



Auchenblae Messenger

Founded in 1999 by Donald B. Rennie

Spring Edition

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March 2014

From The Editor

I hope that you are all managing to survive this very peculiar winter.

As usual there is a lot happening in Auchenblae, certainly no need to be bored. It's quite exhausting just looking at it all.

Keep your news coming in. I will be collecting for the next Messenger in May. I will need everything by the 15th so that we can publish for June. Please send to

barpollybar@gmail.com

Memo Date

The Next Memo is scheduled for April / May 2014 if you have any upcoming event dates please send them to : auchenblae_memo@hotmail.co.uk or call Lindsay on **01561 320242**. by 10th April 2014

Communication from Councillor George Carr:

ROAD CLOSURE—AUCHENBLAE

From Fordoun Parish Church to Kirkton Cottage,

Monday 24th February 2014

from 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. daily for 5 days

A Perennial Problem

In spite of earlier mention in the Messenger about the problem of dog mess it seems to be getting worse. It is an offence not to clean up after your dog in any public place, grass, parks paths, pavements, the road. It is most unpleasant having to clean shoes, children's clothes and even dogs who have managed to step in it. As I think has been said before it only takes seconds to place into a plastic bag and drop it into the nearest bin.

PLEASE DO IT.

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"....If you haven't already done so give us a try.



The weather has been kind to us this winter and we have continued to meet on Wednesday mornings, in the Church Hall from 10.00am to 11.45am. We are what it says on the packet, a Friendship Group, open to all who want to come and join us. If you haven't already done so give us a try.

Barbara at 320911.

Auchenblae Pre-School Group

APSG have been given a grant from the National Lottery, which is fantastic news for us. This grant will help us to revamp the playroom. So the children will have more space to play and more up to date equipment. If there is any local companies that would be willing to help with our revamp please get in touch. As our group is expanding we are looking for a relief play leader. If you are interested in this post or would like more information please contact **Aileen Davidson on 01569 740369 or email cowofmearns@gmail.com.**

Playgroup hours are from 9.15 to 11.45 Monday to Friday and 2's groups is 1 - 3 Monday and Thursday afternoons. There is also bumps, babies and toddlers group that meet on a Friday morning 9.15 - 11.15 in the Church Hall. APSG are holding a Line Dancing Afternoon on the 23rd March 2-4 in the village hall. Tickets cost £3 for adults and £1 for children. Please come along for a family fun afternoon.



**Christmas
Party in
February!**

Christmas Party in February!

Auchenblae's oldest resident, Miss Mary Craig, hosted a party on Saturday February 1st in the village hall for her fellow senior citizens, along with some close friends.

A three course Christmas meal, prepared and served by the Crown Hotel in Laurencekirk, was much enjoyed by the company of 67.

Having celebrated her 103rd birthday last December this wonderful lady still attends (weather permitting) Church every Sunday, the weekly Friendship Group and the Guild, not to mention her many sojourns to the Old Post Office Café nearby, where she enjoys hospitality with friends.

Throughout her advancing years, Miss Craig has remained fiercely independent and countless offers of help were graciously declined with her well known response , "I can manage". However, in the last year, more help has been needed, both willingly given and gratefully received. Now when asked how she is, she just laughs quietly and says "auld". Nobody can argue with that!

Miss Craig, returned in 1938 to teach at Fordoun Public School, Auchenblae, where she herself had been a pupil and remained there until her retirement in 1970. She still lives in her own house and insists she is blessed to do so, only because of the help given, in so many ways, by her many good friends, and in the last few months only, by her carers.

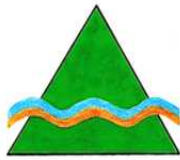
At the top table in the photograph, from left to right are: Mrs Vera Watson, Mrs Jessie Simmonds, Miss Mary Craig and Mrs Ann Rennie.

In the other: Mrs Connie Smart, who helped Miss Craig organise her party, is seen 'busying about her duties' in the hall.

Miss Mary Craig, we thank and applaud you.



