

The

Auchenblae Messenger

Volume 9 Issue 4

August 2007



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Auchenblae Youth Drama Group

Children 8 years old and over who would like to be part of the Auchenblae Youth Drama Group when it resumes in the Autumn please contact Youth Drama Group Leader – Gillian Siddons (Upper Cairnhill) 320360



SPECIAL ISSUE

This December we will be issuing a special edition of the Messenger and we want you to be involved. The Messenger will take on a new shape, even better quality and will be filled with your work.

Short Story Competition

Three age groups and no specific theme. We want to see short stories from;
Primary School Kids

Secondary School small adults
Adults

Young Linguists 6
No theme but word count should be between 1,000 and 2,500 words (except the Primary School kids who have no lower word limit).

Poetry Competition

Mearns Camera Club 9
Again the same categories apply and completely open theme.

Photograph Competition

Light House 10
Same age categories but the theme is “In and around Auchenblae”.

KMAP 11
We hope you feel challenged to submit your work for consideration (Ed – I certainly will!).
The prizes shall be publication in this very special issue of The Messenger in December.
Judges shall be announced in the next issue of The Memo (Ed – once they have been volunteered!).

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

Senior Citizen Fund Coffee Morning

At Marybank, High Street
 (Ross and Margaret Muiry)

On

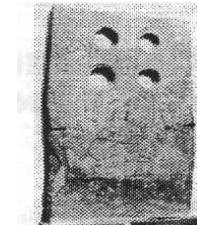
Saturday 4th August 2007

10 am – 12 pm

(Bring and Buy)



Auchenblae and District Heritage Society



During the last two years, the Society Committee have been planning an information leaflet for Auchenblae.

This leaflet has now been published and contains a suggested short walk through the village and The Den. Places of interest have been marked with some short text to describe each item.

Copies are available from Auchenblae Post Office.

Ian M Bell

AUCHENBLAE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday 4th September at 7.30pm

In The Committee Room

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME. The Community Association comprises a committee elected annually to discuss issues which affect the community and to initiate any action necessary. The Association also deals with the management and upkeep of the Village Hall which provides a well used focal point for all village activities and is increasingly the venue for private functions. To preserve this historic hall building, and to comply with the requirements of recent public entertainment legislation, regular maintenance is essential. In order to finance this, a programme of fund raising includes the annual Gala Week, an Art Show and catering at Drumtochty Games. Basically, the Association incorporates three functions - Community Association, Hall Committee and Gala Committee. Thanks are due to the committee who have worked exceptionally hard throughout the year, favourable comments received on the high standard of facilities in the hall reflect that hard work and commitment.

Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month.

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

ART SHOW

Our annual Art show is taking place from **Friday 7th – Sunday 9th September**

Friday 7th – 7 – 11pm – Cheese & Wine – Opening Evening – All Welcome. Tickets £6.00 (includes cheese and one glass of wine)

Saturday 8th & Sunday 9th – 2- 5pm – Teas and Home Baking

Admission £2.50. Children £1.00 (Accompanied by an adult)

Children's Art Competition. New Auchenblae Christmas Card Entries. Nostalgia Corner – photographs of Auchenblae's past.

DRUMTOCHTY GAMES CATERING – The sun shone on Drumtochty Games and record crowds ensured a very successful day in the tea tent, realising the sum of £1,409. The committee wish to thank all the 'Friends of the Community Association' for their contributions of beautiful baking – their continued support is much appreciated.

DIGITAL PROJECTOR

Available for loan free of charge and to any reasonable inhabitant of the village or surrounding area. It has been used by the St Cyrus WRI, Angus Arts Forum and our own Bob Jamieson.

Contact Eddie Cairns if you require to use the projector. It can be used from a computer, with a USB memory stick, a DVD or Video player. All the leads are in the bag with the projector. 01561 320494



LETTERS PAGE

A Tearoom for Auchenblae!

Who would like to help find a space in the village for a community owned tearoom?

With space for a meeting room, a small heritage centre / museum and the Drama Group props?

Any interested persons please contact Gillian Siddons 320360, Upper Cairnhill.

Request written on behalf of lovers of a good cup of tea, the Heritage Society and the Drama Group.

What about the Teenagers of Auchenblae?

