar into saucepan and stir over medium heat until thick and mushy. Add lemon juice and liquidise to smooth puree. Pour the puree into bowl and stir in gelatine until completely dissolved.
3. Put cream cheese and custard in food processor and blend until smooth. Add rhubarb puree and continue blending until smooth. Transfer mixture to a large bowl and fold in whipped cream. Pour into biscuit base and chill for 2-3 hours to set.
4. You can add stewed rhubarb topping too – 6 sticks of rhubarb, roughly cut cooked over a medium heat with 2 tablespoons caster sugar until tender. Leave to cool and serve.

Note: Ginger and Orange both go really well with rhubarb. Try adding some chopped crystallised ginger or grated orange zest to filling or topping or use ginger chip biscuits. Bon Apetit!

**Try something new challenge.** *Kohlrabi*. A brassica type veg that's a bit turnip-like yet radishy too and can be eaten raw or cooked. Peel and grate into salads or cut into fingers and use with a dip or sprinkling with a little salt. Boil or steam – try mixing with peas or carrots - or best of all 'clothed' in a white sauce. **Tip.** Can be a bit woody. Buy small and younger where possible. **Lastly**, try picking up more than your bread and milk at **Metelski's**, ripe avocados and tomatoes, lovely sliced on bread/toast for lunch! Also a great range of soya products, vegetarian/flavoured sausages, dried beans, pulses and grains like couscous that make the great base for a nutritious meal. A place for inspiration – not desperation!

## Auchenblae Parks Committee

### Who are they and what do they do?

The committee is a group of Auchenblae people who 'look after' the different bits of land belonging to the village.



### Which bits of land?

#### The Den

including the tennis courts; bowling and putting greens; children's play area and adventure play ground; the lade walk; the dam; the 'high roadie' and all the bits in between!

#### The Football Pitch

and the surrounding areas of young woodland.

#### Gilbert's Hill

the hillside grounds around the War Memorial overlooking the village.

#### The Golf Course

With a membership of 480 (and a waiting list) Auchenblae Golf Course is managed as a business on behalf of the village.

### Why do we need a Committee?

- These areas belong to the village
- They are not maintained by the local Authority
- The committee manage and maintain all the above areas on behalf of Auchenblae
- Without local support and commitment, these areas will follow suit of other villages and be taken over by the local Authority
- Offers of help are always necessary and much appreciated

## Auchenblae Drama Group

to meet in the Drumtochty Arms on Wednesday March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7.30p.m.

to discuss our first production!



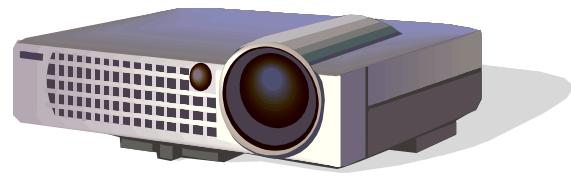
All are welcome, but if you intend to come please phone **Gillian (01561 320360) or Collette (01561 320 310)**

## Auchenblae Post Office

A big thank you to everyone who has donated to the Angus Stroke Services Appeal Fund and helped to raise over £321 so far.

## Auchenblae Messenger—Digital Projector

The Auchenblae Messenger has purchased via the recent Awards for All grant a digital projector. It is available free to use by any responsible person in the village. Please take it for at least three or four days before you require it as you may want to use some of the more advanced features that make it easier to use at a presentation.



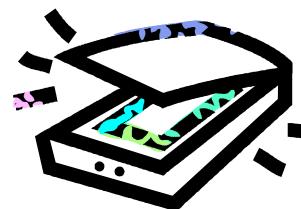
The following features are worth a mention.

- It can be unplugged from the mains within a few seconds of turning it off as it uses the latest cooling technology. The fan stops considerably quicker than most other projects.
- It comes with a wireless network card so it can be used in that mode if you have a WIFI enabled laptop.
- It also has the normal VGA lead to connect to a computer.
- Best of all it comes with software that allows you to convert a PowerPoint or Photo presentation to be downloaded to a supplied USB Flash card, we have a 1gb card. Therefore you can do your presentation via the projector remote control and USB flash card with no computer in sight.
- The software for this is in both Windows and Mac formats included in a CD provided in the carry case.

