



# Auchenblae Messenger

Founded in 1999 by Donald B. Rennie

## SUMMER EDITION

VOLUME 14, ISSUE 2

JUNE 2012

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Gala Week
- Gardens Open
- Heritage Project

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## From The Editor

It seems no time since the last edition of The Messenger went out. We are still global and I get e-mails from people around the world saying how much they enjoy reading it and what a busy, friendly village Auchenblae must be.

My thanks again to all contributors. There wouldn't be a Messenger without you. Any one can contribute. You don't have to belong to one of the many groups. If you have anything interesting to say, possibly you have poems that you would like to see in print send them along.

I will start collecting again at the beginning of August for the September issue. Please send to: [barbara\\_auch20002000@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:barbara_auch20002000@yahoo.co.uk)



When there is no Messenger there will be a Memo if enough information comes in. Please send to Ann Rennie at Mernis Howe, Inverurie Street.

Have a good summer holiday, and let's hope that we have the weather for it.

Barbara

## The Messenger Memo

The next Messenger memo will contain information about forthcoming events in May and any short reports of events that took place earlier. Please contact Ann Rennie at Mernis Howe, Inverurie St. (tel. 01561 320622) before 15th June

## Messenger and Memo Distribution

It is thanks to Ann Anderson and her team that the Messenger and the Memo are delivered to your door. We certainly owe them our gratitude. At times some members of the team may not be able to deliver for various reasons. Ann would be grateful if a few of you would volunteer to act as relief members. The rounds are short and should not take more than about 30 minutes a month. If you feel that you can help please phone **Ann on 320524.**

# Auchenblae Community Association

**Gala week has arrived!** With a busy week of scheduled activities we hope that everyone will find something they will enjoy and take part in. Activities planned for Gala week include: Kids Kites & Games on Sunday the 27<sup>th</sup> of May, Children's walking Treasure Hunt through Auchenblae on Monday the 28<sup>th</sup> of May, Village Hall Quiz Night on Tuesday the 29<sup>th</sup> of May, Thursday the 31<sup>st</sup> of May is BINGO (back by popular demand) and finally on Friday the 1<sup>st</sup> of June is the Kids parties! Check the posters and notice boards by the Village Hall or Metelski's for starting times.



The Gala celebrations in The Den on Saturday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of June will include the favourites such as; BBQ, Tombola, Cake-away, Bottle Stall, Plant Stall and Family/Kids Fun Stalls. Teas will be served in the Pavilion and Bowling Competitions will run throughout the afternoon. The band Trybe will be back with us again this year and a balloon release (in Jubilee Red, White and Blue colours) will be held to close the festivities.

Sponsor your Duck for the Derby race at Metelski's shop or you can get your number from any of the Committee Members.



Please join us in the Jubilee Gala Celebrations!

(The Quizmaster says "read up on Royal marriages"!! )

The Association will also be at the Drumtochty Highland Games this summer, which is another important event on our calendar. The Refreshment Tent will be stocked with tasty soups, gorgeous traybakes and cakes, and plenty of sandwiches and sausage rolls to fill up hungry spectators and competitors. This year's Games will take place on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June.

A big thank you to everyone who came to the Curry Night last March, it was our most successful Curry Night yet. This year we tried something different with a take-out service which proved to be hugely successful, we have learnt a lot from this trial and will make sure to plan for this again next year with an improved take-out service.

# SUMMER

"....GALA  
WEEK HAS  
ARRIVED!"

# Auchenblae Brownies

Auchenblae Brownies paid a visit to Satrosphere in Aberdeen in March. The girls took part in experiments and gained their science investigator badge. The photos shows the brownies taking part in the experiments, having fun in the soft play area and after Greg - our guide - presented them with their badges.

We are joining up with other members of Guiding in June to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee which will include a large campfire and singsong. We are open for girls aged from 7 - 10 years and we are currently operating a waiting list as the unit is full.