Auchenblae Parks Committee



Positions Vacant Auchenblae Parks Committee



Den Grounds Man

A position has arisen for a part time worker to help
with maintenance in the Den

This is mainly seasonal work with hours to suit the applicant

Golf Course Attendant

A reliable, trustworthy person is required to work at the golf course
pavilion

This post is seasonal from April till the end of September

The applicant will be responsible for a variety of tasks both in and
around the pavilion

A knowledge of golf etiquette is preferred, but not essential as training
will be given

The successful applicant will be expected to work on a rota which will
include weekend and evening shifts

For either position, please apply in the first instance to the corre-
spondence secretary

Jenny Thomson on 0561 320245

References will be required at the interview stage

Hopefully by the time you read this, the War Memorial on Gilbert's Hill will be visible from many areas of the village. Over time, trees have grown up at random and for much of the year the monument is completely obliterated from sight, so much so that only local people knew of its whereabouts.

The Parks Committee had already discussed a plan to carry out this woodland maintenance, but a forthcoming visit from BBC's 'Landward' programme has pre-empted the project to the forefront. This work is particularly fitting with this being the centenary of the start of WW1 when hundreds of local men 'joined up' to fight for King and Country – 43 from this area alone, were never to return.

Winter hasn't been too bad for us (as yet) and with the days lengthening; our thoughts are turning to outdoor pursuits. The new season at the golf course starts on 1st April and as usual, we're looking forward to welcoming back our 400 plus members and of course our visitors. The golf course really is a wonderful facility for a small village to own with members coming from as far afield as Aberdeen and Arbroath. It is hoped that more local people would take the opportunity to try out this small, but challenging 'nine holer'.

Our annual Work Day in the Den is scheduled for Saturday 5th April and as always, we rely on local people to help give this much loved area, a 'spring clean'. The committee will provide the usual hot refreshments and drinks for the workforce, so please come along and join in this community effort. In the interest of safety, children under 12 should be accompanied by an adult. There will be a variety of jobs on offer to suit all ages and ability.

We are sorry to say that we will be one man down this season as Bill Barry, an invaluable member of the Den grounds staff, has retired. During the twelve years he has been on committee, Bill has turned his hand to all sorts of jobs and it is thanks to his engineering and woodwork skills that we have the Fort, the rebuilt Jolly Rodger, the tyre swing, the swing over the burn, the many handrails, steps, gates and benches which all go to give the Den a well maintained and cared for appearance.

Saturday 26th April will see the Den officially opened for the summer. At this popular event on the village calendar, Soup and Sandwich lunches will be served in the pavilion, the tennis courts and bowling green will be open for play and of course the kiddies play area and adventure playground will be ready for action, so please watch the village noticeboard for details of this and other events nearer the time.

Jenny Thomson, Correspondence Secretary

Auchenblae Community Association

AUCHENBLAE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

AUCHENBLAE GALA WEEK

SUNDAY 25TH – SATURDAY 31ST MAY 2014



PROVISIONAL GALA PROGRAMME

Sunday 25th May - Kids & Kites & Childrens Races at the Football Field

Monday 26th May - Childrens Walking Treasure Hunt – Starting from the Village Hall

Tuesday 27th May - Quiz Night – Kevin's Brain Teaser - Licence

Thursday 29th May – Bingo – Licence – Raffle

Friday 30th May - Auchenblae's Got Talent – Childrens Talent Show

Saturday 31st May – Gala Day in the Den: *Music by Trybe *Bowling
*Teas with Home Baking * Bottle Stall * *Pavilion Takeaway *BBQ
*Tombola *Raffle *Duck Race *Stalls *Pet Show *Evening – Gala Ceilidh Dance

Above arrangements subject to change – see Gala Posters

The running of all these Gala Events, by a committee of volunteers, requires many hands – any offers of help most welcome

Saturday Stalls: Local voluntary organisations interested in

'leasing' a stall please contact Tracey -

tracey.harrisonlewis@btinternet.com for details.

Congratulations!

