

The Auchenblae Messenger

Volume 9 Issue 3

June 2007



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The Messenger Receives £1,001 Funding From Shell UK. See Page 8.

AUCHENBLAE AND DISTRICT HERITAGE SOCIETY

Annual Walk (6 miles approx.)

Strathfinella

Saturday 9th June

Meet at the football pitch at 1.00pm



For shorter walk meet at the Drumtochty Glen Car Park at 2.00pm

Bring a picnic, sun cream and/or wellies.

For further details contact:

Malcolm McCoig (320725)



The summer season has got off to a great start and we are delighted with the interest shown by so many youngsters, youths and adults alike.

Due to the level of interest and a desire to offer more focussed coaching for all and, for the juniors, a more progressive and planned development programme (with the ultimate aim of implementing the LTA's Mini Tennis programme), we have re-organised and increased the number of groups as follows:

	<u>Day</u>	<u>Group</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Editor's Notes	Tuesdays	Red	16:30	17:15
		Orange 1	16:45	17:30
		Orange 2	17:15	18:00
Light House		Orange 3	17:45	18:30
		Adult (coached)	18:30	19:30
Senior Citizens Fund	Wednesdays	Green	17:00	18:00
Memo		Youth	17:30	18:30
		Adult (social)	18:30	19:30

Please contact us if you would like to join in – all ages (from 5 years) and abilities are most welcome. Finally, a reminder that we hope to hold our mid summer event on Tuesday 19th June 2007 – so please keep that date free! For any details or further information please contact: **Gina Easter (320269) or Carol Shea (320748)**

West Mearns Parish Church & Auchenblae Guild



Minister: Rev. Catherine Hepburn

The Manse, Fettercairn—Tel 01561 340203

9.30 a.m. Every Sunday at Fettercairn

11.00 a.m. First Sunday of the month Glenbervie

11.00 a.m. Every other Sunday in the month

Service at Auchenblae Church

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

VISITORS ESPECIALLY WELCOME AT ALL SERVICES

The congregation of West Mearns Parish Church are to hold a Celebration in Auchenblae Village Hall on Friday 15th June to mark the Silver Jubilee of the Rev. Catherine Hepburn's ministry. Residents in the Parish who are not members of the Church but would like to share in the Celebration should contact **June Scott (340492) or Ann Rennie (320622)**.

Auchenblae Guild (West Mearns Parish Church)

Nearing the end of a successful session, the members of the Auchenblae Guild, having enjoyed a get-together with their sister Guilds of Glenbervie and Fettercairn, are all set to travel to Aberdeen on Wednesday, June 13th to meet the ladies of their Guild Link, Ferryhill Church, for lunch and whatever their friends have planned thereafter. Departure time is twelve noon from the Church Hall at Auchenblae.
Ann Rennie.

AUCHENBLAe FRIENDSHIP GROUP

We are rapidly approaching the end of another year. Our last meeting before the holiday will be 4th July. We hope to start again on 22nd August.

My thanks to everyone who has helped during the year. The Committee, who work so hard to devise a programme, the washers up who have made such a difference, Margaret and Ann for their help setting up when we are short staffed and above all to Jean. Without her to drive the bus we would not be able to function.

Looking back we have had a varied range of activities, some old favourites and some new ones. We will continue to try to find new ideas to entertain you, and look forward to seeing you all and some new friends in August. We are a friendship group set up for anyone in the village who is a pensioner, or who has time on their hands and would like a pleasant way to spend a Wednesday morning. Happy holidays.

Barbara Strouts

Auchenblae School PTA news

At the start of the school year the PTA set itself the target of raising enough money to put a smart board in every classroom in the school. Helped by a great response from the local community raising £2605 this target has now been achieved. Thank you to everyone who donated money. These smart boards (which are like interactive blackboards connected up to computers) will really enhance the learning experience of children at the school.

The Auchenblae School Summer Fair will be held on 16th June from 10am to 12pm at the school. Entry will be £2.50 for adults and 50p for children. There will be lots to enjoy for all ages, with stalls, beat the goalie, a treasure hunt, a display by Satrosphere and much more, including a car boot sale. If you want to book a pitch for this you need to do so in advance by calling Ed Garrett on 320340.

Auchenblae Community Association

Art Show – A feature of the Art Show this year will be a Childrens' Art Competition to be organised by Jenny Colbeck. Once again we will have a 'Nostalgia Corner' – so look out these old photographs!

