

The

# Auchenblae Messenger

Volume 8 Issue 3

July 2006



## Regular Features

Community Association P 2

Editor's Comments P 3

Heritage Society P 4

Light House P 6

Home Page P 7

PTA P 7

Parks Committee P 9

Auchenblae Racquet Group P 9

Friendship Group P11

## Special Features

The "bla bla bla" P3

Gala Pictures P5

Christian Aid P6

Glenbervie House Gardens P6

Wireless Networks P8

Messenger Production Process P10

Digital Projector P11



Taken from the High Street, this photograph looks eastwards across the Square leading to Kintore Street. Although the date stamp on this post-card is illegible, the absence of the War Memorial on Gilbert's Hill puts it prior to 1920. I also believe that the telegraph system was installed around 1915.

A water supply drawn from a spring on Newlands farm had been introduced to the village in 1866. Cast iron pumps were positioned at points up and down the east side of the street, and one example can be seen beside the telegraph pole in the foreground.

The base of the road was formed using locally quarried rock which was then covered in a gravelly earth. A horse drawn cart dispensed water to soak the new surface before it was flattened by steam roller. Water was drained into open gutters which remained in situ until 1986.

The Drumtochty Arms Hotel sports a period glass entrance porch, while a separate door leads directly from the Square to the bar. To the right was a small fenced garden area.

The children making their way up the street are crossing, what is now, the entrance to MacKenzie Avenue. The lane between the two premises led to a stable and coach house for the hotel, various outhouses, a slaughterhouse, Kintore cottages and a small croft, as well as providing access to the farmland now being developed for housing.

On the building to the left a post office sign can just be seen above the left hand window, but over the years it had also served the village as a drapers, ironmongers and general merchants. The Post Office moved to its present site in Kintore Street in 1966 and the old building was eventually demolished.

Jenny Thomson

**“The bla bla bla” is  
coming soon for kids in  
Auchenblae, Cool!**

**The Messenger still  
requires a Co-Editor  
See Page 10**

## AUCHENBLAЕ COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

### GALA 2006

The Community Association are most appreciative of the attendance at all events during Gala Week. We are also grateful for all help given, donations of raffles, bottles and baking for the stalls on Gala Saturday and to the local shops and golf course for their assistance. Of particular note was the exceptional turn out on Gala Saturday, which contributed to a happy and successful Gala Week.



### FUNDING AND MAINTAINING THE VILLAGE HALL -

A large proportion of the funds raised by the Gala, and at other fund raising events, are required for the upkeep and refurbishment of the Village Hall and to ensure economic rental charges.

Annual costs include hall insurance at £800, disposables such as toilet rolls & hand towels, cleaners wages and cleaning materials, together with payment to the Performing Rights Society to allow hall hirers to play music.



Recent refurbishment has involved the replacement of the main hall loft insulation, with an extra depth of high performance material, which is already proving to be cost effective in heating the main hall, requiring less heating time prior to a function. An unexpected additional expense was incurred in the replacement of part of the main hall ceiling.

As part of a continuing improvement programme to provide a better facility within the village, a major item in the current year has been the new lighting in the main hall, which has been an important and worthwhile expenditure. The room behind the stage has new flooring and blinds which will be of benefit to the recently formed Drama Group and to other hall users requiring a smaller meeting venue.

Recent purchases have been new light weight tables, ensuring easier handling, while the kitchen has been equipped with new tea pots, larger insulated coffee pots and new cutlery, which may be used by arrangement.

### DRUMTOCHTY HIGHLAND GAMES CATERING -

In order to subsidise the additional costs in the programme of care management, the Committee provide the outside catering at Drumtochty Highland Games (Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June), serving home made soup, snacks and home baking.



### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING -

We are always looking for new members to provide fresh input and new ideas. If you would like to become involved please come along to the **AGM on TUESDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2006.**

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**every perfect ending has a beginning...**



**Auchenblae Drama Group**

29.09.06

## **EDITORIAL COMMENTS -- AUCHENBLAE MESSENGER JULY 2006**

Welcome to the 44<sup>th</sup> edition of 'The Auchenblae Messenger', and thank you to all who have helped to make the magazine 'happen'.

Once again a special thank you to Jenny Thompson for her most informative commentary relating to our front page photograph, and for providing the photographs from the Gala Day in the Den.

And thanks again to Gina and Carol for their 'proof-reading' expertise.

We are extremely pleased that our digital projector (purchased through funding from 'Awards for All' - Scotland) is being so well used by individuals and community groups. May I remind you, that this is a most excellent projector, is very simple to use and is freely available for responsible community use. (Contact Eddie on 320494.)