Lorna Yates



## A BIG THANK YOU!

A very unusual event took place in the Village Hall on Saturday April 21st when nearly fifty pensioners sat down to enjoy a delicious Christmas Dinner - turkey and trimmings plus crackers supplied and served by Grace and her Christmas Elves from the Crown Hotel Laurencekirk. All the guests had a grand time as after the meal there was music to which some brave souls actually danced!

This treat was organised and mainly financed by Margaret Jamieson, of jam-making fame, and all present would like to thank her (and Bob) for this delightful social occasion. Many events happen around Christmas then there is a lull, therefore to have such a happy time in the spring was very special.

## The Quiz Wiz's Quick Quiz

First all-correct answers sent to:

**kevin@auchenblae.com** before the end of Gala Week gets a bottle of sparkling wine—Under 18's will get a box of sweets



1. Julie London; Henry Fonda and Katharine Hepburn; Quentin Tarantino; Garrison Keillor. What's the connection?
2. With a film version that came out in France in 1900, which Shakespeare play is reckoned to be the first adapted for the screen?
3. The original Comedy Store club was founded in 1972 in which US city?
4. What type of dish comes from a word meaning 'a lid' – a reference to when the food was used to cover the contents of a glass?
5. Who was elected MP for Huntingdon in 1628, and for Cambridge in 1640?
6. Tinglan Hong is the mother. Who is the father?
7. Google's HQ in California is called what?
8. Petrarch (1304-1374) is widely regarded as the father of which movement?
9. The word 'yomp' gained widespread usage after which war?
10. Which Ben and Jerry's ice-cream flavour is named after the lead member of a cult 1960s band?

## Auchenblae Parks Committee

Den Opening on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> April - or not, as it happened! Reluctant as we were to cancel the official opening of the Den, the weather worked totally against us this year. The day itself, although very cold, turned out not that bad but alas our beautiful Den was sodden!!

However, now in mid-May the Den is now well and truly 'open by demand' and it was a joy this week to see the various age groups taking advantage of tennis coaching sessions. Not only that but the whole Den was alive with siblings scrambling around the banks and thoroughly enjoying the great outdoors. If you get a chance on a Tuesday, take a walk down there around tea-time to see just what goes on. You'll be pleasantly surprised.

Huge thanks must go to Gina Easter and her helpers who over the years have encouraged local children to take up the sport. It's quite amazing to see the tiny ones who have never held a racquet in their lives eventually manage to return a ball over a kiddie size net. We are so lucky to have the dedication of people like Gina and the legendary Mrs Susan Adam to resurrect and keep tennis alive on the ever-demanding blaise courts at Auchenblae. One day, when funds allow, we hope to replace them with a surface that's easier to maintain.

Junior season tickets are £8 per annum while adult seasons cost a mere £18. For membership to Auchenblae Tennis Club, please contact Gina on 320269.

The Football Pitch: We're still hoping that someone will come along and form a football team or at least friendly kick around sessions in Auchenblae. The pitch is there, we keep the grass down, that's all at the moment, but we'd gladly get it in shape and marked out if we could only get someone willing to get things going. Any offers?



Meanwhile, at the Golf Course we're desperately hoping for the weather to improve so that we can coax some visitors on to the greens. We have a good membership of 420 which covers the green keeper's salary, the attendants' wages and the considerable running costs, but we do need extra income to allow us to subsidise the other recreational areas we manage and maintain in the village

Anyone interested in joining the committee please contact myself on **320245** or

**jennythomson1@hotmail.com**

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## Auchenblae Walking Group

The Auchenblae Walking Group meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month at 9.30am at the Village Square. Future walks are as follows;- 13th June - Seaton Cliffs, Arbroath, 27th June - Glensauigh. All are welcome to join us. For more information contact **Margaret Ed-die (320 488) or Margaret Muir ( 320 225).**

"....Do give us a go"

## Auchenblae Friendship Group



The Group is still thriving and we have recently welcomed several new members. As usual we will be finishing at the end of June for the summer(?) holidays but will start up again in August for the new session. There will be the normal variety of activities on offer.

