

Dates For Your Diary		Mearns and Coastal Healthy Living Network
	March	Job Opportunities
1st	Heritage Society AGM and meeting	Would you like to work for a Social Enterprise offering
5th	Auchenblae Guild	
5th	MCHLN Quiz night	Gardening and Cleaning
16th	Parks Committee AGM	services for older people?
17th	Auchenblae Guild	
20th	Guild Coffee Morning	Flexible hours to fit in with other commitments
31st	Healing Service	
	April	Good rate of pay
1st	Maunday Thursday Service	For more details please contact
1st	WRI Fashion Show	Ed Garrett
2nd	Good Friday Service	Mearns and Coastal Healthy Living Network
4th	Easter Sunday Service	44 High Street
10th	Litter Pick Up	Laurencekirk
15th	Deadline for May Messenger	AB30 1AB
17th	Parents Forum Daffodil Tea	
21st	Auchenblae Guild	Tel 01561 378130
		mhln@care4free.net
	Messenger Distribution Team	Laurencekirk and District First Responders
	Ann Anderson, Sheena Auld, Carol Nelson, Anne Caird, Sheree Caird, Therese Hendry, Ann Rennie, Trish MacEachern, Margaret Muiry, Lois McCormick and Moira Hutchison.	Could you help save a life?
	Messenger Production Team	A Community First Responder is a member of the public who volunteers to help their community by responding to medical emergencies while the ambulance is on its way.
	Susie Brown, Annie Thow, Eddie Cairns, Kevin Newstead	Laurencekirk First Responders cover the Mearns area and are looking for new volunteers.
	Memo Production	Full training will be given.
	Ann Rennie	For further information please contact
	Copies of the Messenger can be collected from the local shops and the Drumlithie Hotel	Cathy Fleming on
		01561 377151



The Auchenblae Messenger
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Founded in 1999 by Donald B. Rennie
March 2010

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From the Editors

Doesn't time fly, it seems like no time at all since we were putting the December issue together.

We do send out an email reminder to regular contributors about a fortnight before the deadline—if you wish to be added to this list, please email

a_blaemessenger@btinternet.com.

It helps greatly if we can simply cut and paste your submissions although notes through the door are accepted.

We caught up with the Minty's at the end of the year, most people will remember them well—it's hard to believe that it's almost 14 years since they left the village! They sent in a "wee story" about themselves for you. I'm sure it will bring back memories to some of our more mature readers.

We were again approached by a parent in the village concerned about dog fouling. It can't be pleasant to have to clean children's shoes and buggy wheels all the time. Please pick up after your pet, not only in the village but also on the verges in the surrounding roads. Pedestrians need to step on verges to avoid traffic. The dog warden has advised that poop bags can be placed in ordinary bins as long as they are well sealed.

Ann Rennie will be putting out a Memo in April if you do have anything to publicise.

Cheers

Susie and Annie

**Deadline for next issue is
15th April 2010**
Please submit to
a_blaemessenger@btinternet.com

Corny Joke Corner

Q. What is round and really violent?

A. A vicious circle

Auchenblae Guild

March promises to be a very busy month for the Auchenblae Church Guild. We start on Friday 5th with the World Day of Prayer service at 2.00pm in the Auchenblae Church. This used to be known as the Women's World Day of Prayer but no longer. Anyone is very welcome to come and join us for what is always an enjoyable service.

On Wednesday 17th March Councillor Tom Fleming is the speaker at our regular monthly meeting in the Church Hall at 2.30pm. His theme is "My work as a Councillor". This will be an interesting talk and again, anyone will be made to feel very welcome.

On Saturday March 20th the guild are holding a coffee morning in the village hall. Proceeds will go to Guild funds and the church. This year we are supporting two very worthwhile causes, the HIV/AIDS project enabling people to grow nourishing food so that their drugs will be effective and also a project in Cambodia rescuing mainly girls from traffickers who use them in the sex trade. We hope that you can support us. More details will appear later.

Advance notice of our April meeting which will be in the church hall on Wednesday 21st at 2.30pm. It will be a DIY meeting, led by the Leadership Team on this year's theme "What does the Lord require of you?" "To act justly" We will also hold our AGM and have afternoon tea. We hope to see all our old friends and to welcome new ones to all these events.

