

The Auchenblae Messenger

Volume 12 Issue 3

Founded in 1999 by Donald B. Rennie

August 2010



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Deadline for next issue is
**15th November
2010**

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Memo Production

Ann Rennie

From the Editors

My goodness, it seems a long time since we put together the last Messenger. Ann advises that there was only need for 1 memo during the summer.

We owe apologies to one or two people who sent items for the last issue, the messenger email went down and we only discovered it when attempting to send out reminders for this issue. It seems to be working perfectly now—fingers crossed.

We have been doing the Messenger for almost 2 years now and feel that perhaps it's time to offer the opportunity to someone else. Things can get a bit stale if no changes are made, perhaps someone younger might like to give it a try! We'd be happy to work with you on your first issue if need be.

The team look after printing and distribution.

Anyway, we hope you enjoy this issue, particularly the photo on page 7. Modern technology can be a challenge!

We've been asked by Jessie Guild, lately a resident of Auchenblae to pass on her very best wishes to all who remember her.

Susie and Annie.

Corny Joke Corner

Turned on my SatNav and it said 'Bear Left'

and there was the zoo.

How good is that?

Auchenblae Guild

The first Guild meeting of the new session will be on Wednesday 15th September, in the Church Hall at 2.30pm. It will take the form of a welcome back afternoon tea. There will be an update on the Guild projects, and a short sketch by Guild members. We wish to welcome back all existing members and anyone new to Auchenblae Guild will be very welcome.

Guild week is from 21st-28th November. There will be a Guild service in the Church on 21st November and on the 27th November we will be holding a coffee morning in the Village Hall. Look out for further details later.

Barbara Strouts

Looking Forward to a New School Year

At Auchenblae School and Nursery we look forward to the new school year which brings many changes. Change, as we continue to implement a Curriculum for Excellence but also changes in the school environment. The school roll has risen to over a hundred pupils which has added an extra classroom unit to the playground. Building work went according to plan with the portocabin being completed within the school holidays.

We had many highlights of last session which brought many visitors to our school. This included the official opening of the nursery and the launch of the national guidance for outdoor learning. This session we plan to provide a whole range of experiences and opportunities to develop our learners. One focus will be to extend our involvement with the local community and we are looking forward to a joint project with the church, a computer 'Learning Together' project and our enterprise link with Macphie, to name but a few. We always welcome visitors so please ask if you would like to see round the school.



SCOUTS IN AUCHENBLAE

Cubs and Beavers have been running in Auchenblae since the New Year and it is now the turn of the older children of the village to form a Scout Troop.

If you are a boy or girl aged between 10 1/2 and 14 years old and would like to find out more about the Scouting Movement then now is your chance.

We will be starting the troop at the end of August with two "taster" sessions where we will show you what Scouts is all about and you will get to know other interested children.

The meetings will take place on a Tuesday evening from 7pm until 8.30 pm.

If you would like to know more or would like to put your name forward to join then please call Simon Leigh on 01561 320703 or 07773358875

Scouts...Be Prepared.



Auchenblae Friendship Group



The group will be starting again after the holidays on Wednesday 18th August. As usual we will meet in the Church Hall at 10.00am. We have put together the usual varied programme of events and hope to have something to suit everyone. We look forward to seeing existing members and would like to welcome anyone who hasn't been before. A new member comments recently that "It's well named The Friendship Group because it's very friendly!"

We continue to be grateful to all who help in any way, especially those who provide transport for the members. If you want to know any more about the group please contact Barbara on 320911 or Sheena on 320424. The cost is £2 per session which covers hall rental, heating and any other costs incurred.

We look forward to seeing you!

Barbara Strouts

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Email: gaynas@tinytalk.co.uk

www.tinytalk.co.uk

Auchenblae Brownies celebrate Girlguiding Centenary

2010 has been a busy year for our brownies - and the leaders. The girls have been given the opportunity to take part in Centenary Celebrations at all levels. We have had a District event at Thornton Castle which included duck races down the river, activities in a Fairy Dell, drumming lessons and ended up with a campfire - with a real fire! Next was a visit to Templars Park for a County event and the girls loved the assault course - which we managed to go back and have extra goes on.

Then in June it was a Brownie Carnival at Scone Palace with brownies from all over Scotland taking part. We were very lucky with the weather as the activities were all out of doors.

We still have one big celebration to look forward to in October when members of Girlguiding from all over the world join together in renewing their promise. Our venue will be the AECC and there will be around 3000 members there.

Our unit also managed to fit in a Sleepover in May. We went up to Aberdeen to stay at Girlguiding HQ. Some of the highlights of this weekend were travelling on the buses - not waiting for them!, fish and chips for tea, maritime museum, visiting pets corner at Hazelhead and the brownie who got stuck on top of the climbing frame and had to be rescued.

Lorna Yates



Brownies at Hazelhead during their visit to Aberdeen.



Brownies at Footdee during their sleepover in Aberdeen



Brownies making a collage of 100 flowers for the centenary.