We meet on Wednesday morning from 10.00am to about 11.45am in the Church Hall. Our meetings always start with a cup of tea or coffee and often a birthday cake. No birthday is forgotten. Various people entertain us with talks, slide shows, crafty things and gentle keep fit. You are very welcome to come and join us.

For further information phone **Sheena on 320424** or **Barbara on 320911**. We aim to please. Do give us a go.

## Auchenblae Guild

The Guild has successfully completed another season. Although some speakers were unable to attend we were able to find replacements and had many enjoyable meetings. We finished with a delightful evening at the "Clatterin' Brig", where we met up with members of the Fettercairn Guild, for a very enjoyable evening.

On June 13th we will be joined by members of our Guild Link from Ferryhill, Aberdeen for a soup and sweet lunch in the Church Hall. This is always an event to be looked forward to. A good time is had by all.

We are now working on the new syllabus for the next session when we hope to see all present members and some new ones to our meetings. Men are welcome to join us. We already have two male members, and the general Secretary of the Guild is a man, so come along.



## HERITAGE PROJECT

The Mearns Heritage Project which was managed by Forest View Centre Stonehaven, and Project Officer, Dave Ramsay, is now entering the second year of the Project, and a new Project Officer will soon be appointed to continue the excellent support from the Auchenblae Heritage Society and other local residents from the wider community.

Year one of the Project ended with a very successful Heritage Fair at the Clatterin' Brig, opened by the Lord Lieutenant of Kincardineshire, Carol Kinghorn, and pupils and staff of Fettercairn School, worked alongside a team of researchers, and service users from Forest View.

A great deal of interest was shown on the day, and many new contacts, stories and memorabilia came to light, and are all being followed up.

A new set of permanent and portable panels of the heritage of the Fettercairn, Drumtochty and local areas were unveiled at the Clatterin' Brig, and thanks to the manager Jane Taylor for hosting the day, Kate Somervell, Fettercairn House for some of the photography, Helen Thompson for permission to reproduce images from the Fettercairn calendar, Sheena Auld for photographs pre – Clatterin' Brig, and many others who contributed to this valuable part of the Heritage Project.

Perhaps the greatest interest was shown in a set of photographs developed by Ron Stephen and Dorothy Miller, from a set of glass negatives almost a hundred years old, which Jane Taylor of the Clatterin' Brig contributed to the Project.

Some connections were made and suggested, but there are still stories to be uncovered from these prints, and it is hoped that these can be published in the local press to hopefully be recognised, and pinpointed in time and place. A true piece of Heritage, and thank you Jane

## NESTA 50+

Dave has now moved on to another Project as Project Director, funded with £7, 000 by National Endowments for Science, Technology and the Arts, (NESTA) and has a remit for the whole of the Mearns, and will focus on the rural and coastal heritage, and at the moment is engaged with a small team of researchers, who at present are concentrating on the shipwrecks along the Kincardineshire coast. The Project is aimed at people aged 50+ with an interest in Heritage, and will be funded to set up a Social Enterprise, which will be managed by the community, for the benefit of the community.

Many legends and mysteries of the seabed exist, and on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> May, Dave's team of researchers will set off from Stonehaven on the MV Lady Gail, with skipper Ruari McLachlan, to explore this maritime heritage site, and chart the unique heritage of the Kincardineshire coastline from both above and below the waves.

Anyone with an interest in Maritime Heritage, should contact Dave, as volunteers are also needed to help refurbish the Maggie Law Lifeboat Museum in Gourdon.

Dave Ramsay 01569 – 750730 [d\\_ramsay\\_mail@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:d_ramsay_mail@yahoo.co.uk)

## **Auchenblae Gardens Open Weekend**

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> July**

Gardens will be "Open" from 1pm till 4.30pm both days. By holding it over a weekend we hope to get at least one decent day! Yesterday when driving down the A90 I had to draw off the road while a hail, thunder and lightning storm passed overhead. And this is mid May!! Hopefully warmer weather will come our way soon.

Remember to collect your map showing the route from the Village Hall.