Barbara Strouts

Spring Cleaning

I don't mean the indoor sort – I'm talking about getting some fresh air, exercise and a bit of community spirit. Anyone who has walked or cycled along the country roads around Auchenblae will know that the road verges are strewn with litter. Scotland's biggest annual clean up of litter takes place throughout the month of April, organized by Keep Scotland Tidy, and I have offered to run an event in Auchenblae on **Saturday 10th April from 10am until about 12o'clock**. After meeting in the village square, volunteers will be issued with bags, litter picker-uppers and cheery bright tabards, but should bring their own gloves.

For a chance to take positive action to improve our environment, please phone Sue Barrie to register your interest – even if you can't make a firm commitment just yet – on 340673.



Auchenblae Drama Group

Dates for your Diaries!

23rd April Auchenblae Drama Group movie themed quiz night in the Village Hall. Hosted by Quiz Master Kevin Newstead. First drink free for movie themed fancy dress costumes! Details to follow.

Celebrate local talent at Auchenfest **18th, 19th and 20th June**. Further details to follow

Pantomime Little Red Riding Hood **18th and 19th December** in the Village Hall.

We Need You!

Were you born with a talent for acting, directing, sewing etc.?

We are currently seeking people to join our group to perform or help out backstage.

We are especially seeking to recruit someone to help make costumes for our forthcoming pantomime

Call Gayna Sandman on 01561 320867
or

email secretary@auenblaedramagroup.co.uk

Go on....give it a go!

The Minty's

We had a year of really bad luck on the farm, Mid Backhill, Ardallie, Mintlaw' so we thought we would try a change, first we looked at a Chip Shop which Charlie thought he would like to try, but our solicitor put us off it, and asked if we would consider a shop in Auchenblae – Drapery and Ironmongery.

We had never been to Auchenblae, but we knew the Penny's that owned it so we thought we would go and have a look, that was in May 1967.

When we came to Auchenblae there were ten shops and we had no experience of shop trade so it was a bit daunting.

I remember our first week when we came home with stock on the Wednesday night going across the road to Peter MacPherson and asking him what profit we should be putting on our goods and any advice he could give us.

Barclay's had a sale, the Penny's were there a year and they had a sale.

Our first days takings was £3.00 so we were pretty worried, however over the coming weeks we saw trade go up and down.

Charlie took a job working with Alan Smith, Drumsleed and C & S Smith at Redhall, to help make a living, leaving Ethel to run the shop.

Sandy Sey who owned the grocer shop sold up and we took over the stock, but of course we did not have enough room, so we had to build an extension. In the meantime John Milne had bought the Willows and he let us work out of there till the shop extension was finished.

In our time we have seen the money change to decimal, quite a challenge for people and then the weights and measures changed to metric. When we retired in 1996 80/90% of our trade was groceries, and the village had three shops, the butcher, the post office and our shop the "bottom shop". Now there is only one!



West Mearns Parish Church

Services

Fettercairn—9.30am every Sunday
 Glenbervie—11.00am the first Sunday of every month
 Auchenblae—11.00am the other Sundays in the month
Sunday School for the children at all three churches

Special Events and Services

WEDNESDAY HEALING SERVICE

31st March; 7.30pm – Auchenblae Church

An informal act of worship which includes praying for those whose names are given to the minister (information sheets available at church or contact Catherine on 01561-340203) and the ministry of healing touch. All are welcome.

MAUNDAY THURSDAY

1st April; 7.30pm – Glenbervie Church

Jesus said: 'A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, as I have loved you.' (John 13:34)
 This act of worship includes the celebration of the Sacrament of the Last Supper. All are welcome.

GOOD FRIDAY

2nd April; 7.30pm – St Laurence's Scottish Episcopal Church, Laurencekirk

"God showed his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8)

A joint act of worship, with our brothers and sisters in Christ of West Mearns, Aberluthnott linked with Laurencekirk and the Scottish Episcopal Church reflecting on the events of Good Friday. The service is followed by hot cross buns and refreshments. All are welcome.

EASTER DAY

Sunday, 4th April: Fettercairn: 9.30am Glenbervie: 11.00am

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Each of these family services will be followed by a short celebration of communion for those who wish to stay on. All are welcome.