Tackling the assault course at Templars

WEST MEARNS PARISH CHURCH— SERVICES + EVENTS

Saturday Coffee Mornings: due to start again is September; 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month. 10am – 12noon. Homebaking + Book Stall. In aid of the Church fabric fund. The coffee mornings will take place in members' homes. For details please contact Mrs Carol Nelson
Tel: 01561 - 320648

Sunday Worship: 9.30am at Fettercairn every Sunday

11am at Glenbervie on the 1st Sunday of the month

11am at Auchenblae all other Sundays in the month

All welcome. Sunday School for the children at all three churches.

“Harvest O’ The Mearns”

Celebrating our farming life and produce.

Saturday, 25th September at Mearns Academy, Laurencekirk

Harvest Thanksgiving

Sunday, 26th September: Fettercairn + Auchenblae

Sunday, 3rd October: Glenbervie

National Poetry Day Event:

Thursday, 7th October, 7.30pm, Auchenblae Church

Celebrating “**Home**” in poetry, a cuppie + fine piece

Sunday, 11th October, 9.30 and 11am services

“Celebrating home”

Sacrament of Holy Communion

+ celebrating All Saints + our loved ones with God

Sunday, 31st October at Fettercairn (9.30am) + Auchenblae(11am)

Sunday, 7th November at Glenbervie (11am) (also Remembrance Service)

NB Laying of Remembrance wreath at Glenbervie War Memorial after service.

Quiet time, Prayer + Remembrance: Saturday, 13th November

West Mearns Church: Auchenblae will be open during the day and early evening

- hours to be announced – for anyone who wishes to come in for some quiet time, prayer and remembrance of loved ones; or just to visit the church.

Remembrance Sunday

14th November; services at Fettercairn (9.30am) + Auchenblae (11am)

1st Sunday in Advent

28th November, services at Fettercairn (9.30am) + Auchenblae (11am)

also at 6.30pm at Auchenblae a “ **Hard** to be Merry this Christmas” service for those who will know particular sadness at this time of year.

How NOT to take your passport photo!



Happy Fathers Day



AUCHENBLAE ART SHOW

Friday 3rd – Sunday 5th September

Friday – Cheese & Wine

Saturday & Sunday – Teas & Home Baking

SEE POSTERS

AUCHENBLAE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

AUCHENBLAE VILLAGE HALL

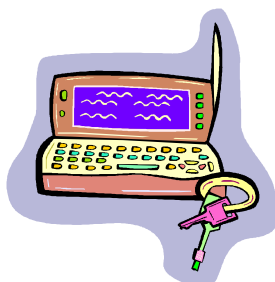
ALTERNATIVE PARKING – THE SCHOOL – OUTWITH SCHOOL HOURS

In response to our request, Mrs Young, Head Teacher, has authorised the use of the school grounds, on occasion, as alternative parking for hall events. It should be noted that, due to ongoing construction work at the school, **the playground will not be available this summer, only the staff car park.**

It would be appreciated if this facility could be used responsibly (no overnight parking and never in school hours) and with due consideration for school requirements.

Auchenblae Computer Class

A six week computer course is due to start in Auchenblae on the Thursday 2nd September. Designed for beginners or for those who want to build their confidence on the computer, the course is aimed mainly at older people but anyone is welcome to attend. The emphasis is on making learning about computers both enjoyable and interesting. The classes will be held in Auchenblae Primary School and will benefit from the input of P7 pupils as well as an experienced tutor. A joint project between the primary school, Community Learning and the Healthy Living Network the course is free. For further details or to book a place contact the Mearns and Coastal Healthy Living Network on 01561 378130





Auchenblae Heritage Society

On 12 June, 20 people came on the trip to Montrose Air Station, where they were taken round the marvellous displays by two very informative guides. An experience not to be missed, and unfortunately that's what did happen when, for some unexplained reason, I failed to notify our members from Laurencekirk of the date. My apologies to them. The photo shows one half of the group in front of a Sopwith Camel.

This year's programme starts on Monday 6 September with, "An evening with Tom Welsh" our very own master hoarder and collector. A rare chance to hear someone really special to the area and to glimpse a tiny part of his vast archive.

Monday 6 December sees Jennie Thomson show a short video of "The Bell", building up to Auchenblae's Millennium Celebrations. A moment in time captured naturally and sensitively.

Monday 7 March has the intriguing title, "Tatties: from the Mearns to the Nile". A talk given by expert, David Innes whose family have a long connection to the area.

Malcolm McCoig

Chairman

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AUCHENBLAE & DISTRICT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday 7th September 2010 at 7.30pm

In Committee Room

ALL 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, the central point for village activities. A programme of fund raising ensures this historic building is preserved and meets the requirements of the Public Entertainment Licence. Essentially the Association incorporates three functions – Community Association, Hall Committee and Gala Committee. Community Association Membership Application Forms are available from: Alice Morgan – Tel. 320081/e-mail: alicemorgan@btinternet.com

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



Mearns Community Council



All Community Councils in Kincardine and Mearns have representation on the local community planning partnership. The partnership comprises Aberdeenshire Council, Grampian Police, NHS, area partnerships, Grampian Fire and Rescue, CVS, Community Learning and Development and the Area Chairman. The group meet 4 times per year and are always keen to hear of any issues that should be brought to their notice.