The cost is £5.00 and this includes entry to all the gardens as well as a Strawberry Tea at some point during the afternoon! You can choose when to have a break. Spread it over two days if you'd prefer!

Transport will be available to take anyone up to the top of the village where it will be an easy walk back down the hill to the hall for tea.

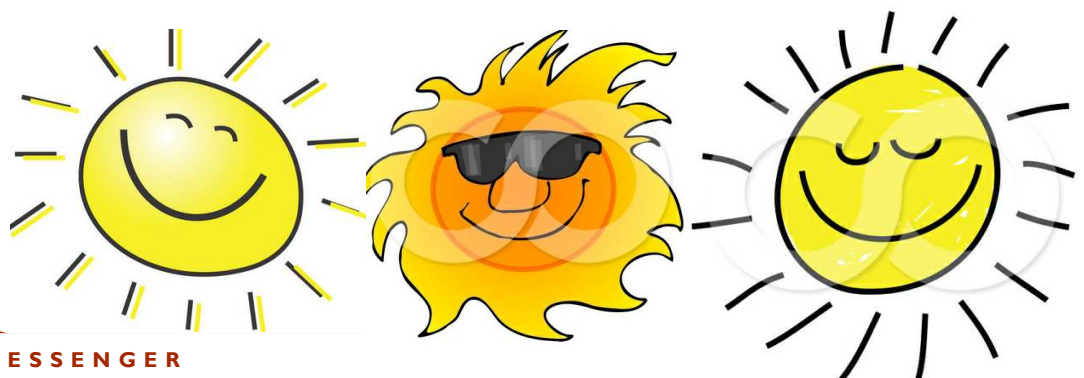
For those unable to visit the gardens Strawberry Teas will be available in the village hall and will cost £2.50.

**Various stalls will be available in the hall including: \* Savoury Produce Take-Away \*; \* Marmalade \*; \* Raffle \* and a \* Plant Stall \***

Once again our thanks go to those who have kindly agreed to "Open" their gardens to enable this popular event to be staged once again.

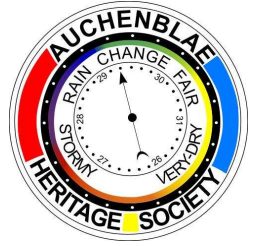
For more information, please ring **Jenny Thomson on 01561 320245**

Proceeds in aid of Auchenblae Vestry Restoration Work



# Auchenblae Heritage Society

## AUCHENBLAE HERITAGE SOCIETY - POSSIBILITIES



After a recent Heritage Society committee meeting, several ideas were proposed for the Annual Excursion. The front runner was a visit and tour of Fasque House. If this happens, possibly in June, avoiding the Gala and Drumtochty Highland Games dates, information will be posted on the village notice board. So look out for that.

Next season's talks and other "happenings" might include a set of two videos, one showing the progress and upgrading of The Den at the Millennium, and the other, a recording of some of the hidden away gems of old buildings in the village.

The story of locally kept Merino sheep, originally bred in Spain, might take place, whether in the church hall or not, is still under discussion.

Another idea, again, away from the church hall, is to have an exhibition in the village hall of a large and detailed collection of old Auchenblae photos, complete with names, dates and very informative captions.

The history of whisky distilling at Fettercairn is another possibility, followed with a tour at a later date.

The story of the Fred Carnie Band is a distant proposal, and people who heard and danced to them, especially at their or other folk's weddings, should contact Elsie Young at the school with their memories, or even better, with photos.

Although nothing is absolutely definite for the forthcoming Heritage events, there are plenty ideas on the table, and when confirmed, "The Messenger" will be the first to know - as well as on the notice board. So, look out for the distinctive Heritage posters.

## Auchenblae Drama Group

We are always on the look out for new members; people willing to have some fun on the stage are always welcome but we can also use other talents—joinery, painting, sewing, lighting, sound etc. Willing bodies are more important than skills—we can always teach you to use a light desk!