From the Minister

A thought for the season of Lent and looking forward to Easter:

There isn't much if anything to laugh about in the news headlines. More bad and sad news lies heavily on our days like the snow and slush of winter, the haar that comes any season. There are people in the throes of depression, failure and grief who feel they are living in the middle of winter, with no hope of spring; a world facing the horrors of war. The late Archie Craig, a former Moderator of the General Assembly and wonderful man of God once said in a sermon: "There is a time of the year in Scotland - it is about the middle of February - when you will see a dream in the eye of the garden-lover; a dream which is not the bastard of wishful thinking, but the lawful offspring of the garden-lovers knowledge of sun and soil and seed." Such a garden-lover God who looks at the still winter gardens of the world and who with knowledge of us and with faith, hope and love, can already see and smell the roses of summer; such a God gives the power of hope and prayer to dreams of peace and life in its fullness promised us in Jesus Christ.

Auchenblae School Parent Forum



Daffodil Tea
 Saturday 17th April
 10.00—12.00
 Village Hall



All Welcome



Auchenblae WRI

Are holding a **FASHION SHOW** on Thursday 1st April 2010

In the village hall at 7.30pm

Fashions by **CHIQUE BOUTIQUE OF MONTROSE**

Tickets £4 including tea/coffee

Raffle

Tickets from WRI members, Metelski's or at the door

Fiona Henderson

Secretary



Mearns Community Council



Two places on the Community Council are available this year, one long standing vacancy and one member up for election. Anyone interested in putting themselves forward should contact the secretary:

Mrs M Stewart
 Dunthill House
 Marykirk
 Laurencekirk
 AB30 1XN

Application forms need to have a proposer and seconder and should be back with Marjorie by March 17th.



Auchenblae Community Association

Dates for Your Diary:

Gala – Sunday 23rd – Saturday 29th May

Art Show – Friday 3rd – Sunday 5th September

Christmas Card 2010

Hopefully this long winter will have provided many photo opportunities. Date for entry submission to be advised.

Quiz Night

Date: Friday 5th March

Time: 7.30pm

Place: Fettercairn Village Hall

Cost: £10 for a team of up to 4 people.



Mearns and Coastal Healthy Living Network

Further details call 01561 378130

Auchenblae Bowling Clubs

Very sadly, due to lack of members the indoor bowling club has taken the decision to wrap things up.

The outdoor bowling will continue this summer and the situation reviewed at the end of the season.

(Editors note —
Perhaps some of the young people in the village could get involved!)

A2B Dial a Bus

**This service will cease as of
25th April 2010**

Keep Fit

Tuesday mornings
10.00

Further details contact

Carol Nelson 01561 320648

Auchenblae Heritage Society

OUR NISSEN HUTS

On Monday 1st March, The Auchenblae Heritage Society will be treated to a joint illustrated talk by Malcolm McCoig and David Addison. The title of their presentation, "Our Nissen Huts" is loosely based on the few remaining, and mostly dilapidated huts built originally for a variety of military purposes when Fordoun aerodrome was constructed during World War 2. The talk will be broad ranging from the history of the hut and of its engineering designer, to prefabrication uses both then and now. A few paintings based on local Nissen huts will also be on view.

Malcolm McCoig lives at Upper Coullie, is a retired art school lecturer and is currently Chairman of The Heritage Society.

David Addison is an Aberdonian with Mearns connections who studied Geography and computer mapping at Edinburgh University. He now works in London as a project manager for IBM.

The meeting which starts at 7.30 in the Church Hall will be preceded by a very short AGM. Annual membership is £5 or £3 unwaged and visitors £1.50 All welcome.





**Do you run a youth group in the Aberdeenshire area?
Are you thinking of starting one up and need some help or advice?**

Youth Scotland Area Co-ordinators Linda Babbs and Mary Cochrane are both based in Aberdeenshire and can provide a range of support for part-time and voluntary youth workers. This includes local training courses in issues such as Child Protection, Emergency First Aid, Young People and Self Esteem and Conflict Resolution as well as a variety of training programmes for young leaders. Linda and Mary can also point you in the right direction for access to information and resources to support you to deliver quality and inclusive youth work.