We are presently looking forward to the production of a new venture, in the form of a children's magazine for the younger members of our community. I understand that it is to be called 'bla bla bla'. There will be more information later, but meanwhile our best wishes are extended for its success and to all those concerned.

Jill Macphie has asked me if I would draw your attention to the annual Glenbervie House gardens' open-day to be held on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> August. This is a particularly lovely event and I commend it to your attention. Part of the funds raised will be donated to charity. Further information is given within this edition.

As is fairly well known by now, I shall be standing down as chairperson and co-editor of 'The Auchenblae Messenger' at the time of our Annual General Meeting in September. And so, once again, we are making a further appeal for someone from the community (or beyond) 'to step up to the plate' and help to secure your magazine's future well-being. To paraphrase that well-known advertisement from the past - 'YOUR MAGAZINE NEEDS YOU'. Ross (320225), Donald (320622) or Eddie (320494) are all holding their breath, as we await YOUR 'phone call or contact. A warm welcome awaits you. So, go on, just do it. Make that call now! Thank you in anticipation.

Meanwhile, we wish you a lovely Summer, and hope that you will enjoy reading your copy of 'The Auchenblae Messenger'.

**Ross Muiry.**

### **The "bla bla bla"**

The bla bla bla is a new magazine designed by kids for kids, it will be handed out to all kids in Auchenblae free of charge in the near future.

There will be games and cool competitions for kids all through primary. We hope all the kids in the village will read and enjoy it. Not only is it full of fun and games but it also has articles about: picking up your dog poo around the village; top tips on how to recycle; fashion and reviews on holidays; cinema trips and trips out.

To contact us for further information call Mafalda on 01561 320881 or write to us at the address below:

The "bla bla bla"

Rowanbank, Kintore Street, Auchenblae, AB30 1XP

## AUCHENBLAE AND DISTRICT HERITAGE SOCIETY

As an incomer of a mere five and a half years, I have been cleverly outmanoeuvred into being the new Chairman of the Society. So, I obviously need help – not in any mental way, although I suppose that is questionable? But help in building on the excellent work already achieved by the Society. Help from people, unlike myself, who have lived here a long time and must have a wealth of information, stories, photographs, memories etc. We need to record these now, otherwise much of it will be lost and future residents of Auchenblae and further afield will have no real inkling of the place, its history and its characters. So before it's too late, this is a wee appeal to anyone who feels they can contribute in any way, please contact, either myself, Malcolm McCraig, 320725 or Gillian Siddons 320360.

Next year's programme is shouting out for this type of information. After the June 10<sup>th</sup> walk to the "Source of the Luther", we commence again on September 4<sup>th</sup> with a meeting based on the 'Show and Tell' idea. This time we're trying to make it a bit more structured, where everyone who brings an item(s) of interest will be given a few minutes to talk about it. An ideal chance to look out something special, perhaps along with a story to go with it.

The December 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting is called "Smeddum" and will be given by Alex Gourlay, former Head of Design at BBC TV Scotland who will talk about the 1976 filming and locations used in the Lewis Grassic Gibbon short story of the same name. A video of "Smeddum" will be shown.

March 5<sup>th</sup> will be about 'Auchenblae Characters from the Past'. We have researched a few, but again, this is where people's knowledgeable local input is invaluable. For example, who knows more about Johnny Logie and the brass band? What about the blind organist, George Goodair, or Betty Gordon of "The Chestnut Inn"? And are there any photos?

We are still appealing for photos/illustrations – old and new, for the proposed Auchenblae Heritage Walk brochure. There will be prizes for those images selected. For example, these could include: the Church, Den Mill, Public Hall, War Memorial, Thistle Inn, Bruce Fountain or The Den etc etc. The same contact numbers for this and any other ideas you might have. The Heritage Society looks forward to receiving what you have to offer and thanks you in anticipation.

Malcolm McCraig.

Upper Coullie

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**"creatures that move..."**



**Auchenblae Drama Group**

29.09.06

## 2006 GALA PICTURES



**Thanks to everyone,  
collectors, helpers, givers  
OUR CHRISTIAN AID WEEK  
TOTAL IS THE HIGHEST  
SINCE WE STARTED IN 1998.  
WITH MONEY STILL COMING IN  
THE TOTAL TO DATE IS  
£2618**

**ON BEHALF OF CHRISTIAN AID  
AND SOME OF THE POOREST  
IN THE WORLD  
THANK YOU**

*Donald B. Remie*  
Local Christian Aid Organiser

**LIGHT HOUSE**

Light House has shut down for the summer and plans to re-start in September with a new schedule of activities. Watch this space!

