

Dates for your diary

Auchenblae Art Show	Village Hall	2-4th September
Scouts AGM	Village Hall	5th September
Pre-School Group—VARIOUS	Var.	SEE PAGE 7
Nearly New Sale	Village Hall	10th September
Community Association AGM	Village Hall	4th October
Mama Mia Sing-a-long movie night	Village Hall	8th October

May	June	July	August
S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
September	October	November	December
S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31



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**



Auchenblae Messenger

Founded in 1999 by Donald B. Rennie

BUMPER SUMMER EDITION!!

VOLUME 13, ISSUE 3

SEPTEMBER 2011

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Heritage Project
- Mama Mia!
- Guides Trip
- Junior Bowling
- Art Show
- In Bloom

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

BROWNIES	2
BOWLING	2
COMMUNITY ASSOC.	4
APSG	5
GUIDES	8
PARKS COMM.	10
HERITAGE SOC.	13
SCOUTS	13

From The Editor

I have been amazed at the number of contributions for this edition of The Messenger. It proves just how much activity there is in the village. It really is somewhere where people want to get involved. Since I moved here many people have remarked that "Auchenblae is such a friendly place." How true.

I do apologise for a mistake on my notice on the board. Another senior moment!

The next edition will be going out at the end of November, to include all the Christmas activities. Please send me your information by 15th November at the latest, so that we can be ready on time. My e-mail address is:

barbara_auch20002000@yahoo.co.uk

Please note that it is underscore, not a dash.
Thank you. Barbara Strouts

The Messenger Memo

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



*** FREE LOCAL MAP OF AUCHENBLAE WITH EVERY ISSUE ***

WANT A COLOUR, LAMINATED VERSION OF THE LOCAL MAP FOR ONLY 50 PENCE? (JUST TO COVER COSTS!)—CALL KEVIN ON 320471

".....The brownies enjoyed an evening of outdoor activities."

Auchenblae Brownies

We would like to say a big thank you to Lynsey Thow, our Young Leader, who left us in June as she starts university in Aberdeen this autumn. The picture shows the unit on the last night at our outdoor centre at Cairndee, Fettercairn. The brownies enjoyed an evening of outdoor activities. We meet in the village and like to get out and about using the great local environment - especially the Den.



Brownies are for girls aged from 7 to 10 years. If you want any information you can contact either **Lorna Yates on 320489** or **Evelyn Richardson (District Commissioner) on 320362**.

Auchenblae Bowling Club—Junior

At the end of the Summer term, Auchenblae Primary School organised a Den Day which was enjoyed by the pupils who were able to try out tennis and bowling amongst other activities.

Following on from this the Bowling Club offered introductory bowling sessions for Primary 5/6/7 pupils on Monday afternoons with tuition by experienced club members.

The sessions have been enthusiastically supported with nine boys participating (no girls!), although numbers dwindled recently due to adverse weather and family holidays etc.

A competition is planned in the coming weeks with the winner receiving a cup.

The club has had great support from the village in the past but membership has dropped and new players (of all ages) are needed.

It is hoped that the juniors will continue to bowl next year, and that older brothers and sisters/mums and dads will be encouraged to try their hand as well.

The club meets on Fridays at 6:30 pm during the summer months and all will be made very welcome, bowls can be provided if needed.

W.H.B

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Sunday, 13th November: 9.30 at Fettercairn; 11am at Auchenblae

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Fettercairn Church: Saturday, 26th November, 10am – 4pm; and Sunday, 27th November, 11am – 4pm. The Christmas Tree exhibition is in the Church, the Christmas Fair and teas are in the Hall.

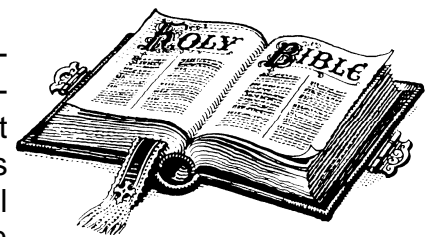


ADVENT SUNDAY

Sunday, 27th November: 9.30am at Fettercairn (come and worship in the midst of a wonderful forest of Christmas trees); 11am at Auchenblae.