Bruce Fountain – The historic Bruce Fountain, located in The Square, is in need of extensive repair and refurbishment. The Community Association are to approach to Heritage Lottery Fund with a view to obtaining funding to carry out the conservation of this important feature of the village.



Communication - The committee would appreciate if any issue forwarded to the Community Association for discussion could be sent in writing and signed (whether it is to congratulate or criticise!). The necessity to answer correspondence is taken seriously but unfortunately, without an original signature, someone could be writing in your name, and of course we then cannot reply!



MENINGITIS TRUST SPONSORED WALK

Carol Nelson is doing a 5 mile sponsored walk in aid of the Meningitis trust. Anybody to support this good cause either by taking part in the walk or sponsoring Carol please get in touch with her on 320648 or by e-mail to carolnelson@talktalk.net.

The date for the walk is Saturday July 28 2007

Glenbervie Gardens

In the next edition of the Messenger would you please mention that the gardens at Glenbervie House are open for Scotland's Gardens Scheme on Sunday 5 August from 2-5pm. 40% of the takings will be given to West Mearns Parish Church.

Jill Macphie

It's a year since we formed and held our inaugural (nervous) meeting in the lounge of Drumtochty Arms Hotel. We have grown steadily since and have performed, entertained and matured as a group.



Auchenblae Drama Group

Our number has grown from seven in those early days to fourteen regular members with a few notable co-stars who have chipped in and helped us out with excellent performances – who will ever forget Hamish's Zombie at the Community Association's Christmas Concert.

As seems customary in this months Messenger there is a lot of thanking going on from all the rest of the groups in the village and we won't break with this. We would like to thank you all for the support and encouragement you have shown us over the past year and as we fast approach our inaugural Auchenfest we look forward to your continued support.

Details of Auchenfest are below but if you want up to the minute information on the Drama Group please check out our website www.auchenblae-drama-group.co.uk or give **Gillian a call on 320360**.

Auchenfest

On the **8th – 10th June** Auchenblae shall host the inaugural Auchenfest. Showcasing local dramatic arts Auchenblae Drama Group present a weekend of entertainment.

Our festival coordinator, Gillian Siddons, would be delighted to provide more information.

The program of events at the moment is as follows;

Friday 8th June—7.30 p.m. -“On Unofficial Business” by Craig Sandeman

Musical Performance from Act-Show-Allez

“The Donahue Sisters” by Geraldine Aron

Venue: In Hall with licensed bar.

Saturday 9th June—2-4 p.m. Mask Workshop with Gayna Sandeman and Judith Houghton in the Den

7.0. p.m. Family Ceilidh with Beannachar Ceilidh Band

Sunday 10th June—3.0 p.m.—Shakespeare in the Den

Youth Drama Group perform “Twelfth Night” at 3.00pm following which the Den will be turned into a Medieval Extravaganza for the afternoon. Refreshments will be served at the Pavilion and all are encouraged to take part in the theme and come as wenches, warlocks, knights, magicians and jesters

For further information please call Gillian Siddons on 320360 and keep up to date with our website

www.auchenblae-drama-group.co.uk

Friday 8th June – Auchenfest Opening Night “On Unofficial Business” by Craig Sandeman

Local playwright Craig Sandeman brings his Tartan Shorts shortlisted script to the stage in his first venture in writing for the stage.

Disturbed and unhinged by the sad discovery that her husband is having an affair Christine desperately reaches out to try to reaffirm herself in life. Trying to make her life mean something she steals a van only to find that it is a prison van transporting three prisoners to Aberdeen Prison. The four unlikely companions embark on a touching, funny and enlightening journey into the forest and into themselves. As each prisoner reaches into themselves Christine finds meaning in her life and the potential of a future.

Natasha Kerr, Simon Leigh, Roy Vobes and Craig Sandeman star in a comedy directed by Gayna Sandeman.

“The Donahue Sisters” by Geraldine Aron

The attic of the family home in Ireland, once a playroom, is the setting for this sinister play. Awaiting the death of their father, the sisters talk about their unhappy lives long into the night. The time comes for a ritual re enactment of a violent incident from their childhood. The sisters speak and act in unison to create the persona of a young boy. When the ritual is complete, things return to normal and the women seem to have found answers to their problems. Remaining is the uneasy prospect of the past repeating itself.