Mr. Piggy, having been fed by the children for the past nine months, has produced the worthwhile sum of £74 which will be sent to the Christian Missions Charitable Trust in Chennai, one of the poorest regions of Southern India. Our thanks for all contributions.

Many thanks, also, for all the support we have received throughout the year, and especially the love that was shown to Charles in so many ways during his recent stay in Hospital.

Have a lovely summer and may God bless you and yours with peace, hope and joy.

**“creatures that breathe...”**



**Auchenblae Drama Group**

29.09.06

**Glenbervie Gardens**

Glenbervie House Gardens will be open for

Scotland's Gardens Scheme on

Sunday 6th August 2—5 pm.

Teas, Plant Stall, Baking Stall.

**40% of takings to Aberdeen Renal  
Research Fund**



**Scotland's Gardens Scheme**

Gardens Open For Charity

Registered Charity No. SC011337

## Food for Thought - Season's Eatings!

This edition we are concentrating on easy but different food that can be carried, whether up the garden, or on longer more exciting excursions.

### SEASONAL BEST

Beans, Peas, Tomatoes, Strawberries, Currants, Cherries, Beef, Plaice, Sardines.

### Gapache

*A wonderful chilled 'salad' soup that travels well in thermos, and can be varied according to taste. All listed ingredients just need to be chopped and well blended, but keep a spoonful or two of all ingredients to be added to bowl on serving for texture.* To serve 6, try:

2lb tomatoes (skinned, deseeded and chopped)

1/4 pt olive oil

1 cucumber (peeled, deseeded and chopped)

2 red/1 green peppers (deseeded and chopped)

1 clove garlic/1 med onion, skinned and chopped

1/2 pint tomato juice

salt and freshly ground black pepper

Optional additions

Celery (finely chopped)

Garlic croutons



### Jamie's 'Special' Roast Chicken

*A simple but delicious roast chicken that carved and cold makes a wonderful picnic centre piece. Serve with new potatoes, your favourite breads or grain dishes and salads.* Prepare the stuffing by mixing all ingredients (except the chicken!) well together in a bowl before placing carefully in between the skin and flesh on both sides of breast of the bird. Leave a cut lemon, onion and herbs in the cavity for extra flavour if possible. Roast as normal, allowing a little extra time for the stuffing.

1 Large fresh chicken

grated rind of 1 – 2 lemons

3 – 4 oz softened butter

a good handful of chopped thyme

2 cloves of garlic, crushed

4 – 5 slices of Parma ham, finely shredded.

### Summer Pudding

**So simple and so delicious. Use fresh red fruits or bags of frozen mixes, plus thick white bread slices**

1. Cook down fruit (about 2lb) with sugar and liqueur or water to taste. You want some juice but it should not be too thin. 2. Line a 2lb loaf tin with cling film. 3. Trim bread slices to line all round and cover top of tin. 4. Dip bread into juices, line tin then fill with fruits, pressing quite hard for a firm mixture. 5. When complete cover top with more trimmed and dipped bread, cover over with cling film, place a plate on top and put two large soup tins on top and refrigerate for up to 2 days before unmoulding and serving. TO SERVE: Cream is good, but so is the following simple home made ice cream.

### Lemon Curd Ice Cream

*Goes perfectly with Summer Pudding, raspberry tart and all red fruits.*

8 – 10 oz Lemon Curd (Home made or high quality shop bought)

1/2 pint double cream (whipped) 3 large egg whites

3 oz sieved icing sugar.

1. Whisk egg whites in clean bowl until fairly stiff. 2. Gradually add icing sugar, whisking all the time until you have a stiff meringue. 3. Fold these into the whipped cream, add and stir through the lemon curd. 4. Pour into freezer container and freeze (it's that simple – just the once!) 5. Remove to fridge 20 minutes before serving

**Try something new challenge.**

Be experimental with salads and cold food. Leek and potato soup becomes glamorous vichyssoise when served cold. Add fruit (dried or fresh) to salads - sultanas and pine nuts with grated carrot; orange segments with beetroot and red onion etc.

### FOOD FACT.

**DID YOU KNOW ...** that in New York where Sunday Brunch is King and starts at 10:30, it was illegal to serve alcohol before noon. So to get around the law enterprising

## AUCHENBLAE SCHOOL PTA

Hello from the PTA committee

This year's main fundraiser. **“The Silent Auction”** was a terrific success, raising an amazing £980! It was held on the 9th of June at the school and was really well attended. The children had their own “Auction” in one of the classrooms and the rest of the kindly donated items were in another classroom.