The teenagers seem to be the forgotten part of the community, nothing is really provided for their age group in the village after primary school age. No meeting point or facility to allow them to get together and do what teenagers like to do, leaving them frustrated and a bit alienated from the rest of the community.

The Den caters primarily for the pre-teens group, grown-ups and the elderly. The teenagers seem to be constantly reminded that they are not allowed to be in this or that area of The Den.

They ask! Where are they supposed to go? There is nowhere. The Square is a meeting place for them but that also causes noise problems for residents in close proximity.

What about the community providing some sort of youth orientated facility with an interest for them; after all they are part of the village.

All kids grow up to be teenagers and it will no doubt affect your children when they come of that age, the village is growing and new young families are arriving all the time, come on let's do something now for the teenagers.

Surely there would be plenty of help and volunteers in Auchenblae for a project of this type.

(Editorial Comment – This is a valid comment and one which more than just the writer should champion. We were after all teenagers once upon a time – doing what teenagers liked to do back then. We do need the teenagers to come forward with suggestions however. There is money available from various sources to fund such projects. The Venue in Laurencekirk was such a project which has succeeded in the locality with support from the community and from funding sources. If the writer of this letter is willing to act as an initial focal point I would ask that the writer gets back in touch with me and I can pass any comments which I receive from teenagers (or adults with support or suggestions) as a result of this letter. I would also suggest that there is significant opportunity for a crossover with the letter from Gillian Siddons relating to a coffee shop cum museum cum Drama Group workshop and perhaps we are looking for a cross association group of people to look at funding and staffing.)

Traffic Calming in Auchenblae

Having lived in Auchenblae for two years and being the mother to young children I have concerns about the speed of heavy vehicles travelling through the narrow streets of the village. Once again I have heard the noise of trucks thundering by to find my wing mirror hanging off my car.

The driver keeps going, not even pausing to leave a note of apology or admission. Surely with all the roads leading into and out of the village there is an alternative by-pass for this type of traffic, drivers of which show no respect or concern for the local residents and their property. I also recall being woken up early one morning by the noise of stamping cattle. On looking out into the street it was clear that the farmer transporting these creatures had great difficulty trying to coordinate the vehicle round the slight corner and so was struck for up to an hour with his beasts becoming more irate.

What is the answer? Speed humps and double yellow lines on some parts of the High Street or a prohibition on heavy vehicles passing through Auchenblae.

(Editorial note – I would suggest that these concerns are raised with both the Community Council and also the Roads Department of Aberdeenshire Council who will collate such information and would act upon such complaints / observations.)

Local English Tutor

GTC Registered Supply Teacher Available For Home Tuition

Basic English Language Skills Standard Grade Higher
 Advanced Higher Advice on Exam Preparation
 For Further Information
 Telephone Catriona
On 01561 320606 (evenings) or 07833 945351 (daytime)

Planning for Real*



Planning for Real is a complete community engagement which gives everyone a say in what concerns them about where they live. The exercise would be run by a Steering Group of residents with support from KMAP and Aberdeenshire Council Community Learning and Development staff. The process is described below.



To form a steering group (several residents have expressed an interest)
 Offer PfR training if required (happening in Aberdeenshire in late summer/autumn)
 Obtain a scale map of the area from the local Planning Department
 Build a 3-D model of the village/settlement or part of a town (often done by the primary school)
 Organise events—a range to ensure all members of the community are included

At the events, the community choose from topic cards in various themes and place them on the map. All will be recorded. The themes are:

Traffic and Transport	Work, Training and the Local Economy	Leisure
Community Facilities	Health	Housing
Crime and Safety	The Local Environment	



After the consultations, the issues/concerns are collated. You then hold a prioritisation session you might decide on a voting system to further design an action plan

Workshops held on main issues (relevant Agencies and Individuals invited)

Development plan agreed, all parties work together to improve the community

Planning for Real is an all round consultation because:

Every single person has a say	It's non-threatening, non-confrontational
You don't have to be articulate or self confident	It's more anonymous than a formal meeting
It allows you to be exact and specific	

For further information on Planning for Real please contact::Kincardine and Mearns Area Partnership Secretary:- Susie Brown 01561 320796 susiebrown@btinternet.com or

Aberdeenshire Council Community Learning and Development, Mearns Community Education Centre,

01561 378298 laurencekirk.cec@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

AUCHENBLAE LINGUISTS WITH THEIR CERTIFICATES



JESS GARRET TRIP TO MALAWI



I would like to thank the Auchenblae community for all their support for my recent visit to Malawi this July. I was working for Christian Aid by visiting various projects they support in the north of the country. I hope now to help develop resources for pupils in Scottish schools to ensure an understanding of the vital work the charity does in both empowering communities and ensuring initiatives are sustainable.

