

The

# Auchenblae Messenger

Volume 8 Issue 4

September 2006



## GLENBERVIE HOUSE—GARDENS OPEN DAY

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On Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> August the gardens at Glenbervie House were open to the public, and a superb display it was.

Some may remember what the weather was like just a few days before – gales lashing the North East, branches torn from trees and strewn across roadways, delicate blooms flattened and months of patient work apparently destroyed at a stroke. With the Glenbervie Gardens to be opened to the public in just a few days time it was a gardener's worst nightmare.

But came Sunday afternoon and the crowd who strolled round the flower-beds, through the hot-houses, or down in the cool of the woodland garden, found virtually no sign of the damage that had been done. Great credit is due to those who set to and repaired the damage, and the visitors had an afternoon to remember.

Jill Macphie writes : **“A very big thank you to every one who came and supported the Glenbervie Garden opening. A record £3063 was raised. 40% goes to the Renal unit at Foresterhill and 60% to Scotland’s Gardens Scheme.”**



Serenity in the garden restored, thanks to those who put right the damage



Magnificent blooms in the hot-houses were protected from the surprise storm.



Natasha knows what she liked best about the Open Day – Strawberry tarts!



The lawns and borders were a credit to the gardener's patience and skill.

## 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**

**Sunday School resumes on Sunday 3rd September at Glenbervie Church and thereafter each Sunday at Auchenblae.**

A very special word of thanks to the Community Association for the fine tubs of flowers which have been placed outside the church, and elsewhere throughout the village.

### Auchenblae Guild (West Mearns Parish Church)

All the lovely sunny weather we have been enjoying this summer has not encouraged us to be very enthusiastic about preparing for the winter, but needs must when the devil drives, and the Guild Committee have been planning an interesting syllabus for 2006 – 7.

We start on Wednesday 20th September in the Church Hall at 7.30p.m. with a buffet supper followed by a talk from Adelaide Murray on the beginnings and doings of the Auchenblae Friendship Club to date (see Barbara Strouts' article for information). Members are invited to bring along friends to join our fellowship for the evening – and maybe for the session? All other Guild meetings will be held in the hall at 2.30p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month. These are open meetings, and all are welcome.

Please note a date for your diary – Saturday November 18<sup>th</sup> from 10a.m. till noon, in the Village Hall, when the Guild are to hold another coffee morning along with a Traidcraft stall and a fashion show featuring garments from *Encore* of Fettercairn and models from Auchenblae and round about.

Ann Rennie.

### VILLAGE FLOWERS

The village has once again been beautifully decorated with flowers this year. Many thanks to the contributing members of the Community Association, and of course to all householders who have helped to add colour to the Village at this time of year. **R.M.**



## AUCHENBLAE OAPs

Jean, Wendy and Tracey wish to say a big thank you to all who participated in our sponsored walk on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> July. A total of £500 has been collected so far, but donations are still coming in. Thank you also to Dougal and Roy for all their assistance during the walk.

We would also like to thank Evelyn for holding a coffee morning and raising a grand total of £99.50. Anyone wishing to hold a coffee morning on behalf of the OAPs, please contact either: **Jean on 01561 320482 or Tracey on 01561 320596.**

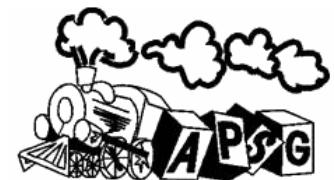
Events for the coming months are as follows: **Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September**

Vintage Rally, Fettercairn. Donations of home baking would be gratefully appreciated on or before the event. Contact Tracey for details.

We are holding an AGM in October (date to follow) and are looking for new members to join our team. If you have a few hours to spare every month we would be delighted to hear from you. Thanks again for all your support throughout the past year.



## Auchenblae Pre School Group



With the new school year underway Auchenblae Playgroup is bursting at the seams. A maximum of twenty 3 and 4-year-olds have already enrolled for the sessions which take place on Monday to Friday mornings. Two's Group which takes place twice a week in the afternoon also promises to be busy while the under twos (and their parents) are catered for with an informal get-together on a Tuesday morning. The group is fortunate to have 4 enthusiastic and professional play leaders, supported by a dedicated committee of parent volunteers. The group in Auchenblae is held up as a shining example of how a playgroup should be run, with other groups in the region visiting to crib our ideas.

