

Dates for your diary

Drama Group AGM—7.30 p.m.	Village Hall	2nd March
Nearly New Sale—9.00 a.m.	Village Hall	15th March
Auchenblae Guild Silent Auction 7.30 p.m.	Village Hall	18th March
Community Assoc. Curry Night 7.00 p.m.	Village Hall	26th March
Deadline for new logo competition		31st March
Deadline for next Messenger submissions		15th April
Daffodil Tea—9.30 a.m.	School	23rd April

2011

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Messenger Distribution Team—Ann Anderson, Sheena Auld, Carol Nelson, Anne Caird, Sheree Caird, Therese Hendry, Ann Rennie, Trish MacEachern, Margaret Muiry, Lois McCormick , Moira Hutchison, Barbara Strouts

Messenger Production Team—Barbara Strouts, Kevin Newstead, Eddie Cairns

Memo Production—Ann Rennie

The publisher for this issue was Kevin Newstead



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- 100th Birthday
- Logo competition
- Curry Night
- ADG AGM
- Daffodil Tea
- Metelskis

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Auchenblae Messenger

Founded in 1999 by Donald B. Rennie

VOLUME 13, ISSUE 1

MARCH 2011

From The Editor

Welcome to your new look Auchenblae Messenger for 2011.

As you know I have only just taken over this job from Susie and Annie. They're a hard act to follow, and I hope you'll bear with me when I don't get it quite right. Many thanks to all of you who have managed to get information to me, and to Kevin for sorting it into this publication..

Information for the next edition (May 2011) should be sent to me at: themessenger@mearns.org by **15th April 2011**

Barbara Strouts

NEW LOGO COMPETITION

To mark the occasion of a new Editor and a new look Messenger, we would like to invite creative entries from the younger community to help us choose a new logo for the messenger. The current logo which has been at the top of the page for over 10 years was designed by Hayley Pirie and has stood the test of time but we thought it was a good time to give someone else a chance at fame. So, taking a leaf from the larger publication world we have decided it is time for a face lift.

Entries can be in any form you like, electronic or paper and as many entries as you like. The only requirement is that you are 16 or under at the time of submission. Judging will be carried out by members of the Messenger committee and the Community association and the creator of the winning entry will receive a £25 gift voucher.

Entries can be handed in to Kevin at Auchter House or emailed to kevin@achenblae.com. Remember to include your name, age and contact details. Entries must be in by 31st March 2011.



Metelski's Store



Metelski's Store

*Come on,
Auchenblae, let's
rally round and
like the Guides
and Scouts, do
our best to keep
our village alive!*

I am sure I speak for many in and around Auchenblae when I say how sorry we were to learn of Angela's illness and that we sincerely hope she will recover quickly. We miss her cheerful presence in the shop.

We owe Angela, Ludi and Frances a great debt of gratitude for managing to keep the shop open and so well stocked throughout all the bad weather which cancelled many events. We also have to thank Jane and Hugh for braving the Garvock three times a week to keep us in stamps, deal with our Christmas mail and pay out pensions.

Without the shop many of us would

have had a hard time of it this winter. Trade was good during the bad spell but has it kept up?

Can you imagine Auchenblae without its shop? It would become a deserted village - no pub., no butcher's shop, no coffee shop, no newspapers or magazines, no food, no household commodities, no pensions - NOTHING!

There are many here who do not have cars at the door, or are too elderly or infirm to avail themselves of the bus service to Stonehaven or Laurencekirk and would have to depend on kind neighbours to shop for them if they do not have any family members living near enough to help. There wouldn't

be enough room at Queen Elizabeth Court in Fettercairn for them all!

It is up to all of us who live in this lovely village to do all we can to keep the shop open and thriving. Could we all maybe make fewer trips to the supermarkets? Might we cut down a bit on our tesco.com or asda.com shopping and buy more items locally?