BIBLE STUDY GROUP

This group will be starting a new session of meetings later in September – listen for intimations or contact Catherine (01561-340203) for details. We will be looking at the Gospel of St Mark (it can be read straight through in about a couple of hours). This group is for those who have never opened a Bible before as well as those who have been reading it for years. Please come and join us. You are welcome.

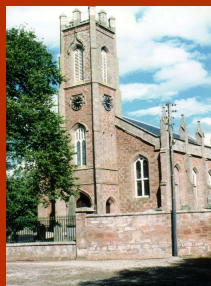


THANK YOU: to Jenny Thomson and her team of helpers for another wonderful Auchenblae Gardens Open Weekend with strawberry teas and stalls. This event has become a highlight of the summer season for many. **Special thanks** are due to those who so generously opened their gardens to allow this event to happen – this year and over the past 5 years. The funds raised for church fabric are necessary and appreciated.

Auchenblae Guild

We will be starting up again on Wednesday 21st September, after our summer break. As usual we will meet in the Church Hall at 2.30pm. The meeting will take the form of a "welcome back" tea. We hope to see all members, and anyone else who thinks that they would like to join us for fellowship and interesting meetings. May I remind you that we are open to men as well, and there are more men joining other Guilds in the area. Any one who decides to come along will be made to feel very welcome.

Some dates for your diary. Weather permitting, we hope to hold our coffee morning and fashion show in the Village Hall on Saturday 19th November. Fashions will be by Encore of Fettercairn. On Friday 9th December we will be holding our "Carols, Candles and Christmas Pies" celebration in the Church. Please come and support us at these events.



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”

AUTUMN DIARY: SERVICES + EVENTS

BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY

Sunday, 25th Sept. 9.30am at Fettercairn; 11am at Auchenblae

Sunday, 2nd October: 11am at Glenbervie

If you have not been to church for a while (or indeed a long time); if you have never been but are curious; if you have been wondering whether to dip a toe in the waters of worship and faith and life's big questions; if you are a seeker, a wonderer, a wanderer, you are most welcome to join us on any Sunday and especially at these services. **Come just as you are. You are welcome.**

P.S. If you need transport, please contact the minister, Catherine Hepburn
Tel: 01561-340203

HARVEST THANKSGIVING

Sunday, 2nd October: 9.30am at Fettercairn; 11am at Glenbervie (nb this is also Back to Church Sunday at Glenbervie and we will be celebrating the Sacrament of Baptism too: a Harvest Sheaf of celebration at this service!)



HOLY COMMUNION

Sunday, 30th October: 9.30am at Fettercairn; 11am at Auchenblae

Sunday, 6th November: 11am at Glenbervie. This service is followed by our **Act of Remembrance** at the Glenbervie War Memorial in the Church grounds.

News Release



30 is the magic number!

On Wednesday, August 24, the Forest View Centre will be officially launching its third heritage project involving people with learning disabilities in all aspects of the project.

This innovative and community based 'Mearns Heritage Project' will run for two years and is jointly supported by LEADER funding and the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Coinciding with the 30 years of provision of services for adults by Forest View Centre, the project will research and develop Mearns heritage from 1980 to the present day.

The number 30 will be the keystone for the project – celebrating 30 years of service to adults with learning disabilities and 30 years of key developments and trends in the Mearns.

The project will also visit and work in 30 villages in the Mearns to gather research and provide exhibitions of local history and research findings from all of the local communities.

Claire Will, manager of the Forest View Centre, said: “We are delighted and grateful to have been recognised and funded by LEADER and the Heritage Lottery Fund, to continue to build on the success of previous projects such as the Woodview Heritage Project, and the highly successful Father of the Bard Project.