Aberdeenshire Training Courses for youth workers in 2010:

Day Certificate Deliverers Course - Tues 2nd February
Keep it Real for Workers – Wed 17th February
Safe and Sound Awareness – Wed 24 Feb
Safe and Sound Awareness – Thurs 25 Feb
Raising Your Game – Sat 27th Feb
Bored Meetings for Workers – Wed 3rd March
Emergency First Aid – Wed 10 March
Involvement Training Tutor Training – Tuesday 16th March
Conflict Resolution – Wed 24th March
Young People and Self Esteem – Wed 14th April
Active Clubs – Sat 24th April

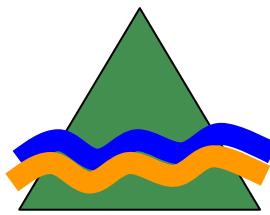
For more information, please contact:

Linda Babbs, Area Coordinator South Aberdeenshire at linda.babbs@youthscotland.org.uk or phone 01561 378298 or mobile 07522032729

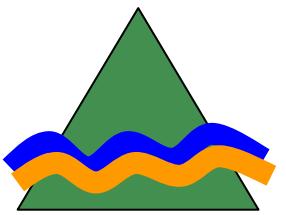
OR

Mary Cochrane, Area Coordinator North Aberdeenshire at mary.cochrane@youthscotland.org.uk at 01358 727910 or mobile 07751644259





Auchenblae Parks Committee



The Golf Course

Weather conditions during winter tempted only the fanatics on to the greens, however we're looking forward to the coming season with our new green keeper at the helm. Martin described himself as being 'shed bound', not surprising since he's hardly seen a blade of grass in the 10 weeks since he started. Now that the snow has finally gone he will hopefully escape the confines of the machinery store and manage to get on with outside chores!

Since the end of last season, the pavilion has been given a make-over so we're all ready to welcome back our members and visitors.

The Den

Flooding in the dam area caused quite a bit of damage to the paths, but these will be repaired, hopefully in time for Den Opening Day on Saturday 1st May. We intend having a Work Day prior to that so keep an eye on the notice board.

A bicycle ramp and footbridge have been installed at the far end of the Adventure Playground. Mention should be made of Scott Hendry and Ramsay Forbes who helped Bill and Roy at both the planning stage and construction of this latest amenity.

The Football Pitch

Work will be starting soon on a path through the trees to the south of the pitch. We envisage this becoming a welcome alternative route for dog walkers.

The Annual General Meeting

The AGM will be held on Tuesday 16th March in the village hall committee room at 7.30pm. If you have an interest in the recreation areas within our care, please come along. You will be made most welcome.

Jenny Thomson



Auchenblae Friendship Group

The weather has meant that we have had to miss three of our meetings since Christmas. There was so much thick ice in the car park by the Church Hall that it was very dangerous underfoot. We hope that the bad weather is now behind us and that we can get back to our regular meetings.

We are a group of people who meet every Wednesday morning during school term times for friendship and entertainment, which takes many forms. We sometimes have speakers, demonstrators, films, gentle keep fit and outings. We are there for anyone who is at a loose end on a Wednesday morning. Although we started up as a group for pensioners we are now open to anyone who would like to meet up with others for an enjoyable morning.

We meet in the Church Hall on Wednesday mornings from 10.00—11.45. There is a small charge of £2 per member to cover the cost of hall hire, electricity etc.

If you wish any further information please contact me, Barbara on 01561 320911 and I'll be happy to oblige.

Barbara Strouts.

Auchenblae Heritage Society

On Sunday 30th August members and friends (and 3 dogs) of the Benholm and Johnshaven Heritage Society, along with some local newcomers, were treated to a Walking Tour of Auchenblae, led by the knowledgeable and informative Jenny Thomson, ably supported by Gillian Siddons. This walk came about as a similar event had taken place on Saturday 6th June when Auchenblae Heritage Society were shown round both Benholm Church and Johnsaven.

A very welcome tea and scones were served halfway round the tour at Upper Cairnhill.

The two societies have very similar objectives in keeping the heritage of their respective communities alive but with Johnshaven actually having their own premises in the impressive and recently refurbished Life Boat Shed - an inspiration for us to possibly emulate, somewhere?

Malcolm McCraig Chairman



Apology

Auchenblae Messenger would like to apologise to the Heritage Society for omitting this article from the last edition, and also for putting the previous article in again!