We had some great items donated and everything went on the night! We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who helped make this night such a success: The teachers, PTA members, parents who helped and those who turned up and put in their generous bids.

Also a huge THANK YOU to everyone who turned up and supported the school from the village. Not only is the support most appreciated, but it never ceases to amaze and impress the generosity of people give in aid of their local school. Thanks for the donations for the stalls; baking, bottles, plants, books, cd's, videos etc. We hope everyone enjoyed the night.

This year's **Sports Day**, was held at the school on Thursday 22nd June in the morning.

The **End of Term Assembly** was on the 27th June at 9:30 am.

**School finished** on Friday the 30th June and re-opens on Tuesday 22nd August 2006.

The building work is well underway, with the new classroom hopefully being finished by October. The nursery will hopefully be completed by Christmas.

Let's hope this fabulous weather continues for the children's holidays. The PTA would like to wish everyone a Happy Summer Holiday!

## HOME WIRELESS NETWORKS IN AUCHENBLAE

**Around 20 people have installed a Wireless Network in their homes in the village.**

**This allow you to connect computers together in the home without running network cables.**

**It allows the owners of WIFI enabled laptop computers to wander about the house and garden surfing the Net without being wired to the phone socket, if there are no thick walls in the way.**

**Unfortunately if you are not careful someone can use your Wireless Internet connection for unlawful acts or interfere with the connection and gain access to your PC.**

**It is not difficult to stop unwelcome guests gaining access to your network and computer/s.**

**Phone Eddie Cairns on 01561 320494 for advice on keeping your equipment secure.**

**No service is being offered other than at you invitation, I will check your wireless security.**

**There are a number of Wireless networks in the village that may not be secure.**

**Make Your Wireless Network Secure It Makes Sense.**

## Auchenblae Parks Committee

Following our well attended 'Den Opening Day' on 29th April, flowering shrubs, riverside grasses, and primulas have been planted which should add to next year's spring colour. We were blessed with fine weather and enjoyed the happy atmosphere, a time when the village 'comes together'.

This year, we again invited a consultant from the Forestry Commission to give us advice on the trees within our charge. This meeting was most helpful and reassured us that we were carrying out our woodland management effectively.

We were however, disappointed to find that we had not escaped the ravages of Dutch elm disease. As a result discriminate tree felling will begin after the autumn in an effort to save the remaining elms. We were also advised to remove the young sycamores behind the putting and bowling greens. They grow so vigorously and quickly block the sun from other varieties struggling to survive.

We were happy to see the small plantation of field maples is still in good condition and the oaks planted four years ago are now protruding from their guards. With the remaining proceeds from the Den Day we intend planting some firs to retain a variety of trees for future generations to enjoy.

### **Flax Mill Correction**

I must apologise for an error which appeared in the last edition of the Messenger.

Despite looking over the article with the proverbial fine tooth comb, I immediately spotted my mistake when I saw it 'in print'. Horrors!

The figure 643 referred to the village population following the expansion of the mill. The workforce of 60, comprised 16 men, 6 boys and 38 women and girls, with many others involved in growing, harvesting and preparation of the crop.

Jenny Thomson



### **AUCHENBLAE RACQUET GROUP – LATE SUMMER SEASON – 2006**



By the time you read this the schools summer break will be upon us. My how tempus does fugit!

We have had a very successful start to the outdoor season with upwards of 13 youngsters in both the juniors and advanced juniors groups and a steady group of up to 8 adults for coaching on Tuesdays. There may still be room for a few more in all groups if you are interested, once we re-start for a short late summer outdoor season, but call Carol (01561 320748) or Gina (01561 320269) for information before coming along.

We had a wonderful turnout for our Mid Summer BBQ/Fundraiser on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> June, despite the worst efforts of the weather. Many thanks to all of the brave souls (some 30 youngsters and families) not to mention Wendy and all other helpers for having faith and hope and turning out to enjoy the tennis, food and friendship. We raised just under £170, which will be put towards some more equipment for the group later in the year. When we start back on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> August we will begin playing for cups in the junior competitions and hopefully manage a fun finals day before the end of September. These dates/ events are not yet finalised, so please watch out on village notice board for further information/confirmation.

There will be no weekly coaching during the school holidays as attempts in previous years have been poorly attended. Wendy will be offering week long camps in several locations in the vicinity later in the holidays, so call her directly on 01561 320640 for dates and times if interested.

We would like to offer our warmest thanks to Margo, Judith and Jenny for volunteering to help run and grow the tennis group this term. We hope that with more people formally volunteering we could look into re-establishing a 'club' over the coming months.