Gayna Sandeman, Judith Houghton and April Pressley star in this equally amusing and disturbing play directed by Kevin Newstead.

A Musical Performance will be performed by Act-Show-Allez and with a cast of ten singers they present a lively rendition of swing numbers. Taking in their own interpretations of classics Act-Show-Allez perform solos and group performances.

Auchenblae Brownies

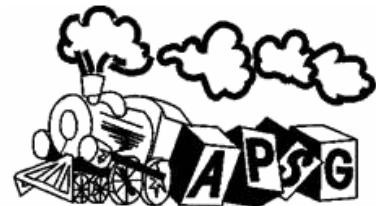
1st Auchenblae Brownies joined Fettercairn and Lathermuir for a Pack Holiday Week End. Our theme was Circus and the girls tried out juggling, Diablo, spinning plate, stilt walking and tumbling to gain their Circus skills badge. We had a visit from a magician and partied till midnight.

They also helped with the cooking, cleaning and looking after themselves for a whole weekend, we promise to do it again next year girls, when the Guiders have caught up on their sleep !!



Auchenblae Pre-School Group News

Firstly, a huge thank you to everyone who bought tickets for our Easter Raffle which raised a wonderful £1150 for the group.



The end of the school year is already in sight, and the group will be holding its AGM in the village hall at 7.30pm on 5th June. All welcome to attend.

The children are looking forward to their end of term summer outing by bus to Camperdown Park in Dundee. Here's hoping for good picnic weather!

The Pre-School Group has recently been awarded a lottery grant with which to purchase new toys and equipment. After seven sessions a week, week in week out, some of the toys are much in need of replacement. The new toys have been carefully chosen to increase the children's awareness of the world around them, including learning about other cultures, the work that grown-ups do and the natural environment.

The Pre-School Group caters for pre-school children from birth to the age of four. Anyone interested should contact **Sue Barrie, Group Chairperson on 01561 340673**

From this Month's Editor—Craig Sandeman

Isn't it great to have the light nights, the green trees, the hay fever and the promise of a glorious summer again. It seems to only have been a year since they last forecast a cracking summer which failed to arrive. As I write this editorial I see the kids outside taking part in the Treasure Hunt and I realise as I read the articles written for the Messenger that not only a significant amount of volunteer's time goes into making this community great but there is a significant amount of people willing to take part. This issue is full of upcoming events and thanks for events past and I cannot help but wonder at the breadth of activities available to us all. Only today I told my colleague that I wished I could work part-time (yes it is a regular day dream) and go along to the Friendship Group and enjoy a Wednesday morning exchanging stories new and old.

We, the Messenger Team, are also considering what we give you in this publication. We each have ideas we are about to table and depending on the views of the rest of the group could roll out for the next issue (good luck Donald!) but we would also like to hear from you about what you would like to see in the Messenger. Please feel free to pass your ideas in to Donald or myself and we will try it out and see if it has legs.

I would like to admit also that I may be getting a bit more organised with putting the Messenger together and now have a permanent list of names to call to chase up articles – so if you got a call this month you're going to be hounded to the ends of the earth!



As Light House draws to a close for the summer with a Prize giving Party on June 3rd, we are mindful of the fact that a question mark hangs in the air – will it open again for an autumn term.

As we've always known, The Willows and Granary Cottage will need a very special family and won't sell overnight. So, we're as wise as anyone as to whether or not this has been the final Light House Session!

Meanwhile, it's great to be in Auchenblae and we trust God for the future of The Willows and our own move. Watch this space! Every blessing for the summer and beyond.

Charles and Brenda

Letter from Ann Rennie

Recently I attended a meeting of the local WRI at which two of our members, Jenny Thompson assisted by Sallyanne Morrison, both also members of the Community Association, had been asked to talk about the work of the Association. Jenny gave a fascinating and amusing account of the Association past and present.

I have lived in Auchenblae for nearly eleven years and I thought I had a fair notion of what the Association was about but I have to say that I learned a great deal more from Jenny about the history of the Village Hall and the amount of work that has to be done by a relatively small number of people to keep it in such good condition for the rest of us to use. Not only the Hall comes under the wing of the Association but other features such as the Bruce Fountain and the lovely flower tubs planted and placed round the village and up at the Church. They also bring to the attention of relevant bodies the problems and concerns of the villagers such as potholes in the streets and they organise signs such as those for the Gilbert Hill Monument and Herscha Hill. They have produced a map of the village showing and naming, or numbering, every house (this to be updated soon) – in a village where the main street has about eight different names and the houses are not numbered, this is a boon and a blessing to all.