There is a strong historical link between Scotland and Malawi back to the days of David Livingston and the early missionaries and more recently Jack McConnell made a formal link between the countries. Malawi is a beautiful country not unlike Scotland but suffers under the double burden of crippling poverty and the terrible effects of HIV/AIDS. The focus of my trip was the work of the Christian Aid partner Church of Central Africa Presbyterian Synod of Livingstonia. The area development department runs a number of different projects and the ones I visited worked with communities to ensure food security, clean water and sanitation. There is an enormous amount of work to be done but it was heartening to see the impact these projects have on the lives of so many. Here is an extract of one woman who spoke to us about what the work of CCAPL has meant for her community:

Woman spokesperson of the Area Development Committee at Euthini Dam project:

Here there was hunger every year because of the shortage of maize. Last year young ones were suffering from diseases. Now we have enough food and no disease. We have not only food but also benefited from nutrition and safe water...now carry that message back to Scotland that we are very happy.

While there I was also keen to establish a schools partnership between Euthini Secondary School and Montrose Academy which would be founded on a genuine educational exchange. I took letters from pupils in Montrose for the students at Euthini and they treated us to a concert of traditional African dance. Hopefully the relationship between the schools will continue to deepen as they learn more about their differences and similarities.

I've come back struck by how much materially we have here in Scotland but also about how much we could learn from Malawi about the importance of community and generosity. I would like to especially thank the Auchenblae Drama Group, all those who donated money in the Post Office and those who work so hard for Christian Aid in Auchenblae. Donations given to me have been used to further the school exchange and to buy the CCAPL office a digital camera. I can give testimony that donations to Christian Aid are being used effectively. Thank you again for all your support.

AUCHENFEST

Auchenfest is Auchenblae's Festival for the dramatic arts. This was the inaugural year of Auchenfest and our festival coordinator Gillian Siddons oversaw a fantastic selection of entertainment which, with any luck, the audiences enjoyed as much as the members of the Drama Group.



On the opening night The Festival kicked off with a new play written by our Craig Sandeman. "On Unofficial Business" and was performed by Drama Group members Roy Vobes as Bruce, Sandy Noble as Ewan, Natasha Kerr as Christine, Simon Leigh as Tam and Craig Sandeman as Lenny.

The play, Craig Sandeman's first writing experience for the stage, was a comedy with some poignant and thought provoking themes. Gayna Sandeman directed the play, Sandy Noble provided the artwork.

Following "On Unofficial Business" we were excited to present "Act-Show-Allez" who gave a musical performance bringing many vocal talents to the stage with a variety of swing classics.



The second play for the evening was "The Donahue Sisters" by Geraldine Aron which was performed by Drama Group members April Pressley as Rosie, Judith Houghton as Annie and Gayna Sandeman as Dunya.

Kevin Newstead directed the play, Sandy Noble provided the artwork.

This dark and eerie play amused, challenged and shocked the audience and the evening entertainment closed to rapturous applause.



The Mask Workshop on Saturday was a very enjoyable afternoon and introduced the kids and some brave adults to the concept of emotion masks. Gayna Sandeman was our host for the afternoon and her imagination and enthusiasm worked well with the participants.

AUCHENFEST CONTINUED



Helped (slightly) by Judith and Craig everyone enjoyed and exhausting" and exhilarating two hours of fun. Gillian, Arne and Tracey were also close to hand serving tea, coffee, juice and cakes.

Gayna marshaled a group of twenty eight eager kids and four reluctant adults in the Village Hall on Saturday afternoon. The masks, from the Trestle Theatre Company, each have their own personality and when you wear one you cease being you and become the mask.



It is a powerful medium for communicating without speaking; using 'your' personality you act and react according to the mask's mood.



A massive cast of the Youth Drama Group took on a very challenging play in Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night" and carried it off with aplomb.

