

The Auchenblae Messenger

Volume 11 Issue 2

June 2009

Founded in 1999 by Donald B. Rennie



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**Deadline for next issue is
Thursday 13th August.**

Please submit to
susiebrown@btinternet.com

From the Editors

We got caught short this month, can't believe how quickly time marches on. A big thank you is due to all who contributed to this Messenger for getting articles in in good time. It seems it was only the Editors who thought they had another week!

Almost Gala time again, the Community Association have once again put on a varied programme of events. Watch out for scarecrows all over the village in the next week or so!

At the time of writing this, the first train has stopped at Laurencekirk station. (The last train to stop there was in 1967 - a long wait if you'd a return ticket.)

The station opening has been well documented in the local press in recent weeks, but it must be stressed that it was community effort which made this happen. Network rail, who managed the project have stated that while there were several stations ranked above Laurencekirk to be reopened, it was the power of the community that put this station to the top of the list. While it is Laurencekirk station, let's not forget that it will serve Auchenblae and the Mearns area.

Annie and Eddie recently attended a meeting of all the local newsletter groups in Kincardine and Mearns (there are a lot!), where it was suggested that we should all share information about what's going on all over the area. We'd like your opinion of this, there are pros and cons. On one side we'd all know about forthcoming events however there is a danger that the Messenger will be so full of adverts that local news gets lost. Please let us know what you think. We certainly don't really want to be advertising events which clash with things in the village

As always, feedback re the Messenger is most welcome - we rely on you, the readers to let us know what you want in your village newsletter.

Have a good summer - back in September

Susie and Annie



Stop Press

(17.05.09)

**The amount
raised in Auchenblae and the sur-
rounding area for Christian Aid
this year is a fantastic
£ 1,257.06 so far.
Thanks to all who contributed.**

Thanks

We wish to thank Sallyanne and Fred for a wonderful evening on 11th April. Good food, good drink and good company, what more could one ask for. Good luck in your retirement.

Love
Cath, Thomas and Jake

Dates for your Diary**MAY**

22nd	Heritage Fair, Laurencekirk.
23rd	Community Celebrations for reopening of Laurencekirk station
24th	Gala Kids and Kites
24th	Sing for Joy
25th	Gala Walking Treasure Hunt
26th	Gala Quiz Night
27th	Gala Car Treasure Hunt
29th	Gala Children's Parties
30th	Gala Day on the Den
31st	Sing for Joy

JUNE

18th	Local Development Plan Consultation
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JULY

18th	Gardens Open Day
19th	Gardens Open Day

Auchenblae Community Association**Art Show 2009**

Friday 4th – Sunday 6th September

During May, Entry Forms will be forwarded to artists who have previously exhibited. Any new local artist wishing to exhibit please contact Alice Morgan – Tel. 320081 or e-mail: alicemorgan@btinternet.com

Auchenblae Guild

We have come to the end of another year of Guild activities. We have had an interesting programme of events, some old favourites such as the coffee morning and of course "Carols, Candles and Christmas Pies". There have been very interesting and sometimes challenging speakers. The main thing is the real feeling of fellowship.

We look forward to seeing all members again in September and also anyone else out there who would like to come along and join us one Wednesday a month. All are welcome, and that includes men, who would like to be stimulated by new ideas and would enjoy the fellowship and good humour of our guild meetings.

Barbara Strouts

William Lindsay

Butcher

Closure of the Butcher's Shop

David and Andy would like to thank all their customers most sincerely for their loyal support over the 31 years they have been in business.

They both started as message boys in 1964 and 1967 respectively, and went into partnership in 1978.

They have seen many changes over the years, and now feel it is time for a break and something new.

It has been a pleasure to serve the Community and both David and Andy wish everyone all the best.

Thanks again



Uganda Trip

In July 2009, myself and 11 others from Fetteresso Church in Stonehaven are travelling to Uganda. The purpose of this visit is to help with building work for a children's charity. The Watoto model is based on building villages of houses where orphans and widows come together in homes to create new families. A lot of these people have been misplaced because of AIDS and genocide and many are former child soldiers. Watoto gives each of these children a chance of a new life and a stable family environment with a mother and siblings. They are educated, clothed and have access to medical care. The charity is overseen by the local church (Kampala Pentecostal Church). Each of the participants in this trip have funded themselves with regard to travel and accommodation. We have set ourselves a target of £20,000 to fund the building materials and any other costs that the charity may have that need to be met. This is not a request for personal funding, but any small amount that you may wish to give would be appreciated.

Craig MacEachern



Mearns Community Council



On 18th June, Mearns Community Council will, with Auchenblae Community Association be holding a meeting in the village to enable residents to discuss the proposed Local development Plan. Please look out for notices re times for the meeting.