People from Drumlithie would also be worse off if our shop has to close. There is at present no shop there and folk have to drive over to Auchenblae for newspapers, stamps etc. or take the bus to Stonehaven.

Come on, Auchenblae, let's rally round and like the Guides and Scouts, do our best to keep our village alive!

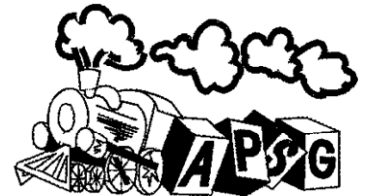
Ann Rennie

I have been asked to remind the people of Auchenblae that on Monday and Thursday mornings and on Tuesday afternoon there is a Post Office in Metelski's shop. Jane and Hugh come over the top from Inverbervie to provide the service, and did so throughout the really appalling winter. They provide full Post Office services. There is a banking service. You can pay in cheques and withdraw money. It is possible to order your foreign currency there, without charge. Both Jane and Hugh are very friendly and very helpful.

They worry that not many people seem to use the service. Remember, if we don't use it we could lose it and it is so much better than having to carry everything to Stonehaven or Laurencekirk to post. Come on folks. Don't let us lose another service through neglect.

Barbara Strouts

Auchenblae Pre-School Group



Preschool for 3 and 4 year olds

Monday-Friday 9.15-12.45

Funded places available - Drop in sessions now available!

3 and 4 year olds welcome each morning

£5.40 per session, book in advance on 07530 743 663

Two's Group

Tuesday and Thursday 12.45-2.15

Please stop in to visit a preschool or two's group session.

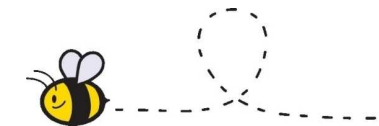
We are upstairs in the Village Hall. Press the buzzer to be let in.

Or call **Ara on 01561 320 278**, or email auchenblaeapreschool-group@gmail.com for more information

Parent and Toddler Group

Meets every Friday in the Church Hall - 9:15 a.m -11:15 a.m.

Please stop by or phone **Gayna on 07946328267**



Registered Charity no SC021752

Auchenblae Lunch Club

The Auchenblae Lunch Club is asking for volunteers to help with serving the lunches. You would have to give up about 1 hour of your time on a Wednesday lunchtime, about once a month. If you feel that you could help please contact **Carol Nelson on 01561 320648**. Thank you.



BOUQUETS & BRICKBATS: Firstly, bouquets to all who, when walking their dogs, clean up after them. It only takes a few seconds.

Brickbats to all those who don't bother. The Den, pavements and grassy areas around the village are in a terrible state in places. Come on. Help to get our village clean again!



100th Birthday Party!

On the Ninth of December last year, Auchenblae celebrated the Hundreth Birthday of a very remarkable lady - Miss Mary Craig. Organised by a group of friends, Mary's party took place in great style in the Village Hall, courtesy of the Community Council, with a beautiful birthday cake decorated with her favourite yellow flowers - a gift from Macphie of Glenbervie. Special guests were The Hon. Keith Arbuthnot, representing the Lord Lieutenant and Councillor Tom Fleming bringing a bouquet and the greetings of Aberdeenshire Council. Mrs Young, Head Teacher came with the School Choir which delighted everyone with their selection of songs which included an old favourite - "Ally Bally". A former pupil, Gladys Peat, read her account of Mary's life story in clever verse form. Tea, coffee and "fine pieces" were supplied and served by Grace and her team from the Crown Hotel in Laurencekirk.

The Hall was packed with Mary's many friends and relatives who all wanted a word with her - they were practically queuing for the privilege of shaking her hand on her special day. On display was the Birthday Card from the Queen which is now in a place of honour at Donardo along with a photograph of Postie Jack delivering it.