Pre-school education has changed a lot in recent times. Playgroup, which used to be an informal opportunity for kids and Mums to play and chat, is now a highly regulated first step on the way to a full education. As a newcomer to the committee, it has been a steep learning curve getting to grips with the organisations with an interest in our children: the Care Commission, Her Majesty's Inspectorate and Aberdeenshire Council to name but a few. Add to this requirements for police checks of all parents, staff registration, production of a development plan, and it begins to sound more like running a university!

Although the group receives income from fees and a Council grant, some £4,000 has to be fundraised annually. The campaign starts with an Autumn Fair on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October followed by a Ceilidh on **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November**. Please support these events.

For further information about the group, please contact any committee member.  
Sue Barrie, Group Chairperson **01561 340673**

## Auchenblae & District Heritage Society

The Heritage Society begin their new session on  
**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30p.m. in Auchenblae Church Hall.**

The subject is a favourite one with the local folk and involves people talking about their historical Auchenblae artefacts. The general topic under which this is all gathered is "**Auchenblae in Days of Old**".

This subject has always been of genuine interest to local people, and if you have interesting items in your possession and would be prepared to share a story about them with members of the Society and their friends, please contact the Secretary, **Gillian Siddons Tel. 01561 320360**.

A warm and genuine welcome awaits all members of the Society and their friends when the new session begins on **4<sup>th</sup> September**. Members Free : Non-members £1.50—Refreshments.

**Note :** If you haven't done so already, have a look some time at what's happening to St. Palladius' Chapel in the church grounds in Auchenblae. The photographs below show the repair work being carried out on the interior walls. This work is destined to continue into December of this year and should render the ancient chapel a much safer place to explore without the danger of bits of stonework falling about your ears! Have a walk over to the chapel and let the workmen know that the local people are interested in what they are doing. It may be that when the work is completed the Society might organise a conducted tour of the restored chapel?



### LIGHT HOUSE.

The Autumn session of Light House starts on Sunday September 24<sup>th</sup> at the usual time of 11 o'clock, finishing at 12 noon. This date is later than usual because of various family circumstances, but we look forward to seeing all our little friends for some more fun and games and Bible stories.

Any new child between the ages of 4 and 12 will be welcome at Light House which takes place at The Willows, opposite Metelski's Store under the sign of the fish. Young helpers with a love for children also welcomed with open arms! **Phone Charles or Bren on 320371** for more information.

### **N.E.O.S.**

**(North East Open Studios)**

**16th—25th September**

**Contact Jenny Watt Colbeck for details**

**Tel. 01561 320998**

## Auchenblae & District Community Association

### **ART SHOW**

Our annual Art Show is taking place from **Friday 1st - Sunday 3rd September.**

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup>, 7 - 11.00 p.m.** - Cheese & Wine – Opening Evening – All Welcome - Tickets £5

**Saturday 2nd, 2.00-4.00 p.m.** Teas & Home Baking

Admission £2.00. Children: 50p (Accompanied by an adult)

**Sunday 3rd, 2.00-5.00 p.m.** Teas & Home Baking Admission: As Saturday

Several new artists are participating this year and together with our regular contributors making an excellent display of local talent. A pleasant weekend with the opportunity to purchase an original work of art - many with a local influence.

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**On Tuesday 12th September 2006 at 7.30pm in the Committee Room**

**NEW MEMBERS WELCOME.** The Community Association comprises a committee elected annually to effectively organise fund raising, events of interest for various age groups, for the management and upkeep of the Village Hall and to deal with issues raised concerning the village. The hall provides a well used focal point for all village activities and is increasingly the venue for private functions.

**Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month** to discuss issues which affect the community and to initiate any action necessary.

**The Committee wish to thank everyone who has assisted and contributed in any way to the success of the various events over the past year.**

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## Auchenblae Friendship Group

By the time you read this we will have started again for the new session. We are a group of people, no longer all pensioners, who meet together on Wednesday mornings for friendship and various activities.