“We have built up a lot of experience in heritage matters, and have found innovative ways of involving service users in all aspects of project management and development.”

Aberdeenshire Provost Bill Howatson said: “This is an exciting project which sees history as a dialogue between the past and the present. By looking back, even to recent history, there are many lessons to be learned for today. And there is no better way to take such projects forward than by engaging with communities and harnessing their thoughts, views and collective memory.”

The project will research areas such as music, fashion, fishing, farming, business development, lifestyle and quality of life in the Mearns over the last 30 years.

Mini exhibitions, providing feedback on the research to date, will be held in all the main rural communities, on a regular basis, and will culminate in a major fashion and music exhibition in year two of the project.

The project will also be able to explore the potential for greater community involvement, for people with learning disabilities, and contribute to education, training and work experience.

Dave Ramsay, who worked on the Father of the Bard project, has been appointed as project officer, to draw the various strands of the project together.

Community volunteers, from organisations to individuals will be welcomed into the project, as a means of ensuring an integrated community approach to heritage, using local skills, knowledge and experience in all of the 30 villages.

Any individual or organisation wishing to volunteer to be part of the new Project should contact Dave Ramsay in the first instance.

For more information contact **Claire Will on 01569 764545 or email claire.will@aberdeenshire.gov.uk, or Dave Ramsay on 01561 340668 or email dave.ramsay@aberdeenshire.gov.uk**

Gardens Open Weekend

First and foremost our grateful thanks to those who agreed to 'open' their gardens to visitors over the weekend. Without their co-operation we couldn't have staged the event. Despite the atrocious wind and rain over the last few weeks, the gardens survived amazingly well and were greatly appreciated and enjoyed.



Thanks to everyone else who supported this fundraiser in any way.

The total raised was £1,270.02 (there's always an unaccountable 2p)

Jenny Thomson (West Mearns Parish Fundraising Committee)

Auchenblae Community Association



TUESDAY 4TH OCTOBER 2011

7.30pm in COMMITTEE ROOM



The Community Association comprises a committee, elected annually, to manage, preserve and upkeep the Village Hall and to appraise village concerns.

The Committee organise the Village Gala Week, catering at Drumtochty Games, Art Show and other events. The proceeds of these events ensure the continuation of the hall for village organisations and activities.

Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month.

New members welcome. For further information please contact: Alice Morgan, Secretary – Tel. 320081/email: alicemorgan@btinternet.com

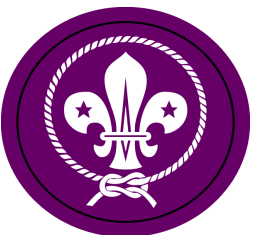
Auchenblae Heritage Society

On 18th June, 13 members of Auchenblae Heritage Society visited Tullo Wind Farm, which had been meticulously organised by the Dutch owners, Eneco. Unfortunately they couldn't organise the weather, which was simply atrocious. Our little huddled group tried to take in all the facts and figures presented to us by a young hard-hatted employee as the wind, rain and mist swirled round us, (see photo) while "Amy", the one turbine we got close to, beat out it's circular rhythm. Although the wind farm is only one year old and not very heritageable, yet, the Society felt it important to go and see what this technology had to offer and to let people make up their own minds as to how they feel about it on their own doorstep. If only we had at least managed to see the view - any view!



The Heritage Society's new programme starts on **Monday 5 September** with a talk by local musician, Dave Ramsay called, "The Father of the Bard". The story of Robert Burns' dad, William Burness who was born in Glenbervie, 1721. The meeting, as usual, takes place in the Church Hall at 7.30pm. All welcome. Annual membership, now due, is £5 or £3, visitors, £1.50

Auchenblae Scouts



After an absence of several years the scouts have returned to Auchenblae.

The new group has established Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. these have met over the last two years and have proved to be very successful.

The Beavers and Cubs are now fully booked and we want to start new groups of these. Any parents who would like to place their children in them should attend the AGM and let us know.