Community Councils across Aberdeenshire have been tasked with engaging with residents in all towns and villages. Given that these consultations must be completed within a 6 week timescale, it is important that anyone who wishes to either find out more about what's proposed for Auchenblae, or to make comment on the proposal comes along to the meeting.

Full details of the draft LDP are available on the Aberdeenshire council website (www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/ldp).

As you may know, there is a vacancy for an Auchenblae representative on the Community Council - for further details please contact either Susie Brown or Shirley Castles. Anyone coming forward can be co-opted to the Community Council until March 2010 when they will stand for election.



Auchenblae Community Association

It's gala time again!

We're hoping for good weather for our events and look forward to seeing everyone at the gala.

Auchenblae Gala 2009

Sunday 24th – Kids and Kites
2pm - Football Pitch
 Homemade Kite Competition, Kids Races, Football, Target Golf, Beat the Goalie, Refreshments

Monday 25th – Family Walking Treasure Hunt
6pm Village Hall (50p Entry)

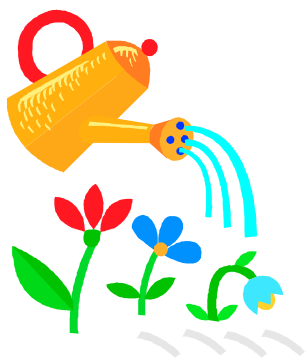
Tuesday 26th – Quiz Night
7.00 for 7.30pm - Village Hall
 Bar & Raffle - £2.50 per person (6 max per table)

Wednesday 27th – Car Treasure Hunt
6.30pm – 7.00pm Village Hall
 £3.00 per Person - Refreshments & Raffle

Friday 29th – Children's Parties
Village Hall – Magician & Refreshments
 Pre-School 5-6pm – Entry £1.50
 5-7 years 6.15-7.30pm – Entry £2.00
 8 years & over – Entry £2.00

Saturday 30th 1pm – Gala Day in Den
 Teas, BBQ, Bric-a-Brac, Bowling, Plant & Bottle Stalls, Tombola, Raffle, Duck Races, Welly Throwing, Bouncy Castle/Sumo Wrestling, Whiskey Trail, Face Painting, Pavilion Takeaway, Family Fun Stall, Fire Engine 1.30-3.00pm

24th - 30th May



Auchenblae Gardens Open Weekend

A Gardens Open Weekend is planned for the 18th and 19th of July. Now in its third year this event continues to attract residents willing to “open their gardens” for the public’s enjoyment.

As usual, Strawberry Teas will be served in the hall and there will be a book stall and raffle.

Proceeds will go towards repairs to the church tower here at Auchenblae.

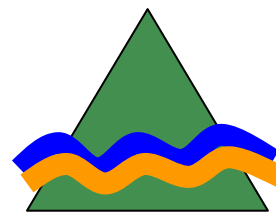
Further details will be posted on the notice board nearer the time.

Jenny Thomson (Fabric Fundraising Committee)





Auchenblae Parks Committee



Wasn't the Den magnificent for the Opening Day? Daffodils have excelled this year and the ones in the Den were no exception. We would like to thank John Milne of Whinhurst and Geo. Gammie of Cairnton who have so willingly donated thousands of bulbs over the years to the Parks Committee.

The new season at the golf course is well under way. We have a membership of 455 and an active waiting list. The machinery store built in 2008 is fulfilling its purpose and our expensive equipment can now be kept under cover.

Last year we were delighted to offer our junior members Saturday morning tuition sessions from a qualified golf instructor. These sessions were provided free, by Ken Marvelley, who has kindly offered to do the same again this year. Ken has a very professional and encouraging approach with the youngsters and we are very fortunate to have the benefit of his experience to train our young members in all aspects of the game of golf. This is certainly an opportunity not to be missed.

Anyone living within a two mile radius of the Auchenblae Course can get automatic membership without going on the waiting list. For safety reasons, children under eight years of age aren't allowed on the course and those under ten must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Junior membership costs £62.50 and applies to 18 years old and under.

Ann Galbraith, our tree convener, has planted out a variety of young trees she has been nurturing in her garden at Myreside. Most have gone in at the Golf Course, along with willow saplings donated by Katrina and Bernie Melsom. But we haven't forgotten the Den and newcomers will be spotted as you walk around. We hope they grow in to fine sturdy specimens for future generations to enjoy.

If you would like to join the committee please come along to our meetings held in the village hall on the fourth Tuesday of each month or telephone Treasurer and Corr. Secy Jenny Thomson on 320245 for further details.