It was fortunate that the snow was cleared away from outside the hall, and that the programme was carried through as planned, at a time when nearly every other event had to be cancelled. It was disappointing that some of Mary's family and close friends could not travel to Auchenblae because of the weather and it was sad that Mary's dear Brida who had helped to plan the day, after a sudden and short illness, was not at her side.

On the Sunday following, the Rev. Catherine Hepburn conducted a service of Thanksgiving for Mary's wonderful life after which everyone went to the Church Hall to enjoy a piece of a second birthday cake kindly baked by Margaret Muir.

Miss Craig would like to thank everyone who helped to make her birthday such a very special one.

Ann Rennie



Auchenblae Nearly New Sale

Selling Toys and Clothes for any age of child, Books, DVD's, Crafts, Games, Sports Equipment, Musical Instruments & Nursery Equipment on **Saturday 12th March 2011**. Doors open 9am-11am, at Auchenblae Village Hall. Entrance £1.50. For more info on buying or selling please contact **Isabelle 01561 320759** or **Gillian 01561 320685**.



Auchenblae Drama Group



The 'new' drama group will celebrate its fifth anniversary this year. Over these years we have brought you classics such as A Christmas Carol, original plays from our very own Craig Sandeman and April Pressley, exciting pantomimes like Santa and the Vikings and festival entertainment in the form of 2 Auchenfests.

We would like to put on more performances but we are limited by the number of group members. There is a huge amount of work involved in putting on a show and behind the scenes there are hundreds of hours of scenery construction, cos-

tume making, lighting, sound, etc.—often carried out by the same people who have to learn lines & perform!

So, this is an unashamed appeal for new members (there is no membership fee!). If you don't think you can help, you are wrong! You don't have to be an artist to work a paintbrush or an electrician to operate a lighting panel just be a willing volunteer and we'll give you all the help you need. If you have some skills even better—any good with a sewing machine or a saw? All kinds of skills can be put to good use. If you feel like treading the boards then we

have an ambitious and exciting project planned for later in the year, we are going to perform 'Allo, 'Allo so if you want to be Rene Artois or Officer Crabtree or can't sing a note (Madame Edith) then give us a call.

We are having our **AGM on Wednesday 2nd March at 7.30 p.m.** in the Village Hall (upstairs meeting room)—join us for a spot of wine & refreshments and tell us what we can do to fulfill your theatrical ambitions!

Contact Kevin Newstead 01561 320471 or Craig Sandeman on 07581 798732

"so if you want to be Rene Artois or Officer Crabtree or can't sing a note (Madame Edith) then give us a call"



Come & join us for some delicious refreshments.

"A rare chance to visit the school and see all the good things the children have been up to"

Auchenblae School invite you to their

DAFFODIL TEA

**Saturday 23rd April
9.30am – 12 noon
Auchenblae School**

**Daffodils for Sale
Facepainting, Lucky Dip,
Raffle and Bottle Stall
Children's Easter Bonnets on Display**

**Coffee, Tea, Fresh Scones and Baking
Adults - £3.00
Primary Children - £1.50
Pre-School – Free**

A rare chance to visit the school and see all the good things the children have been up to

Please support this local event and our local school

Auchenblae Parks Committee

There's not much progress to report, which is hardly surprising with the weather we've had during the last month or two! The golf course was covered in a thick blanket of snow from 16th November until late January so even our hardest members who turn up weekly, even on the wildest days, had to admit defeat!

However, now that the weather has turned a little (not that winter is over by any means) we're thinking ahead to Spring and the work that needs to be done before then.

Double glazing has been fitted in the golf course pavilion and the new windows are looking really good. The seating area outside the pavilion is being extended by removing the dyke which had become rather unsightly and we hope to buy some tables and chairs for our customers to sit and enjoy the view. The coffee shop there is open to anyone walking past; providing they stay within the protected area in front of the pavilion.

Golf membership renewals have been sent out to last year's 460 members and we are looking forward to welcoming them back. We have

a new member of staff in the pavilion, with David Hutchison looking very much at home behind the counter!