**Call Kevin on 320471 or Craig on 07581 798732**



## 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 – usually last Sunday of the month—“All welcome”

SUNDAY, 27<sup>th</sup> MAY (at the start of Gala week for Fettercairn and Auchenblae)

11am: Fettercairn – a Diamond Jubilee Gala Songs of Praise

(followed by a Street Party)

6pm: Auchenblae - a Diamond Jubilee Gala Songs of Praise

### SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

On Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> June at Fettercairn: 9.30am and at Glenbervie at 11am

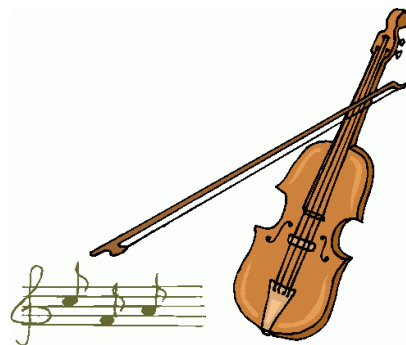
On Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> June at Auchenblae at 11am

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## Musicians Wanted

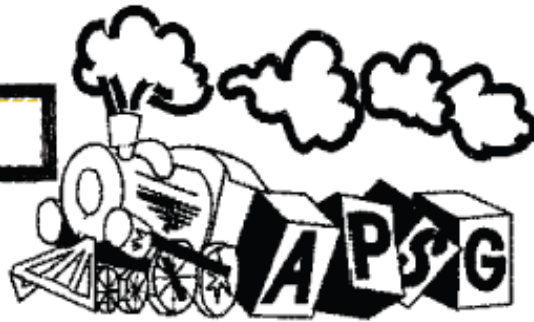
Can you play a musical instrument? Do you enjoy playing in company? The music will be mainly Celtic, traditional folk music, and "easy listening" pop music. Can try anything!

If you want to give it a go contact **Simon Greenstreet. Hillhead, Glen Road on 320 329 or e-mail to [simongreenstreet007@btinternet.com](mailto:simongreenstreet007@btinternet.com)**



# Auchenblae Pre-School Group

SUMMER TERM 2012



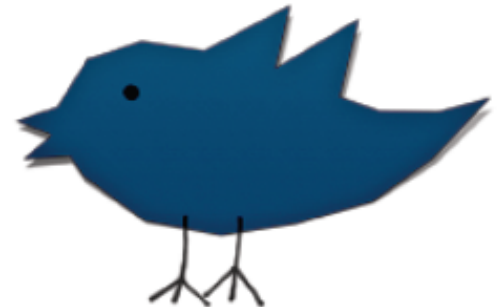
*Back by popular demand.....  
PUB NIGHT!*

*Thank you to all who supported the Pub Night in March. We had great feedback so our next one will be held on Friday 17th August. More details to follow but look forward to seeing you then!*

*Body Shop*

*The new summer season Body Shop catalogues will be released soon. We will be handing out catalogues to anyone interested in stocking up for the summer holidays! Catalogues will be available from 25th May and can be obtained from*

*The children have been working very hard this term and are looking forward to a lot of fun events. They will be celebrating the Queen's Jubilee by having a royal party and dressing up as kings and queens. They will be holding their own mini Olympics which parents are invited to come along and support and the APSG outing is being organised for the end of the summer term.*



*APSG is in the process of applying to the Care Inspectorate in order for us to be able to offer a Lunch Club within our premises. As we presently offer 'drop in' sessions it would ultimately mean that we could offer 'wrap around' care for the children within the school day. We are hoping to start this exciting new venture at the start of the academic year in August. More information to*

*AGM - 6th June at 8pm in the playroom*

*Auchenblae Pre School Group  
Scottish Registered Charity No. SC021752*

## Dates for your diary

Community Association Gala Week

Auchenblae Guild 'Soup and Sweet'