The Scouts has spaces for growth and some of these are being filled by youngsters who are now leaving the Cubs. we expect that this too will be taken up fully in due course.

Naturally we would like to hear from all those interested and invite you to the AGM which will take place on Monday 5 September at 18:30 at the Village Hall.

It should not take long to finish the formal business, so please attend and let us have your views.

Alex Hidalgo

Chairman—The Scouts

Auchenblae Nearly New Sale

Saturday 10th September 2011.

Doors open 9am-11am, at Auchenblae Village Hall. Entrance £1.50

Toys and Clothes for any age of child including teenagers, Books, DVD's, Crafts, Games, Sports Equipment, Musical Instruments & Nursery Equipment

Are your kids cupboards overflowing with toys, books, games and clothes?

Why not purchase a seller number for £3 and let us sell your goods for you at our next sale. All you need to do is label up your goods with your seller number and price, then drop them off the night before the sale - we will do the rest! We take 25% commission, which goes to Charity and you get back 75% of the value of your goods sold plus any unsold goods. If you are more interested in buying then please come along and support our sale, where you will pick up great deals on Nearly New Toys, Clothes & Equipment.

Cash only please - no cheques. Parking at a premium so please park considerately.

Refreshments available on sale day.

Seller numbers are limited so please contact Gillian 01561 320685 or Isabelle 01561 320759 for more information.



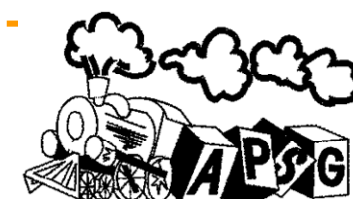
Auchenblae Drama Group



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

Auchenblae Pre-School Group



Preschool for 3 and 4 year olds

Monday-Friday 9.15-12.45 p.m.

Funded places available & Drop in sessions now available!

3 and 4 year olds welcome each morning

£5.40 per session, book in advance on 07530 743 663

Two's Group

Tuesday and Thursday 12.45-2.15 p.m.

Located upstairs in the Village Hall.

Or call Ara on 01561 320 278, or email

auchenblaepreschool-group@gmail.com for more information

Parent and Toddler Group

Meets every Friday in the Church Hall - 9:15 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.

Saturday 10th September

Thanks to the Nearly New Sale Group we are able to once again provide refreshments upstairs in the playroom. We found this to be a huge success last time so come and join us for a cuppa and piece of cake after a morning's

Over the summer holidays the pre-school group has had a change of committee. We would like to say a huge thank you to the 'old committee' for all their hard work and we look forward to another successful

Sunday 11th September

from 2-5pm is the long awaited return of our **Country Music and Dancing Afternoon**. All ages and families welcome. Dust down those cowboy hats and boots and step in line! If dancing is not your 'theng' then still come along, have a cup of tea and enjoy the upbeat tempos that will have your toes a tapping!

We welcome back our fantastic staff and it's lovely to have our manager Louise Shine with us after returning from her maternity leave.

The children have a very exciting term ahead as they work on a project entitled 'All About Me'

Friday 23rd September

We will be holding a **This-tle Kids Coffee Morning**. This is a great opportunity to purchase seasonal clothing at a great price and perfect for kitting out the kids in wet weather and winter gear (venue to be confirmed). Please see notices nearer the time.

We have a variety of fundraising events coming up in the next few months. We would love if you could come along and support the Pre-school Group!

Christmas Shopping Evening. The dreadful winter weather we had last year unfortunately caused us to cancel our long awaited Christmas Shopping Evening. However, it's back....! Saturday 26th November, Santa is in Auchenblae so come and visit his grotto, enjoy a glass of mulled wine or a mince pie and do a bit of Christmas shopping at many of our varied and festive craft and gift stalls.