Down in the Den, Bill and Roy are planning and preparing for a busy season ahead. We will, of course have our usual Work Day when the community get the chance to join us for a day of general tidying up prior to the popular Den Opening Day, held at the end of April. The Work Day is a very sociable event where we serve our volunteers a soup and sandwich lunch and a morning and afternoon fly for their efforts. It would be good to see some new faces this time, after all we're all volunteers – even the committee.

I've been asked to remind dog walkers to "pick up", as we still have a minority of persistent offenders! Speaking of which if you see any one flouting this law, you can report it anonymously to any member of the committee or to the Dog Warden, Gillian Abel who can be contacted on 01569 768224.

In our efforts to keep the Den a safe place for families to enjoy, we would ask you

to contact Bill, Roy or any committee member (see list below) if you find a damaged or dangerous piece of play equipment. It is a community facility and we ask your help in maintaining it to the highest standard.

Committee members are as follows: Chairman, John Nicoll; Treasurer, Margo Titmuss; Minute Secretary, Julie Benstead ; Correspondence Secretary, Jenny Thomson; Tennis Convener, Gina Easter; Den Convener, Bill Barrie; Bowling Convener, Roy Palmer; Golf Convener, Mike Moir; Tree Convener, Ann Galbraith. Committee: Vera Watson (Hon. President); Hazel Wiseman; Sandy Bean; Kenny Morgan; Bernie Melsom; Tom Lawson and Ewan Riddoch. The final three listed have served only one year on the committee and are already proving to be invaluable members. We are still hoping that someone with an interest in football will come forward to take up the position of Convener and in the meantime we keep the pitch cut so that locals can enjoy a kick around.

Jenny Thomson

The Messenger Memo

Readers of the 'Messenger' may have noticed that January and February went past without a Memo distribution. The reason for this was that despite notices at and in the Store there was not sufficient material for an issue. Two items are not worth all the effort expended by Ann Anderson, who puts the copies into districts, phones the distributors then goes round delivering their Memos before delivering in her own district. The distributing team then do their part, trudging round Auchenblae in all weathers to have the information in every household by the end of the month. Also Kevin Newstead has to spend time doing the photocopying, using much paper and ink in the process.

The questions now are "Do people want or need a Memo?" or "Do they want it but not so often?"

The Messenger Team will be asking around!

Ann Rennie (Memo Editor)

Auchenblae Guild

We are approaching a busy time for the Guild. We have our usual, monthly meetings in the Church Hall. On Wednesday 16th March our speaker will be the Rev. Douglas Lamb, who will talk on the Theme, Called to love Mercy.

Wednesday 20th April is our annual DIY day and AGM. The topic is Can we Forgive and Forget. These meetings are at 2.30pm.

Friday 4th March is The World Day of Prayer. This year it will be held in the Village Hall at Drumlithie at 2.00pm. This is not just for guild members, but for all Christians of whatever denomination, throughout the world. It is an enjoyable service and well worth supporting.

On Friday 18th March we are holding a Silent Auction in the Village Hall at 7.30pm. Items for the auction will be gratefully received. If you wish to donate electrical items please let us have them well in advance so the they can be checked by a qualified electrician.

We are open to all who enjoy fellowship and stimulating meetings. Do come and join us.

Barbara Strouts



Girlguiding UK



1st Auchenblae Guides and Rangers

You will notice from our header that we now have a Ranger section , we had three older girls who did not want to leave us so meet with Guides but 'do their own thing' .

We hope to really make a big effort and complete our Guiding family in Auchenblae with Rainbows . It was my personal Centenary Challenge , but last year was very busy with special events.

On Friday 11th February we had our late Christmas treat with a trip to Inverness by train.

The girls went to the leisure pool and of course "shopping" to all the usual shops , Claire's Accessories , Primark , New Look , these girls like lots of bargains for their money.