In the majestic outdoor environment of the Den the kids put on "Twelfth Night" by William Shakespeare. A packed audience enjoyed the setting, the acting and the costumes which were all fantastic.

The play was directed by Collette Hoggmascall and the Youth Group Leader Gillian Siddons, assisted by the invaluable wench Tracey Harrison-Lewis, kept the kids in order and the whole production moving forward to its performance. A special behind-the-scenes recognition goes to Liz Leigh for the amazing costumes. Arne Hansen and Simon Leigh chipped in for the stage preparation for the day.

Cast

Narrators—Ellie Patterson, Mafalda Dunbar-Morley,
Rebecca Leigh Harp Player—Lucy Hendry

Orsino, Duke of Illyria—Ronan Keddie *Duke's Friend*—
Millie Keddie Maids—Victoria Gray, Billie
 Robertson, Anna Sherriffs *Feste*—Rosie Hoggmascall
Little Feste—Billy Hoggmascall

Viola—Isabelle Hoggmascall *Sea Captain*—Finn Marsden *Sailors*—Shaun Duthie, Christopher Gray, Daniel Harrison—Lewis, Neil McIntosh *Maria*—Vicky Kerr
Lady Olivia—Alice Targontsidis *Sir Toby Belch*—
 Thomas Leigh *Sir Andy Ankerchief*—Alexander Duthie
Maldlio—Kirsty Duncan *Fabian*—Leanne Allan *Antonio*—Lynsey Thow *Sebastian*—Bronte Allan *Constables*—Ruth Dunbar-Morley, Maggie Robertson *ith and Craig*, Gayna gave



AUCHENFEST CONTINUED

The Den was then turned into a Medieval Extravaganza for the afternoon with medieval drummers, Morris dancers, wenches, jugglers, stocks and a harpist.

The Auchenblae Drama Group would like to thank for their support during rehearsal and in staging the event;

Drumtochty Arms Hotel

Auchenblae Post Office

Metleski's

Marriott Hotel Aberdeen

Macphees of Glenbervie

Auchenblae Community Association

Auchenblae Parks Committee

Bernie Melsom

Bob Jamieson

The Auchenblae Messenger

Most of all we would like to thank the people who came and supported us over the weekend. We have had such a great response to the one act plays that we will be performing them again late summer / early autumn...watch this space!

MEARNS CAMERA CLUB

Mearns Camera Club meets every Monday evening from the 3rd September 2007 through to the 14th April 2008 in the community education centre on Bath St in Stonehaven..

The syllabus available mid August to read on our website is varied and comprehensive. From competitions, visits from well known local photographers to lectures from our own members on various photographic subjects. It is even possible that a past Auchenblae Christmas Card Photographer will be explaining the various techniques of digital photography editing at both beginners level in October and advanced level in January. There is always friendly advise and help available from a club member who has had that problem before.

We have a fully equipped digital photography computer workstation with professional level film scanner and an A3 printer. All for the use of members together with a Canon digital SLR with various lenses. A Gretag Macbeth Colour management kit to set up computer monitors, scanners, printers and digital projectors and a high quality digital projector. Contact Eddie Cairns on 01561 320494 if interested. We also have a fast notebook computer with Photoshop and Lightroom installed available for members use.

<http://www.mearnscameraclub.co.uk>

AUCHENBLAE PRE-SCHOOL GROUP

On Tuesday 21 August 2007 Auchenblae Pre-School Group will be hosting an enrolment / open day at 9.30 – 11.30am in the village hall. This will give parents and carers the opportunity to meet the play leaders and see the playrooms in which Toddlers, 2's Group and Playgroup takes place.



If your child is due to start either 2's Group or Playgroup before the October holidays (11 October 2007) you will also be given a start date for Playgroup and 2's Group where applicable.

However young your child is (under the age of 4yrs) or you're expecting a baby in the near future, you are more than welcome to come along and meet the parents, the play leaders and the committee.

For any more information please give me a call. Clare Ptaszek (302338)

GOOD MORNING AUCHENBLAE,

Having been born and bred in Auchenblae, I was surfing the web and came across your website. I found the latest edition to be most interesting. A bit about myself; I was born on the main street Auchenblae in 1942 at the home of my grandmother, Jean Peattie. My mother was Ann Fraser nee Peattie, my father was a mental nurse at Hillside hospital, Montrose. Naturally, I visited Auchenblae throughout my childhood, until I joined the RAF in 1958.