Maintaining the Hall and undertaking the other work takes a lot of time – and, of course money, so the volunteer force is constantly having to find ways of gathering enough cash to keep things going. There are the well loved institutions like Gala Week (which we still have though many other communities may now only have a one day effort). This week has something for everyone, culminating in Gala Day after a week of different attractions for young and old alike. The community rallies round to help make it a success year by year, it certainly brings us all together. Then there is the Burns Supper alternating with the Christmas Concert both of which are hugely enjoyed by all. The supper is a well organised adult affair but the concert delights a junior audience as well. More recently there has been the Autumn Art Show which each year displays the work of the many artists, amateur and professional, who reside in our midst. An extra every year and one of which few may be aware, is the tea marquee at the Drumtochty Games which Auchenblae Community Association run entirely on their own – a very exhausting day for all concerned. All of these events require a great deal of planning beforehand and much work at the time.

As if all the above weren't enough, new over-the-top (my expression, not Jenny's) legislation means extra paper work, as well as extra physical work and expense, since new Health and Safety rules have had to be implemented. [apologies to any Health and Safety / Legislative types out there. Ed]

The Editor probably won't want me to ramble on [I positively encourage it Ann. Ed] but I could mention the bee's nest, the shower of baby maggot, the mink in the attic and in more pleasant mode, the gowns of the ladies attending the Annual Balls in days gone by, not to mention the noise of the successful Drumtochty Games Discos which used to attract about 400 young people from round about, all of whom could not get into the Hall so they danced in the street. (Ask Jenny about these and other tales from the past!)

I think all of us in this beautiful village and nearby, owe our Community Association a great debt of gratitude for all they do for us throughout the year. Jenny finished by indicating that the Association would welcome new members at any time, not only one the Committee but also to swell the numbers known (unofficially?) as Friends of the association who are always willing to lend a hand when they can.

Ann Rennie

Auchenblae Senior Citizen Fund

Bring and buy coffee morning at Sally Anne Morrison's, Lilac Cottage Inverurie Street.

10-12 p.m. Saturday 16th June

Watch out for the Edzell Vintage Rally Weekend 1st & 2nd September



**THE AUCHENBLAE MESSANGER
THE NEWSLETTER
FOR THE
AUCHENBLAE COMMUNITY**

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

Donald Rennie
Craig Sandeman
Ann Rennie
Eddie Cairns
Kevin Newstead
Anne Anderson
Barbara Strouts
Colette Hoggmascall
Email: the messenger@mearns.org
"Keeping you informed"
The Publisher of this issue was
Kevin Newstead

Auchenblae Messenger Supplement—MONTHLY MEMO

DATE	EVENT	PLACE	TIME
Fri 8th—Sun 10th June	Auchenfest	Hall / Den	various
Sat 9th June	Heritage Society Annual Walk	Football Pitch	1.00 p.m.
Fri 7th – Sun 9th Sep	Art Show	Village Hall	TBA

ALL INFORMATION FOR INCLUSION IN THE JULY MEMO

SHOULD BE GIVEN TO ANN RENNIE, 'MERNIS HOWE' Tel. 01561 320622 By 13TH JUNE 2007

AUCHENBLAE MESSENGER FUNDING

We are delighted to announce that the Messenger Group have been awarded £1001 from Shell UK to cover the cost of future printing of the BlaBlaBla and the Messenger on the expensive high quality paper we have been using recently and to purchase further colour toner to print the colour sections of the Messenger and the BlaBlaBla.



Funds will also be used to purchase USB memory sticks to allow contributors to use these large capacity devices as floppy discs are becoming quite unreliable and are unsuitable for storing digital pictures.

We would also like to thank Aberdeenshire Council Community Planning Department and Susie Brown of the Kincardine and Mearns Area Partnership for their assistance with the grant application.

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HELPED!

Please note that the next edition of 'The Messenger' will be published during **August 2007. The closing date for inclusion in this edition will be **15th July 2007**.**

If you have access to e-mail please send to: 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. **Thanks from all the team!**

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