We also have a light weight projector stand and a 2 meter by 2 meter projector screen and stand for use with the projector.

We will be purchasing a powerful laptop later in the year that will also be available for village use out with Messenger Preparation times.

We also have an Epson 4990 scanner that can scan pictures, transparencies and negatives. It can scan large format transparencies and has ICE dust and scratch removal facilities. Again this is available free to any responsible person in the village.



In the first instance contact **Eddie Cairns on 01561 320494** if you require a loan of the projector or scanner.

## EMMERDALE EXTRAVAGANZA—INCHMARLO— Saturday 3rd June

Last year the Emmerdale Extravaganza and Dinner Dance raised an amazing £270,000 for The Anthony Nolan Trust to help take back lives from leukaemia.

The charity to benefit from the funds raised in 2006 will be UCAN – Urological Cancer in Grampian.

Urological cancers such as prostate, bladder and kidney are taking the lives of both men and women everyday. Information about these cancers is limited and sufferers are often too embarrassed to seek lifesaving help - very frequently people who have a good chance of survival die when they leave it too late for treatment. The charity is hoping to raise £2million over the next three years to create facilities in Aberdeen so that Scientists can undertake pioneering research, people affected by the cancers can be cared for to the highest standard and awareness of the diseases can be raised in order to save lives.

There a full day of events followed by a charity celebrity dinner— for full details please contact George Walker on 01467 628876 / 07876 710 559 or e-mail: [george@georgewalkerevents.co.uk](mailto:george@georgewalkerevents.co.uk) or log on to: [www.emmerdale-events.org](http://www.emmerdale-events.org) .....you could even volunteer for a wing walk for charity!!



### Messenger Distributors

Anne Anderson, Sheena Auld, Carol Nelson, Anne Caird, Sheree Caird, Therese Hendry, Colette Hoggmascall, Ann Rennie, Trish MacEachern, Margaret Muiry, Barbara Strouts, Lois McCormick and Moira Hutchison.

**Copies of the Messenger can be collected from the local shops and the Drumlithie Hotel**

### PRODUCTION TEAM

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Barbara Strouts,  
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"Keeping you informed"

The Publisher of this issue was  
Kevin Newstead

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### Auchenblae Messenger Supplement

#### MONTHLY MEMO

DATE	EVENT	PLACE	TIME
Thursday 2nd March	W.R.I	Village Hall	7.30 p.m.
Monday 6th March	Heritage Society	Church Hall	7.30 p.m.
Wednesday 15th March	Auchenblae Guild	Church Hall	2.30 p.m.
Saturday 18th March	Auchenblae Community Assoc. Disco	Village Hall	8.00 p.m.
Wednesday 22nd March	Auchenblae Drama Group	Drumtochty Arms	7.30 p.m.
Wednesday 22nd March	Ury Players Musical Review	Village Hall	7.30 p.m.
Saturday 25th March	OAP Coffee Morning	36 Hillview Road	10.00 a.m.
Saturday 22nd April	OAP Coffee Morning	2 Burnett Street	10.00 a.m.
Saturday 29th April	Den Opening	Den	10.30 a.m.

#### ALL INFORMATION FOR INCLUSION IN THE APRIL MEMO

SHOULD BE GIVEN TO ANN RENNIE, 'MERNIS HOWE' Tel. 01561 320622

BY 15<sup>TH</sup> March 2006

**Please note** that the **next edition of 'The Messenger'** will be published during **April 2006**. The closing date for inclusion in this edition will be **15th April 2006**.

If you have access to e-mail please send to: [messenger@mearns.org](mailto:messenger@mearns.org)

Otherwise, hand to Ross Muiry— Marybank. If you have access to a word processor, a floppy disc version (PC only) would be appreciated.

Thanks from all the team!

*We're on the web!*  
<http://www.mearns.org>