If you are at a loose end on a Wednesday morning do come and join us in the Church Hall at 10.15am until 12.15pm. We make a small charge of £1 a week to cover expenses like tea, coffee and biscuits, speakers who come to entertain us, and the occasional outing. If you can't get there under your own steam the school bus will pick you up, and get you home again. **Barbara Strouts**

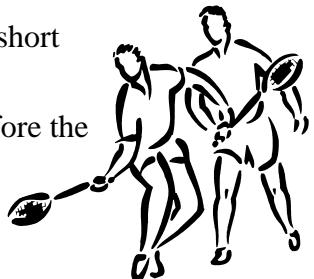
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## AUCHENBLAE TENNIS

A reminder that outdoor tennis for juniors and seniors has re-commenced for a short season from **Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> August.**

We will begin to play for the junior championships and work towards finals before the weather and light beat us. Same times as before. Advanced Juniors from 4:30, Juniors at 5:30 and Seniors from 6:30. We look forward to welcoming back all players from the summer season and any new members who wish to join us.

For further details, please contact **Gina (320269) or Carol (320748)**



## **The Auchenblae Messenger Group**

At a recent meeting of the AMG, we were pleased to welcome **Craig Sandeman**.

In response to our advertisement, Craig has volunteered to take up the position of Co-Editor of 'The Auchenblae Messenger', following the Annual General Meeting in September 2006, at which time, I will be stepping down as Chairperson of the Group and Co-Editor of the Magazine.

We trust that the community will continue to give the same support to the magazine as we have enjoyed in the past.— **Ross Muiry**.

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### **From this Month's Editor—Donald Rennie**

**THANKS AND WELCOME**—More years ago than I care to recall, I left my first charge in Balornock in Glasgow to take up a new appointment to a much bigger one in Greenock. Unfortunately, although the population was five times bigger, the stipend wasn't! At the farewell party, the minister of the neighbouring charge of Barmulloch ended his modest farewell speech with these words : "Donald," he said, "thank you for what you have done, and now we've got to show you that we can get on without you!"

I must admit I felt just the tiniest bit put out. Perhaps I was waiting for him to say, "How we're going to get on without you, we've no idea." but he got it right – and I'm sure the Messenger Group, and many Auchenblae folk as well would echo the same sentiment precisely as Ross Muiry steps down from the role he has fulfilled as Chairman of the Group and co-editor of the newsletter. Ross tells me many people have asked him what is to happen to the *Messenger* without him- and the answer is **the Messenger will continue as it has done, because Ross has done the job well.**

What many local folk may not know, however, is the part Ross played since he took over as chairman of the Group and Editor in September 1999 in co-ordinating the work of the Group, and steering it through some pretty lean times when the finances were decidedly shaky. We're also grateful to him for putting his house at Marybank at the disposal of the Group for their regular meetings, and acting as a host as well as chairman.

We have no doubt that the Muiry phone bills will be rather less than they were in the days when Ross issued his regular and gentle reminders to all and sundry that their contributions to the newsletter were required!

Thank you, Ross, for all you have done for the *Messenger* and because of the leadership you have given us, the Newsletter will continue to find its way into the homes of the folk in Auchenblae and beyond.

To Craig Sandeman, our new Co-Editor, we say 'welcome aboard' and thank you for responding to our call to find a successor to Ross Muiry. We look forward to a good partnership in the months and years to come and trust that you will find the shared editorship first of all rewarding, in the knowledge that the *Auchenblae Messenger* fulfils a real need in this vicinity, and many people both in Auchenblae and some who live far beyond, look forward to receiving and reading it. But it's also challenging, to the extent that it doesn't just happen to appear by magic every second month – it takes folk like you and the rest of the Group, to make sure that it does appear! We're glad to have you with us. **D.R.**



## **Food for Thought - Season's Eatings!**

**SEASONAL BEST**— Sweetcorn, Aubergines, courgettes, beetroot, onions, plums, blackberries, crab, haddock, lamb

The children are back at school, the holidays are over for most of us and we have cooler weather and shorter days to look forward to. So here are some food ideas to make the most of the last of summer!

### **Crab salad**



Pile 2 plates high with your favourite salad leaves. Add some slices of cucumber, a few halved cherry tomatoes and a lemon wedge, then mix together the following (according to taste and availability). *1 dressed crab, 1 tin of white crab meat, 1 avocado, 1 celery stalk, 2 spring onions & 2 radishes (all finely chopped), a dash of French/Dijon mustard and a couple of tablespoons of mayonnaise.* Chill then pile half onto each plate and taste the sunshine!