Finally, the biggest thanks go to the young people themselves who come along week after week. It gives us such great pleasure to see them enjoying the game and improving over the weeks. It is, after all, why we do what we do. Thank you and well done everyone. We wish all players, families and friends a wonderful summer. Keep playing!

Gina and Carol

## THE MESSENGER & MEMO PRODUCTION PROCESS

**The Editor advertises for regular contributors and reminds them of copy dates**

**Contributors submit material**

**The editor collates & marks ups contributions for the first draft copy.**

Donald Rennie and Ross Muiry share the work, 5 issues per year. So one does two issues and the other does three issue in one year alternating the next year. **We need a new person here to replace Ross.**

The Desk Top Publisher sets the copy and adds photos, clip art of info from the internet.

Electronic submission is wonderful !

Eddie Cairns and Kevin Newstead share the work, 5 issues per year.

The Editor reads the draft copy and makes necessary alterations.

The Desk Top Publisher updates the script. We use Microsoft Publisher.

Gina Easter and Carol Shea share the work.

The Proof Readers make their corrections to the final draft copy

The Desktop Publisher adopts the final corrections before the printing process.

Eddie Cairns looks after this task. We use Kyocera Laser Printers. Funded by Awards for All

The Distribution Team co-ordinated by Anne Anderson deliver your magazine.

The Distribution team distribute 5 Messengers and 5 Memos per year .

Ann Rennie collects the material and produces 5 Memos per Year.

**The editor should have a better than average understanding of the English language, and the ability to work happily with the desk top publisher.**

**“creatures that live...”**



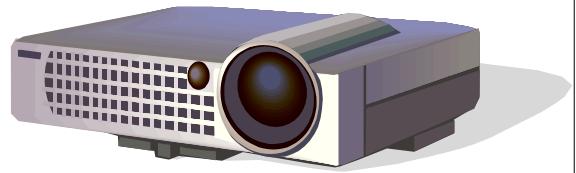
**Auchenblae Drama Group**

29.09.06

**WATCH THIS SPACE**

## AUCHENBLAЕ MESSENGER DIGITAL PROJECTOR & SCANNER

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.

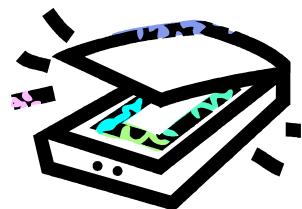


The following features are worth a mention.

- 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 projectors.
- 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 need for a computer. The software for this is in both Windows and Mac formats included in a CD provided in the carry case.

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

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 equipment.

## AUCHENBLAЕ FRIENDSHIP GROUP

When you read this we shall have come to the end of another year with the Friendship Group. It has been a year of mixed activities, with we hope, something to appeal to all. We shall be starting up again towards the end of August. Watch the notice board for details, nearer the time. There will be room for new members. If you are interested in joining us, please ask any member for details.

Our thanks go to the many people who have helped us over the year, especially Donald and Roy for helping with transport, and to Shirley who saves us so much time, and aching backs, in the morning by setting up the hall. We are grateful to Aberdeenshire Council for the hire of the school bus and also to Jean who looks after everyone so well.

See you all again at the end of the holidays.

Barbara Strouts



### 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

Ross Muiry,  
Donald Rennie,  
Eddie Cairns,  
Kevin Newstead,  
Anne Anderson,  
Barbara Strouts,  
Colette Hoggmascall,  
Carol Shea  
Gina Easter

Email: [themessenger@mearns.org](mailto:themessenger@mearns.org)  
"Keeping you informed"

The Publisher of this issue was  
Eddie Cairns

### Auchenblae Messenger Supplement

### MONTHLY MEMO

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	TIME
<b>AUGUST</b>			
Sunday 6th	Glenbervie House Gardens	Glenbervie	2.00 p.m.
Tuesday 22nd	New School Term Begins	Auchenblae School	
Tuesday 22nd	Tennis Restarts	The Den	
tba	Launch of the "bla bla bla"	free to all kids	
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>			
t.b.a.	Light House Restarts	Light House	
Friday 1st –Sun 3rd	Art Show	Village Hall	Various
Monday 4th	Heritage Soc (Show and Tell Evening)	Church Hall	7.30 p.m.
Tuesday 12th	Community Association AGM	Village Hall	
Friday 29th	Drama Group	Village Hall	

**ALL INFORMATION FOR INCLUSION IN THE AUGUST MEMO**

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

**BY 15<sup>th</sup> July 2006**

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

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

Otherwise, hand to Donald Rennie, Mernis Howe. If you have access to a word processor, a floppy disc version (PC only) or CDR would be appreciated.

We're on the web!

<http://www.mearns.org>

**Thanks from all the team!**