The partnership have recently launched the 2010—2014 Community Plan for Kincardine and Mearns, outlining their objectives for the next few years. This document can be seen at www.ouraberdeenshire.org.uk/kincardinemearns or in your local library.

If you have any issues, please advise any of the Auchenblae Community Councillors.

Durris Three Stage Digital Television Switchover

Digital Switchover Stage 1, 1st September 2010

Digital Switchover Stage 2, 15th September 2010

Additional Retune, 15th June 2011

As you may be aware the Mearns receive their Freeview terrestrial television signal from the Durris Transmitter located between Stonehaven and Banchory. Digital Television Switchover is advised in two stages at 1st and 15th September 2010 but that's not the whole story at Durris.

If you are receiving your TV signal from Sky or Freesat read no further.

Three Stages of Switchover

The following problems may be noticed due to the third stage of the switchover extending the period until mid 2011. I will not go into the technical reasons for this happening.

1 The new Sky Sports 1 and 2 broadcasts received via BT Vision or TopupTV, if you have very recently subscribed to these services, may well stop on the 15th September and not be available again until the 15th June 2011 via Freeview. I think this is unlikely but let's say a 25% chance of this happening, Digital UK say it will not happen. Other technical people say it will!

2 If you currently have problems receiving services like ITV4, Film 4, 4 Music, Viva, Yesterday, Create Craft, Ideal World and certain commercial radio stations via Freeview, you will have to wait until 15th June 2011 to improve your reception of these broadcasts. Not in September 2010 as previously hoped in fact if you believe what Digital UK are saying in point 1 above there is a technical reason to believe that the areas that have poor reception of these programmes now will actually have worse reception from September 2010 until June next year.

High Definition (HD) on Freeview and Aerial Issues (Unlikely)

From 15th September 2010 the BBC, ITV and C4 will broadcast High Definition programmes from Durris. Only certain TV's and Set-top boxes sold since spring 2010 (not all equipment sold from that date) can decode these HD transmissions and show them in their listings. All other TV's and set-top boxes will not show the stations in their listings.

If you are sure your equipment is equipped with an HD tuner and not just the capacity to display HD pictures from an external HD source like a Sky box or a BluRay player and after 15 September you cannot receive these HD broadcasts, a new Band A aerial may be required to replace an existing Wideband aerial. This should be discussed with a reputable aerial installer or TV dealer if the problems surface in your setup which is relatively unlikely say a 5% chance.

Eddie Cairns

Notes for the technically inclined

The third stage of switchover at Durris is required to stop possible interference from the main Edinburgh TV transmitter, Craigkelly prior to its digital switchover in June 2011.

The proposed HD programmes are broadcast from the bottom of the UHF TV Band from the Durris Transmitter. Wideband aerials that have been fitted locally to receive Channel 5 in 1997 and some Freeview broadcasts pre Digital Switchover are poor at receiving broadcasts from the bottom of the UHF TV band. A Group A UHF TV aerial is the better tool for that job after Digital Switchover in the area served by the Durris Transmitter.

Bus Timetables

Bus timetables changed on 16th August, and while it will take time for us to get used to the new timetables, we are fortunate in that we do have many more buses than before. It is understandable that not everyone will like all the changes, however the Council have stated that the new times are to suit requests from residents of this area (the bus route rather than purely Auchenblae).

The new times for buses to and from Auchenblae are detailed below:

Service 103 (Aberdeen, Netherley, Laurencekirk and return)

| | Monday to Friday | | Saturday | |
|------------|------------------|-------|----------|-------|
| Northbound | 07.05 | 09.05 | 09.16 | 14.16 |
| Southbound | 14.52 | 18.22 | 12.00 | 17.00 |

Service 104 (Stonehaven, Laurencekirk, Montrose and return)

Monday to Friday schooldays only

| | |
|------------|-------|
| Northbound | 07.55 |
| Southbound | 16.00 |

Service 24 (Stonehaven, Laurencekirk, Brechin and return)

| | | | | | |
|------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Northbound | NSD | | | NSD | |
| | 07.55 | 10.06 | 12.06 | 14.36 | 16.36 |
| Southbound | 08.49 | 10.49 | 13.04 | 15.51 | 17.52 |

Timetables should be in the shop very soon but this is an indication of the service we have now.

All timetables are on www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk - look for bus timetables on opening page.

Dates for your Diary

September

| | |
|-----|---------------------------|
| 2 | Computer Classes start |
| 3—5 | Art Show |
| 6 | Heritage Association |
| 7 | Community Association AGM |
| 11 | Church coffee morning |
| 13 | Guild Session begins |
| 25 | Harvest o' the Mearns |
| 25 | Church coffee morning |
| 26 | Harvest Thanksgiving |

October

| | |
|----|-----------------------|
| 7 | National Poetry Day |
| 9 | Church coffee morning |
| 23 | Church coffee morning |

November

| | |
|----|---------------------------------|
| 14 | Remembrance Sunday |
| 28 | Hard to be Merry this Christmas |