

The Auchenblae Messenger

Volume 11 Issue 3

September 2009

Founded in 1999 by Donald B. Rennie



Grampian Police

What with the darker nights becoming more prevalent, thought should be given to improving security.

Home security need not cost a fortune and by following these simple points you can have peace of mind.

- Always lock your doors and windows.
- Mark your valuables with your postcode and house number using a UV marker.
- Consider fitting time switches to lights, so that they come on when you are out.
- Use a security light at front door and rear garden
- Fit locks to sheds and outbuildings and put wire mesh over any windows and obscure windows so that objects can not be easily seen.
- Never leave vehicles unlocked or windows open when unattended.

Do not leave valuables in view within your car.

If anyone would like a Crime Reduction survey or information on Neighbourhood Watch please do not hesitate to contact me on the details below.

Constable Stuart Akers

0845 600 5 700

stuart.akers@grampian.pnn.police.uk

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Copies of the Messenger available in local shop and the Drumlithie Hotel

From the Editors

Firstly apologies for this Messenger being a bit late, holidays intervened and submissions were slow to come in. It is a very short issue but now that everything is back to normal, children off to school and clubs and groups are meeting again hopefully the next issue will be full of reports and pictures.

Although the barbecue summer did not materialise in the Auchenblae area we hope that did not spoil your enjoyment of the sunshine we did get!

We do get some feedback, readers do like to know what's going on in the village so please submit any photos/stories you might have. We'll do our best to include them all.

Thanks to all who contributes this time around:

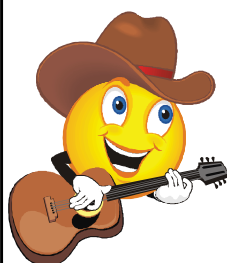
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Susie and Annie

Corny Joke Corner

There are 2 cowboys in the kitchen. Which one is the real cowboy?

The one on the range!



Auchenblae Guild

The Guild will be meeting for the first time on Wednesday 16th September in the Church Hall at 2.30pm. It will be in the form of a “welcome back” finger buffet. The speaker will be Barbara who will introduce the projects for the next three years. Members will be asked to vote on which one we will support.

The theme for the next three years is: “What does the Lord require of you?” For the year 2009-2010 we are asked to think about the theme: “Called to act justly.” It promises to be an interesting year. We welcome all members and if you are not already a member please come along and give us a try. Anyone can join, male or female. We are not a load of old fuddy duddies, drinking tea and gossiping. Meetings are fun, interesting and a great way to meet friends. All are welcome

Barbara Strouts

Mearns Community Transport



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.

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.



Mearns Community Council



As you may know, Mearns Community Council carried out a series of consultations regarding planning proposals earlier this year. Your contributions were of great value to Aberdeenshire Council. We have not yet seen the final report, but will advise once it is available.

The Community Council has been asked to complete an “Open Space” audit questionnaire for each settlement. They want opinion on the following pieces of ground, both designated as “amenity green space”.

Glenfarquhar Crescent - small grass area with long grasses - ownership unknown.

High Street - Small grassy area - owned by Aberdeenshire Council.

If you have any comment on either of these sites, please either contact a Community Councillor or go to <http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/parks/index.asp>

The CC are also involved in discussion regarding recycling in the village. As you may know the bins are at present sited at the football pitch, but they will be removed from there fairly soon. The council refuse to consider kerbside collection but that seems to be the only option left. If you have any comment regarding this, please contact a Community Councillor.



Auchenblae Community Association

ART SHOW

The **Annual Art Show**, held in the Village Hall on the first weekend of **September**, attracted a large entry of over 200 exhibits featuring an excellent display of local talent. The event was very well supported, this was reflected in the substantial sales achieved. This annual event is a popular feature on the art scene in Auchenblae and the surrounding area, both for the participating artists and those visiting the Art Show. Thanks to all who contributed to a successful event.

Annual General Meeting

Following the Annual General Meeting the new members and office bearers of the Community Association are: Chairman: Trevor Hodgson. Vice Chairman: Allan Mills. Secretary: Alice Morgan. Treasurer: Sue Hodgson. Fabric Convener: Jenny Thomson. Committee: Alan Richardson, Gina Easter, Tracey Harrison Lewis, Liz Gammie, Carol Nelson, Gillian Siddons, Clare Ptaszek, Lindsay Cochrane, Gary Downs, Jacqueline Humphrey, Nick Williams, Nicky Gunson, Frances Lindsay.

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

Saturday 28th November – St Andrews Ceilidh – See posters later.

Dates to Note: Friday 22nd January 2010 – Burns Supper.

Saturday 6th February 2010 – Curry Cook Out

Race Night – New date to be decided in 2010

Hall Hire: NB: In compliance with the regulations of the Public Entertainment Licence all members of the public are required to vacate the hall by 1 a.m. following a function. It would be greatly appreciated all hirers/organisations made note of this obligation



Auchenblae Calendar

A calendar showing a different scene of Auchenblae each month will be available for 2010. Proceeds will go towards fabric work at Auchenblae Church. A sample will be available shortly. Watch the noticeboard. Orders can be placed with Jenny Thomson (320245).

Auchenblae Parks Committee

The football pitch has been cut regularly throughout the year in preparation for line marking in Spring. It was therefore extremely disappointing to discover that a vehicle or vehicles had entered the pitch (by force) and drove around gouging out deep ruts in an overnight joy ride. Who would do this? Equally discouraging has been the continuing destruction of the new football nets. We ask ourselves, is it worth it?