"The Best of the Shire" asked the people of Aberdeenshire, from Balmakewen to Peterhead and from Ballater to Stonehaven to nominate the best establishment for home baking, bakery and friendship. the winner was **The Old post Office Tearoom and Shoppe**, here in Auchenblae. Warm congratulations to David and all his staff.

A little bird tells me to look out for exciting new happenings there in the near future. **Watch this space.**



Fabric Work at the Village Hall

You may have noticed that Frank the joiner's van has been outside the hall off and on fairly regularly over the last few months. Frank can turn his hand to most things and during summer he replaced, where necessary, exterior window sills prior to painting all the woodwork, doors and downpipes. This should stand the building in good stead for several years to come.

We are carrying out a programme of double glazing all the rear windows at the hall and to fit a double glazed, conservation type skylight, in the committee room.

A historic vent had caused considerable wet rot damage in the disabled toilet, but this problem has now been addressed, and the unsightly area around the window completely renewed. Thankfully, Frank had saved some of the original coloured tiles we chose when upgrading the toilets away back in 1999! Focus of our attention over the festive break was the rear stage areas which have been given a fresh coat of paint, during a period when tradesmen are not generally welcome in homes, so it suited us both! New lino and carpet will finish the job, hopefully to everyone's satisfaction.

Changes are afoot in the Mutual Hall too: The pre-school committee having successfully applied for a lottery grant to refurbish the upper hall where they meet on a daily basis mid-week. These ambitious plans will see the installation of a small kitchen, complete with dishwasher and cooker, as well as new equipment that will be easily moved to the sides, making this lovely room more attractive for other groups to use.

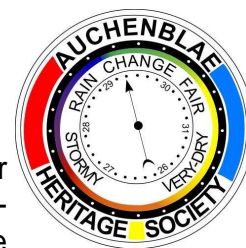
Opened in 1870 this building is still fulfilling the obligations set out in the original constitution i.e. *to provide a meeting place and facilities for physical and mental training and recreation, and social and moral and intellectual development and to foster a community spirit.*

Fabric Convener

ACA Burns Supper 2014



Auchenblae Heritage Society



On 2nd of December 2013, after many technical set-backs, Dr David Walker of Aberdeen University's History of Art department gave his illustrated talk on, "The Development of the North Aberdeenshire Country House from the 17th Century to the Present". It turned out to be well worth waiting for, as David's charming personality and encyclopaedic knowledge, guided the audience through the fascinating and complex architectural heritage of these north east buildings. It was a real tour-de-force, raising the level of our wee talks to a different height, and was much appreciated. Hopefully the contact with his university department and the Heritage Society will strengthen as their next detailed architectural study is of Kincardineshire.

The next talk is on **Monday 3rd March** at 7.30pm in the church hall and will be given by local man, **Raymond Sutton**, on "Closes and Lavies of Montrose". Sounds good.

Preceding the meeting will be a very short AGM - so, please don't let that put you off attending. As I have been Chairman for nearly two and a half times longer than the official term of office, I will be resigning at the AGM. Hooray - at long last a chance for someone else to carry on the good and worthwhile work.

Malcolm McCoig



Dr David Walker of Aberdeen University's History of Art department



**Fantastic Family Ceilidh
Featuring "Reel of Fortune"**

**LAUGH,
DANCE
AND
CEILIDH
ON**

Stonehaven
Town Hall

Friday 4th
April 2014

6.30 to 11pm

Tickets

Adults £10

Under 16's £5

Bring your
own Booze

**Hot drinks,
Soft Drinks
and snacks
for sale**



**Tickets available from Isabelle 01561 320759,
Margo 01561 320808 or The Auchenblae Tearoom
and Shoppe**



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

Sunday Worship: 9.30am at Fettercairn every Sunday

11am at Glenbervie on the 1st Sunday of the month

11am at Auchenblae all other Sundays in the month

All welcome. Sunday School for the children at all three churches.