My last family member was Bob Peattie who died several years ago. I can see that the village has got bigger but not really changed. My intention is to visit again very soon and I hope your magazine continues to flourish.

Yours sincerely, John Fraser

LIGHT HOUSE

The final meeting of the Light House was on Sunday June 3rd when we had a lively Prize giving Party! So we're saying a fond farewell to all the kids and to their mums and dads. We'll miss everyone on a regular basis, but we'll still be around occasionally and will no doubt cross paths with many people again over the coming years. Thank you all for all your support. We'll be keeping in touch with the children who are 10 years old and over, in case there are any exciting events they'd like to go to – SYFC (Scottish Youth for Christ) "Breathe" for example which is periodically held somewhere in the area.



Mr Piggy ate £70 at his last effort – thanks to everyone who fed him. We thought we'd like to show our appreciation to someone closer to home with our final collection. We have given the money to the Parks Committee, with our thanks for the wonderful work they do in the Den. We know all the facilities are thoroughly enjoyed by the Light House gang and all the other children in the village and beyond. A lot of hard work goes in to giving Auchenblae such a wonderful park and playground. A little bird told us that the Piggy money may be spent on a special Light House tree – how exciting! What kind of tree will it be? Will it light up at night? Will it be a Willow Tree or a Beech Tree? Or neither...

It may amuse you to hear that on September 5th we're moving from The Willows in Auchenblae to The Beeches in Marykirk! So we won't be too far away. We wish you every happiness for the future. God bless you all.

Charles and Bren



What is the Partnership?

The Scottish Executive and the Public Sector have for some years now aggregated the establishment of Rural Partnerships. This was suggested for the Kincardine and Mearns Area some time ago but it has only happened in the last two years.

The Partnership can be viewed as an umbrella organisation drawing together voluntary sector partners to advance the needs of the area.

The Partnership is managed by a committee of between 5 and 10 elected from the membership at the A.G.M.

Membership is open to any constituted group or organisation in the Kincardine and Mearns area. Each member group shall appoint a representative who will be the main contact and vote on behalf of the group.

The Objects of the Partnership

to work and liaise with other groups and organisations in the Kincardine and Mearns Area
to promote access to facilities and resources to meet identified needs in and by the communities of the area
to provide and manage, or join with others in providing and managing, such services as are appropriate to the objects and which are charitable
to consult with residents of the area to identify needs
to facilitate participation in Community Planning
to promote sustainable community development
to continually evaluate the effectiveness of the strategies and initiatives undertaken by the Partnership

Who's in the Partnership?

Community Councils
Community Associations
Sports Groups
Environmental Groups
Village Hall Committees
Youth Groups
Partnerships
Community Groups
Arts Groups
Community Transport Schemes
Advice Centres

For further details please contact the secretary:

**Mrs S Brown, Lutherbank House, Auchenblae AB30 1XP –
Telephone 07807 320048 – Email susiebrown@btinternet.com**



**THE AUCHENBLAE MESSENDER
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

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Ann Rennie

Eddie Cairns

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Barbara Strouts

Email: themessenger@mearns.org
"Keeping you informed"

The Publisher of this issue was
Eddie Cairns

Auchenblae Messenger Supplement—MONTHLY MEMO

DATE	EVENT	PLACE	TIME
Sat 4th Aug	Senior Citizens Fund	Marybank	10-12 a.m.
Tue 21st Aug	Pre School Enrolment	Village Hall	9:30 a.m.
Mon 3 September	Mearns Camera Club	Stonehaven	7.30 p.m.
Tue 4th September	Community Assoc AGM	Village Hall	7:30 p.m.
Fri 7th – Sun 9th Sep	Art Show	Village Hall	Page 3

ALL INFORMATION FOR INCLUSION IN THE September MEMO

SHOULD BE GIVEN TO ANN RENNIE, 'MERNIS HOWE' Tel. 01561 320622 By 15TH August 2007



An early picture of
Fordoun Station in the
days of horse and
carriage transport.

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

If you have access to e-mail please send to: themessenger@mearns.org

Otherwise, hand to Craig Sandeman, Drumbeg. If you have access to a word processor, CDR would be appreciated. **Thanks from all the team!**

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