Auchenblae Friendship Group

The Friendship Group continues to thrive thanks to the determination of everyone involved to make it happen!

We have a varied programme, during which we have "taken off" to Cyprus and Austria. Follow ups have been promised for the future.

As most people know we meet on Wednesday mornings, primarily for friendship, a cuppie and a chat. Birthdays are celebrated (The editors understand the cakes are excellent!).

When possible outings are arranged, in fact we have recently enjoyed a lovely lunch at Cammie's at Cammachmore.

If you are in need of companionship with like minded people and would like more information please call me on 320911. You will be made most welcome

Barbara Strouts

Daffodil Tea Makes £1000

The Daffodil Tea on 28th March was a huge success. A total of £1089.45 was made to boost Auchenblae School's funds. A big thank you to everyone who supported the event, either as a customer or helping out on the day.

The children's artwork was of high quality and the vivid colours hinted that Spring was in the air (despite the weather outside!).

The Gammie family were very generous with their supply of beautiful daffodils and Macphie of Glenbervie kindly provided the mix and cream for all those delicious pancakes as well as a donation. Many thanks to both. It is good to know that Mrs Young and her colleagues at the school will be able to draw on this money to help enhance the learning of the youngsters of Auchenblae.



Auchenblae Guides and Brownies

playing rounders
BY Rosie ♥

Games Eliza

Activities mille

Booklover

ANNA

↓

Everything!

Rider

Erin going to the Den

Brownies

★ Take Having fun

friend to animals

drawing Amie

★ ★ ★ Katie drawing

Heather

Neave

Nicole

Fiona

christmas crafts Rachel x

singing songs Grace

going to the den Jordan

Stephenie everything

going to the Den Lindsay

Activities Kirsten

making things Phoebe

Brownie holiday

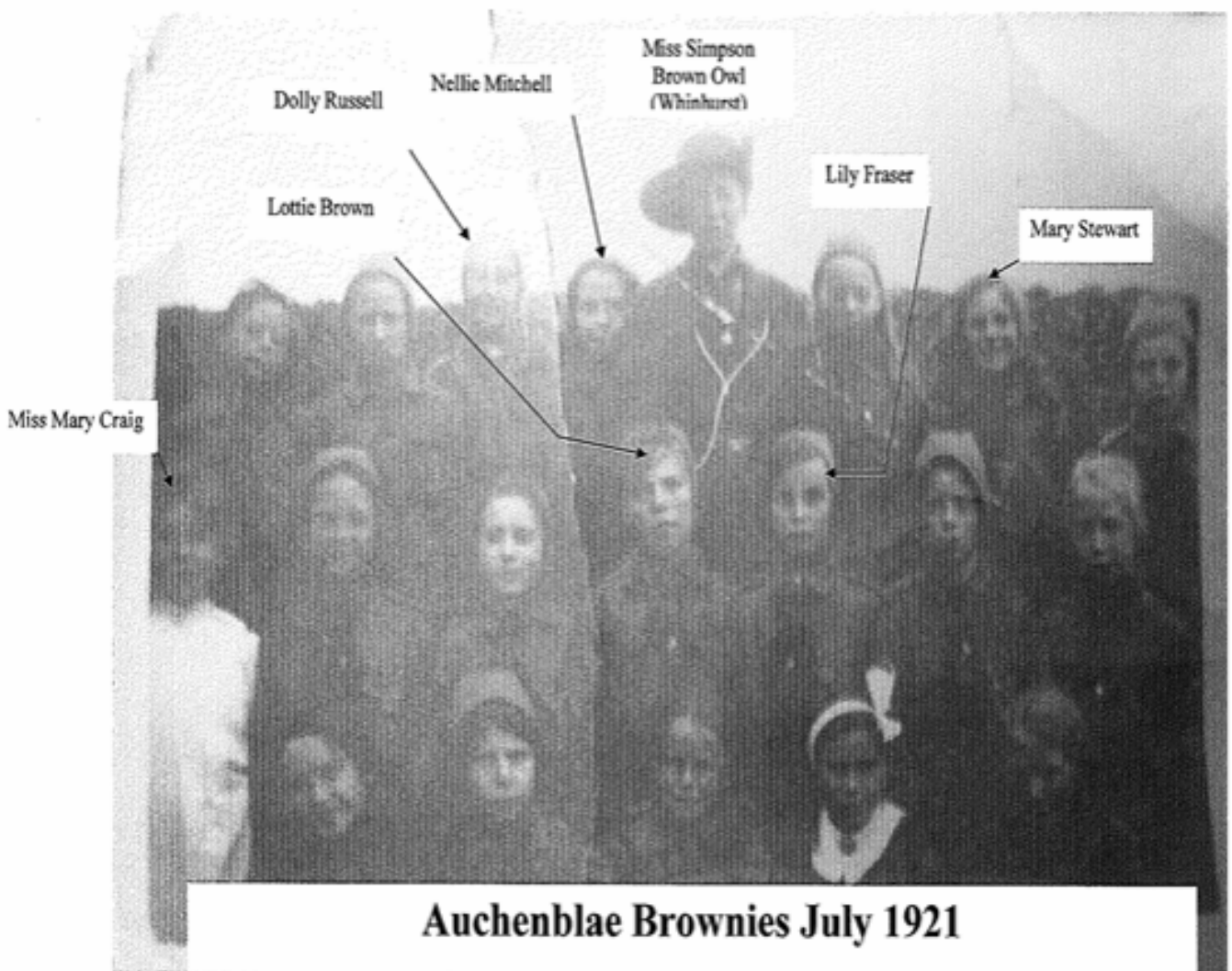
Making tea when I did my Brownie promise. Bethany.