### **Ratatouille**

Another no recipe goody. Eat this Mediterranean vegetable stew as a main course with rice or couscous, or as a vegetable and vary the mix to taste. *Ingredients: Onions (red preferably), courgettes, aubergines, tomatoes (tinned are great for this), olive oil, garlic, mixed herbs.*

Basically, the vegetables selected all need to be chopped into similar size chunks. Begin by sweating the onions in a tablespoon of olive oil in a hob/oven proof casserole dish until beginning to soften but not brown. Add a little more oil if needed and add all of the vegetables selected, turn in pan to coat with oil. Keep heat to medium/low and sweat for about 5 minutes. Then add seasoning (including salt and pepper) to taste, tomatoes, (quantity will vary according to veg. quantities), bring to a slow boil, stirring frequently, then place lid on pot and pop into oven for about 1 hour until veg. are just soft. This can be frozen once cool.

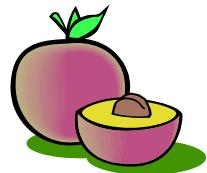
**Lamb** goes really well with this. Whether it's a simple roast, grilled chops or slow roasted Moroccan style lamb shanks.

### **Autumn Pudding**

As the season progresses, you can change last edition Summer Pudding recipe to Autumn Pudding by choosing plums and blackberries in place of currants, and summers red berries. Make these in individual pots or loaf tins and freeze to keep summer going even longer.

### **Baked Peaches**

Most large stone fruit can be served quickly baked. Try the following. Simply halve & stone 4 ripe peaches (or nectarines) place in ovenproof dish cut side up. Dot with 25g butter, sprinkle with 25g light muscovado sugar and pour over 150ml orange juice or dessert wine. Scatter over 25g crushed amaretti biscuits and bake at 200 c (Mk 7) for about 10 minutes. Serve with your favourite ice cream or mascarpone cheese. Ingredients can be varied to taste.



## **Macmillan World's Biggest Coffee Morning**

I will once again be offering coffee, home baking and more in aid of the Macmillan Record breaking Coffee Morning on **Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September**.

The Village Hall is busy over that period of time, so I will probably revert to inviting folks into my home, but do watch the notice board for details and put the date firmly in your diary.

**Carol Shea 01561 320748**



**THE AUCHENBLAE MESSENGER**  
**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**

**Auchenblae Messenger Supplement—MONTHLY MEMO**

**PRODUCTION TEAM**

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

**Email: the messenger@mearns.org**

**“Keeping you informed”**

The Publisher of this issue was  
**Kevin Newstead**

| DATE   | EVENT                             | PLACE           | TIME       |
|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------|------------|
| <b>September</b>                               |                                   |                 |            |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> – 3 <sup>rd</sup> (Fri.- Sun.) | Art Show                          | Village Hall    | Various    |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> (Sun.)                         | Start of Sunday School            | Church          | 11.00a.m.  |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> (Sat.-Sun) | Vintage Rally                     | Fettercairn     | Various    |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> (Mon)                          | Heritage Society                  | Church Hall     | 7.30p.m.   |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> (Tues.)                       | AGM Com. Assoc.                   | Village Hall    | 7.30p.m.   |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> (Wed.)                        | Start of Guild                    | Church Hall     | 7.30p.m.   |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> (Sun.)                        | Light House                       | at the Willows  | 11.00a.m.  |
| 28 <sup>th</sup> (Thurs.)                      | ‘Messenger’ AGM                   | Church Hall     | 7.30p.m.   |
| 29 <sup>th</sup> (Fri.)                        | Macmillan Coffee Morning          | at Carol Shea’s | 10.30a.m.  |
| 29 <sup>th</sup> & 30 <sup>th</sup> (Fri/Sat.) | Drama Group                       | Village Hall    | 7.00 p.m.  |
| <b>October</b>                                 |                                   |                 |            |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> (Tues)                         | Pre-School Autumn Fair            | Village Hall    |            |
| <b>November</b>                                |                                   |                 |            |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> (Sat.)                        | Guild Coffee Morning/Fashion Show | Village Hall    | 10.00.a.m. |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> (Sat.)                        | Pre-School Ceilidh                | Village Hall    | t.b.a.     |

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

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

**By 13<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2006**

**Please note** that the **next edition of ‘The Messenger’** will be published at the end of **November 2006**.  
The closing date for inclusion in this edition will be **15th November 2006**.

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

Otherwise, hand to Craig Sandeman, Drumbeg. If you have access to a word processor, a floppy disc version (PC only) would be appreciated.

**Thanks from all the team!**

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