Auchenblae Friendship Group

By the time you read this we will be up and running again after our summer break. We hope to have our usual varied mixture of activities for you to enjoy. Although we started life as a group for pensioners we are now open to anyone who is at a loose end on a Wednesday morning. If this appeals to you come along and give us a try!

We meet on Wednesdays from 10.00am to 12 noon. If transport is a problem something can be arranged. If you would like to know more about us just phone me on 320911 and I will be pleased to put you in the picture. Above all we are there to provide friendship to anyone who would like to join in. By the way, we always celebrate birthdays and thanks to Adelaide there is always a delicious birthday cake!

Barbara Strouts

Internet Security

A reader has asked us to give a reminder to you all to check internet security and ensure that no one can access your ISP.

She recently noticed a car parked outside the village and the driver was using a laptop. This may have been perfectly innocent but it is best to keep yourself safe.

Auchenblae Charity Stovie Dance

Auchenblae Village Hall

Saturday 17th October

8.00 - 12.45am

Tickets £7.50

(all proceeds to the ANCHOR unit)

Dancing to the Ian Isaac Band

Great Stovies - Great Night!

Ticket available from Metelski's shop or Willie Singer



Auchenblae Heritage Group's excursion to Benholm Kirk and walking tour of Johnshaven.

The 6th of June was a beautiful sunny afternoon when 17 people went to Benholm Kirk and were immediately given a welcome cup of tea and biscuits before listening to a detailed and informative history of the kirk by local resident, Geoff Lawrence. Then it was off to Johnshaven where inside the renovated life boat shed, Don Marr of Johnshaven Heritage Society, gave us a short introduction of the work already done and of proposed future ideas of their Society. Aided with a well designed map we were taken on a walk-about tour of the village ending with a very civilised afternoon tea in the Ship Inn. A splendid time was had by all and hopefully Auchenblae Heritage Society can return the favour to Johnshaven folk in similar style?

Next year's programme of speakers is as follows: -

Monday 7th September - "Lord Monboddo: James Burnett"
Talk by the Rev. A Douglas Lamb

Monday 7th December - "Schooldays at Drumtochty Castle"
Talk by Fraser McCrae

Monday 1st March - "Our Nissen Huts"
Presentation by Malcolm McCoig and David Addison

All meetings in the Church Hall at 7.30pm.
Annual Membership £5 or £3 unwaged. Visitors £1.50



West Mearns Parish Church

AUTUMN DIARY

Saturday Coffee Mornings: 1st and 3rd 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.

Special Events and Sundays

United Service

Sunday, 6th September at West Mearns Church: Glenbervie at 11am

The newly renovated organ will be rededicated

(please note there will be no service at Fettercairn)

Concert by the Couthie Company

Friday, 11th September at West Mearns Church: Glenbervie at 7.30pm

In aid of the Organ Restoration Fund

“Harvest O’ The Mearns”

Celebrating our farming life and produce.

Saturday, 26th September at Mearns Academy, Laurencekirk

Harvest Thanksgiving

Sunday, 27th September: Fettercairn + Auchenblae

Sunday, 4th October: Glenbervie

Quiet time, Prayer + Remembrance: Saturday, 7th 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.

West Mearns Parish Church



National Poetry Day Event:

Thursday, 8th October, 7.30pm, Auchenblae Church

Celebrating “**Heroes and Heroines**” in poetry, a cuppie + fine piece

Sunday, 11th October, 9.30 and 11am services

“Celebrating heroes and heroines”

Sacrament of Holy Communion

+ celebrating All Saints + our loved ones with God

Sunday, 1st November at Fettercairn (9.30am) + Glenbervie (11am)

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

Sunday, 8th November at Auchenblae (11am) (also Remembrance Service)

Quiet time, Prayer + Remembrance: Saturday, 7th November

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Remembrance Sunday

8th November; services at Fettercairn (9.30am)

+ Auchenblae (11am) – also Sacrament of Holy Communion

1st Sunday in Advent

29th November, services at Fettercairn (9.30am) + Auchenblae (11am)

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

Please contact: The Minister: Rev Catherine A Hepburn Tel: 01561-340203 email: cahepburn@btinternet.com

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

Auchenblae Gardens Open Weekend 18th/19th July 2009

Now in its third year, the weekend was another great success; not only in monetary terms, but in community involvement and enjoyment.

Although it is stressed that the gardens that are to be open need not necessarily be weed free and immaculate, it is of course clear that everyone makes an extra effort to have their 'plot' looking good.

When I visited all the participants at the start of the week, the preparation was obvious: flower tubs at their best; vegetables ripe; borders weeded; hedges clipped; paths swept with only the grass to give a final trim before the weekend.

However, that very week, Auchenblae experienced the worst freak thunder and lightning storms in living memory. Violent cloudbursts directly overhead stretched drainage systems to capacity and emergency services were called in to provide pumping facilities and sandbags.

The village was awash!

To cancel or not? Could things possibly dry out in time? Would the gardens even survive?

Well, survive they did and gave much delight to the many people who descended on Auchenblae over the weekend.

Each party of visitors was given a map of the village highlighting the gardens which were open. Some decided to have their 'fly' before they set off (a few never made it any further and spent the afternoon in the hall enjoying a wee news with folk as they came and went), some took the sensible option of a mid-way stop, but by the end of each afternoon the stragglers were duly accounted for and arrived back for their strawberry teas, happy and hungry.

Heartfelt thanks to our fellow villagers who so kindly invited us into their gardens and made our visitors so welcome.

If you'd be interested in having your garden included in the future, please get in touch.

Jenny Thomson
West Mearns Parish Church Fundraising Committee