1910-2010 CENTENARY OF GIRL GUIDING

Next year is our centenary and we are lucky to share our special year with Miss Mary Craig who was born the year Guiding was founded.

She found a photo of her first visit to Brownies, before she got the very smart uniform, in July 1921. She remembers the names of some of her Brownie friends and we hope to find as many Guiding friends from over the years and get together for a celebration next summer. If you were involved in Rainbows, Brownies or Guides and would like to join us please contact me d.ev.richardson@btinternet.com.





WHAT WE DO AT GUIDES

At Guides we enjoy socialising with our newly made friends. During the summer we often spend our evenings down at the den, having BBQ's and playing games.

In the winter we work towards "Badges" and "Go For Its" .

We deliver Christmas cards round the village which raises money for funds and also gives us the opportunity of doing something for our community.

In summer we go to Fettercairn for our annual camp where we cook and camp outdoors. We take part in activities according to the theme of the camp.

Kirsty M and Patrol .





Young Leaders

At Auchenblae Guides there are three young leaders, Lynsey Thow (15), Ellie Patterson (15) and Allana Minty (17). To be a young leader you need to be aged 15 to 17. At Guides we help out by organising evenings and games, helping the patrols when they are working on badges and tasks, and generally keeping control of the girls! I like being a young leader because I get to work with a range of age groups and there is always something to do. Also it has given me experience of working with children of different ages and abilities, which is a good skill for my hopeful future career of a primary teacher.

By Lynsey Thow



The Messenger put 20 Questions to Jessie Simmonds

- | | |
|--|------------------------------|
| 1. Were you named after anyone? | Jessie Matthews (Mrs Dale) |
| 2. What is your favourite colour? | Blue |
| 3. What is your favourite meat dish? | Roast Chicken |
| 4. Do you still have your tonsils? | Yes |
| 5. Would you bungee jump? | Not now, would have liked to |
| 6. What is your favourite cereal? | Corn flakes |
| 7. What is your favourite ice cream flavour? | Strawberry or Chocolate |
| 8. Do you untie your laces before you take your shoes off? | NO! |
| 9. What is the first thing you notice about people? | Eyes |
| 10. What is your least favourite thing about yourself? | Feet |
| 11. What was the last thing you ate? | Marmalade Sandwich |
| 12. What was the last film you watched? | 39 Steps |
| 13. Where was your favourite holiday? | Venice |
| 14. What radio station do you listen to? | Classic FM |
| 15. What colour are your eyes? | Blue |
| 16. What did you watch on TV last night? | Midsomer Murders |
| 17. Where were you born? | Plaistow |
| 18. Do you have a special talent? | Piano and painting |
| 19. Favourite Singer? | Julie Andrews |
| 20. Last person you talked to on the phone? | Susie |

West Mearns Parish Church

Sunday Worship

9.30am every Sunday at Fettercairn Church

11.00am First Sunday of the month at Glenbervie Church

11.00am all other Sundays at Auchenblae Church

All are welcome to worship

There is provision for children at most services and
children are welcome for the whole of any service.



Any queries or requests, please contact: The Minister: Rev Catherine A Hepburn Tel: 01561-340203
email: cahepburn@btinternet.com

The Session Clerk: Mrs Helen Johnstone Tel: 01567-740346

New Headteacher Update

I am delighted to have taken up the position of Headteacher at Auchenblae School and the last term seemed to disappear particularly quickly. My first priority was to get to know all of the children and I think I have achieved this.

A main focus for me has been that of allowing the children to think responsibly about what is happening in the school. This is very much in keeping with one of the four capacities of our new Curriculum for Excellence, where we are enabling all of our young people to become 'Responsible Citizens'.