Registered Charity no SC021752

Auchenblae in Bloom



Despite the dismal weather we have had this year there are still many beautiful flowers to be seen. During Open Gardens weekend we were able to wander around gardens otherwise invisible to us but every day we can enjoy the hanging baskets, tubs and window boxes lovingly tended by villagers (and even the Council seems to have been around to deal with the weeds that appeared here and there). In addition, members of the Community Association have once more spent hours filling the large tubs which we see all over the village. They seem to get better every year. Having a walk round the streets is a real joy.

In addition to enhancing the look of the village, the Community Association is responsible for maintaining our beautiful Village Hall - it really is our village hall as it belongs to the people of Auchenblae and is not Council owned. The hall is much used by many groups for their fund-raising and social events and it is a great place for a private party too - like Miss Craig's 100th Birthday celebration. It takes a lot of money and a lot of work to keep it in its present attractive condition and the small band of enthusiastic volunteers, I am sure, would be delighted to be joined by others - after all "many hands make light work".

There are tasks that can be done by folk with various talents - one doesn't need to be multi-talented (though obviously some C.C. members are very gifted) to help with the many fund-raisers. The main income comes from catering at the Drumtochty Games. Then there is Gala Week with all its attractions, culminating in Gala Day, then the Art Show, the Burns Supper and the Christmas concert plus other smaller events, all helping to keep the community spirit (which is the envy of some other villages) alive in Auchenblae. All these events are organised by the same band of willing volunteers but maybe, if they don't get some more villagers to pitch in, they could lose heart. So what about some of us, who have some spare time, offering to do what we can to lighten the load? "In abouters", i.e. those of us who haven't been here for ever, would be specially welcome and it's a great way to get to know some more people. I am still an "Inabouters" after fifteen years in Auchenblae but have been made so welcome over the years that I really feel almost a true villager.

Contact the Community Association Secretary, Alice Morgan, if you would like to help in any way, however small. (Mrs Alice Morgan at Herscha, Glenfarquhar Road. (phone number in the phone book) or simply turn up at the A.G.M. and introduce yourselves!

Ann Rennie

".....after all—
many hands
make light
work".

The Auchenblae Community Association and the Auchenblae Drama Group

Cordially invite you to attend their

Girls Night Out evening party

Featuring

Mamma Mia Sing-a-Long Movie Night

Saturday the 8th of October at 20:00 hrs

at the Auchenblae Village Hall

Guests will receive a cocktail on arrival and canapés will be provided. This is a licensed event and a wine bar will be available.

(over 18's only)

The event is in support of Breast Cancer Awareness Month and proceeds from the evening will be donated to

PLINK (People in Need of Kindness)

Suggested donations for this fabulous Girl's night out event is £7.00 per person. Space is limited so reserving your seats is encouraged.

Contact Jacqueline at 07525966196 to reserve.

Ladies here is your chance to dress up, take a mini break to Greece and sing your hearts out for a good cause.

Themed Raffle --- Thank you Gift --- Licensed Event

To reserve your seat phone 07525966196

Auchenblae Parks Committee



The members of Auchenblae Parks Committee continue to meet each month to discuss issues regarding village land under their control. Throughout the year, site visits are carried out to oversee the following areas: the Golf Course; the Den and old Dam area; the Football Pitch and surrounding woodlands; the hill ground leading to the War Memorial on Gilbert Hill as well as a miscellaneous strip of land behind the houses in Monboddo and Burnett Street. All these amenities and pockets of land are managed by the voluntary members of the Parks Committee.

The younger members who joined us last year have brought their own area of expertise and are already proving to be valuable participants. With their enthusiasm and help, we can hopefully continue to manage the recreation areas in Auchenblae to a worthy standard.

ROSPA

Each year the committee employ the services of a ROSPA inspector to give the adventure and play equipment in the Den a safety check. Fortunately, Bill and Roy are very particular and this inspection acts solely as a backup to their on-going maintenance. However, in our continuing effort to ensure safety, we ask that any concerns are passed to a committee member as soon as possible.

Dog fouling in the Den continues to be a problem

Who are the culprits? The committee would welcome help in exposing those responsible. Although we know that most dog owners do pick after their pets, this anti-social habit can leave anyone vulnerable to suspicion.