West Mearns Parish Easter Services

Sunday 13th April - Palm Sunday

9.30am Fettercairn 11.00am. Auchenblae

Thursday 17th April - Maundy Thursday 7.30pm

Communion Service Auchenblae

Friday 18th April—Good Friday United Service 7.30pm

St. Lawrences, Laurencekirk

Sunday 20th April Easter Day 9.30am Fettercairn

11.00am Auchenblae

The World Day of Prayer this year is on Friday 7th March.

The time and venue are yet to be announced. This is a united service open
to all, men
and women.

Auchenblae Parent Council

March 2nd, Kids Disco. Fancy Dress Competition. £3.50 includes hot dog and juice, lots of games,, tuck shop. 2 till 5pm, Village Hall Auchenblae. Tickets on sale through The Old Post Office Tea Shoppe Auchenblae or Paula Harris 07775434951.

Vinyl Night

March 8th, Village Hall Auchenblae. Starts 7.30 until late. £5.00 entry, bring your own bottle, you can also BYOB £1 per track. Contact Claire Patszek 07739048587.

The Parent Council are starting up a school wear shop. We are looking for people to hand in their out grown uniforms. These items need to be in good condition. Items we are wanting are School jumpers, cardigans, shorts, trousers, summer dresses, navy/grey dresses, navy polo shirts. They can be handed into school. We hope to raise funds for the school by re-selling them at a donation only price at Parents' Nights, Spring Fair, end of term BBQ and School Open Days. This will be an un-manned stall and will rely on donations.



Sunday 8th June 3pm until 5pm
Afternoon Tea at Fasque House

Tickets are priced at £10 each or £15 inclusive of a glass of Prosecco

Entry is strictly by ticket only.

Come along and soak up the atmosphere in the unique surroundings

Of Fasque House whilst enjoying home made cakes & savouries

All proceeds from the day are going to the Scottish charity Foundation Scotland. Team "Auchenblae Chicks with Sticks", Gillian, Ara, Isabelle, Margo & Sue have entered the Caledonian Challenge which will see them walking 54 miles in 24 hours in June this year.

Auchenblae Guild

The March meeting of the Guild will be on Wednesday 19th at in the Village Hall from 2.30pm in the Church Hall. The speaker will be Mr. Alex Hidalgo who will give a talk "In MY Greenhouse". All are very welcome to attend.

On Saturday 22nd March we are holding a Coffee Morning and Antiques Roadshow in the Village Hall from 10.00am. There will be the usual stalls, but most of all there is the chance to bring your antique jewellery and other antiques to be identified by Kate Matthews. More details to follow.

We hope to see you all there.

Dates for your diary

Kids Disco	Village Hall	2nd March
Vinyl Night	Village Hall	8th March
Coffee morning & antiques roadshow	Village Hall	22nd March
Den Work Day	The Den	5th April
Gala Week	Village	25-31st May

Auchenblae Drama Group



The Drama group has an exciting year ahead. Following a year of serious fund raising & grant applications we are now working hard to install our new, professional, sound system into the village hall.

To celebrate this we are going to hold a series of themed musical evenings that hopefully will cater for all tastes bringing in musicians local to the area where possible. This will let the community experience sound quality rivalled only by professional venues.

As you know, a pantomime production takes a lot more effort than a play (but not much!) so we restrict our sell-out pantomimes to every other year. So this year is panto year (Oh, yes it is!) and we have already started preparation for drawing up a list of roles & tasks without which there would be no show. We are going to hold a cast & crew open night (see details on included notice. Please come along & have a talk & a drink with us—you would be surprised at what you can do. Even if treading the boards does not appeal (and that's the real fun part!) then there is much more work to be done back stage; even someone just to move scenery is invaluable.

To help us with our plans to further improve facilities in the hall we will be holding a series of fund raising events from music & food nights to quiz nights and a whole lot more.

WATCH THIS SPACE!

Messenger Distribution Team—Anne Anderson, Sue Barrie, Anne & Sheree Caird, Therese Hendry, Jeanette Hoedl, Trish MacEachern, Carol Nelson, Barbara Strouts, Peter Thornton.

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

Memo Production— Lindsay Cochrane

The publisher for this issue was **Kevin Newstead**