We are planning to go to camp in the summer and have invited the recently reopened Laurencekirk Guides to join us.

Some of us are lucky enough to be going with Aboyne Guides in July , on a two week trip to Switzerland. We will stay in a village called Adelboden in real chalets and visit Our Chalet , a world Guide centre .There will be lots of days out to look forward to , and I am assured by the leaders who have gone before that the two day bus and ferry journey to get there is memorable , for all the right reasons we hope.

Evelyn and Laura—March 2011

Auchenblae Friendship Group

We sincerely hope that the dreadful weather, that caused the cancellation of so many of our meetings, has finally gone away. We realised just how much we miss it when we don't meet.

Come and join us at our regular time, Wednesday mornings, 10.00am to 12 noon, in the Church Hall, for a cuppie, a chat and other activities. All are welcome. For more information phone me at 320911.

Barbara Strouts



"Do people want
or need a
Memo?" or "Do
they want it but
not so often?"

"we are holding
a Silent Auction"



“All Welcome”

West Mearns Parish Church

WORSHIP AT WEST MEARN'S PARISH CHURCH: AUCHENBLAE, FETTERCAIRN, GLENBERVIE

SUNDAYS

9.30am: Fettercairn

11am: Glenbervie – first Sunday of the month

11am: Auchenblae - other Sundays

2.30pm: Queen Elizabeth Court, Fettercairn – last Sunday of the month

“All welcome”

SPRING DIARY: SERVICES + EVENTS

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE

Friday, 4th March at 2pm in Drumlithie Village Hall.

AUCHENBLAE GUILD SILENT AUCTION

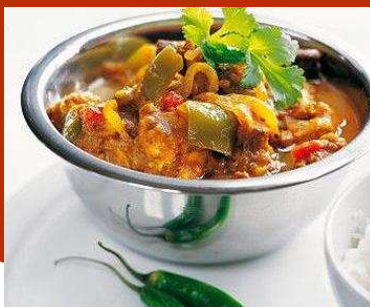
Friday, 18th March (details from Ann Rennie)

UNITED SERVICE AND CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, 27th March: 10.00 am at Fettercairn Church
followed by refreshments in the Church Hall

FETTERCAIRN GUILD COFFEE MORNING

Saturday, 16th April, 10 – 11.30am in Fettercairn Public Hall.



Auchenblae Community Association

Enjoy a curry? Come and join us for a **Curry Night** on **Saturday 26th March (7pm – 11pm)**. Bar & Refreshments. See posters prior to event.

Gala Dates: Sunday 22nd – Saturday 28th May

LENT MEETINGS AT THE MANSE (Fettercairn, Tel: 01561-340203)

Any one interested in exploring these topics (any one or all of them) is welcome. No church background required; just bring yourself, your questions, + an enquiring mind.

14th March, 7.30pm – 9.30pm: Monday Evening at the Manse on **Worship**

20th March, 4pm – 6pm: Sunday Afternoon at the Manse on **Prayer**

28th March, 7.30pm – 9.30pm: Monday Evening at the Manse on **The Bible**

4th April, 7.30pm – 9.30pm: Monday Evening at the Manse on **Bible Study**

11th April, 7.30pm – 9.30pm: Monday Evening at the Manse on **Jesus**

17th April, 4pm – 6pm: Sunday Afternoon at the Manse on **Life, the Universe + everything**

HOLY WEEK + EASTER SERVICES:

WEDNESDAY HEALING SERVICE

20th April March; 7.30pm – Fettercairn Church

An informal act of worship which includes praying for those whose names are given to the minister and the ministry of healing touch.

MAUNDAY THURSDAY

21st April; 7.30pm – Auchenblae Church Hall

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 and a sandwich supper.

GOOD FRIDAY

23rd April; 7.30pm – Church venue to be announced

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.

EASTER DAY

Sunday, 24th April: Fettercairn: 9.30am Auchenblae: 11.00am

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Allelujah!

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