Being able to share what we are doing is very important and we have established a Webteam who are beginning to add information to our school website. <http://www.auchenblae.aberdeenshire.sch.uk/>

Another exciting project we are involved in is creating a song to celebrate the reopening of Laurencekirk Railway Station. It has been very interesting to discover the significance of the railway in the history of Auchenblae e.g. the tourists who came to partake of our healthy air.

It was wonderful to see the support from the village people at our recent Daffodil tea and I feel very fortunate to be part of such a positive school environment. I look forward to working with you all and do remember that visitors to the school are very welcome.

Mrs Elsie Young
Headteacher



Drawing of me by one of the pupils

Lunch club

A lunch club has started in Auchenblae. It meets on Wednesday lunchtimes in the Church Hall. The meals come from the school and are reported to be excellent. Transport can be provided if needed. If you're interested please do get in touch. Also it would be great to have some more volunteers to help out – with serving, clearing away and transport. Again do get in touch if you have an hour or two to spare each month – contact Ed or Nikki at the Healthy Living Network 01561 378130.



Any local group or organisation can hire the 15 seater minibus for outings etc.

A volunteer driver may be available. MiDAS training is offered free to people willing to drive for groups. Further information please call 01561 377000

SING FOR JOY!



We missed you at our first Auchenblae adult choir meeting where we sang the Beatles 'Let it Be'... But it's not too late...we're going to continue every **Sunday evening at 7.30 pm-8.30pm** in the small meeting room, upstairs in the village hall. Whether you feel you can sing or not, being part of a choir is hugely therapeutic! We are very lucky to have a talented young musician to help arrange and direct some wonderful songs.

For more information contact:

Judith on 01561 320 222 or Nick on 07988953530

Community Celebrations 2009

All Welcome

Friday 22nd May

Schools and Community Heritage Fair
(including songs written and performed by pupils of Auchenblae School)

10am - 12 noon - St Laurence Hall
No charge

Saturday 23rd May Grand Community Celebration Day

10.15am - Assembly and Address at Railway Station
10.30am - Community Parade led by Brechin Pipe Band
11am - 3pm - Grand Fair, Mearns Academy
Food, fun, entertainment and activities for all
7- 11.30pm Ceilidh Dance and Supper
Mearns Academy, Nicol McLaren's Band
Ticket £10, under 12's £7
Entry by ticket only

Sunday 24th May

11am and 2pm - Heritage Walk and Talk, meet at Church of Scotland
3 - 4pm - Afternoon Tea Party, Mearns Academy

For further information on any event
Please call

Marion Robson on 01561 377000 or 07500 139349

Or drop in to the Mearns Area Partnership office at
44 High Street, Laurencekirk
(former Observer Shop)



First Train at Laurencekirk Station

A good crowd turned out on Sunday 17th May to welcome the first train to stop at Laurencekirk station. Passengers were queuing at the ticket machine to buy their tickets, some had bought online and some paid on the train. A couple of people took their bikes on the train and planned to cycle home while others took the easier option of travelling in the local Community Minibus.



Thanks

David and Moira thank everyone for the cards, gifts and good wishes received when David finished at the Butcher's shop.



Spring and summer stock for kids and adults arriving daily please check out website or give me a call at above number – Jackie Roberts

www.thistlekids.co.uk

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Old Mart, Market Road, Laurencekirk. AB30 1DG. Tel. (01561) 377007

Max

The village lost a good friend last month when Max very sadly went to sleep. He was well known in the village and always had a wag of his tail for everyone, especially the children. When the garage was open, Max was always there to say hello to everyone coming and going from the school.

He will be much missed by all.

Messenger Distribution Team

Ann Anderson, Sheena Auld, Carol Nelson, Anne Caird, Sheree Caird, Therese Hendry, Ann Rennie, Trish MacEachern, Margaret Muir, Lois McCormick and Moira Hutchison.

Messenger Production Team

Susie Brown, Annie Thow, Eddie Cairns, Kevin Newstead

Memo Production

Ann Rennie

Copies of the Messenger can be collected from the local shops and the Drumlithie Hotel

ENCORE Dress Agency

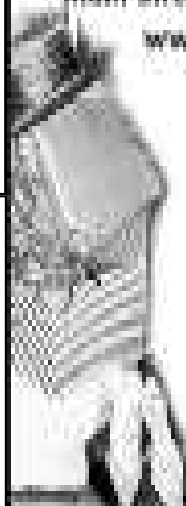
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Corny Joke Corner

So the magician was driving down the road
.....when he turned into a driveway!