Auchenblae open gardens

Drumtochty Games

APSG Pub Night

The Den

Village Hall

Village

Drumtochty Glen

Village Hall

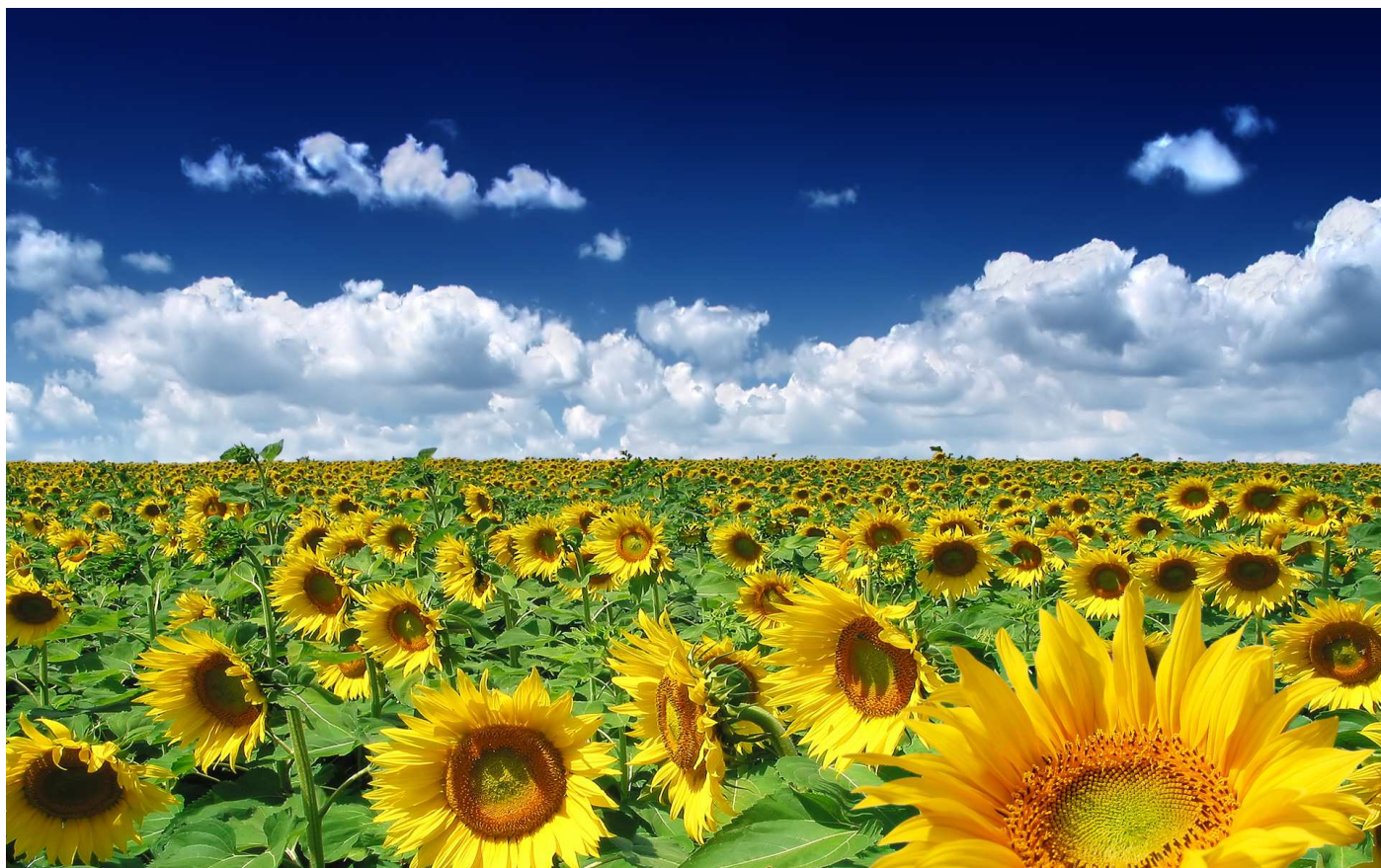
27th May—2nd Jun

13th June

14th & 15th June

23rd June

17th August



**Messenger Distribution Team**—Anne Anderson, Sheena Auld, Carol Nelson, Anne Caird, Sheree Caird, Therese Hendry, Ann Rennie, Trish MacEachern, Margaret Muiry, 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**