Jenny Thomson (Correspondence Secretary)

English Tutoring In Your Home

- ✓ One-to-One English tuition
- ✓ S. Grade, Int. 2, Higher, Advanced Higher
- ✓ Creative Writing for individuals or groups
- ✓ Essay / Report Writing
- ✓ Proofreading

Tel: Catriona on 07846 570902 or 01561 320606

Email: cat@creativetutoring.co.uk

www.creativetutoring.co.uk

"....Dog fouling in the Den continues to be a problem"

Auchenblae Art Show

2011

2nd - 4th September

Preview Evening

Friday 2nd 7 - 11pm

Age 16 years and above

Tickets £7.00

Includes Catalogue, First drink & Cheeseboard

Licensed Bar and Raffle

Tickets available from:

alicemorgan@btinternet.com

or Tel. 01561 320081

Saturday 3rd & Sunday 4th: 2 - 4.30pm

Adults £3.00, Children £1.50

Refreshments & Raffle

Auchenblae Friendship Group

By time you read this we will be up and running again after the summer holiday. We have our usual varied happenings to amuse you. All are welcome to join us in the Church Hall on Wednesday mornings from 10.00am to 12 noon. We are what we call ourselves, a Friendship Group. If you are at a loose end do come and join us. For further information phone Barbara on 320911 or ask any member.

Barbara Strouts

Auchenblae Guides



Would you like to come on our trip to Switzerland? maybe , We go by bus and it takes 2 days , no way !! This conversation was repeated several times over the last few years when other Guiders from our County have kindly invited me along , I really wanted to go but 2 days in a bus with Guides , well this time with a little persuasion from the Guides , Laura and I said yes.

We had our first meeting and the two of us were asked to do the QM (to non Guide people that is food) . We asked for suggestions and discovered rather surprisingly that they would rather have mince and tatties than Chilli Con Carne , so we worked out our menus and amounts - 145 grms pasta per person x 38 people to feed , this is hard for 12 days of meals , so Laura being an accountant set up an Excel spreadsheet to assist. We were advised to take as much as we could with us as Switzerland is very expensive . Several shopping trips worth of shopping from Asda , Macphie cake mix , Mrs Jamiesons strawberry jam and 2 sacks of tatties were all ready to load on board.

We hired a coach from Bain of Oldmeldrum which stayed with us the whole two weeks plus our 2 drivers , Euan and Roy who were brilliant, so with them , 25 Guides , 10 adults and Nicholas the 7 year old son of the trip leader , all dressed in our uniform of royal blue polo shirts and Girl Guide tartan neckerchiefs , we set off from Luthermuir on Monday 11 July not to return until Sunday 24th , a long time , however, once we got on our way the journey was not as bad as I had thought it would be , we arrived at Hull ferry port at tea time ready to sail at 6pm. We had an overnight crossing , we all had 2 or 4 berth cabins with en-suite shower and loo. The food was good and a disco and band for entertainment in the evening . The girls were great and other passengers complimented us on their behaviour and enthusiasm .

So far so good , a good breakfast , back on the bus and off we go. It was a long day until we reached numbers 5 and 6 Hari's Chalets in Adelboden in the Swiss Alps. We unloaded and explored , the chalets were traditional design made into one and the girls were in rooms up 3 different stairs in bunk beds pushed together , it was like dormouse cottage in a children's story book. Laura and I found our home for the next two weeks , the kitchen !

Cooked breakfast , packed lunch and evening meal for 38 every day, no bother, and we had a few baking sessions to fill the cake tins.

Although the weather was not great with a lot of rainy days we did manage a lots of trips ;

A day out to visit the Nestle Chocolate factory was a favourite, lots of gifts were purchased in their shop. On the way back we had the afternoon in Bern. It is very beautiful medieval city but our first visit was to the bears. The bear is the symbol of Bern and they used to be kept in a pit but now have a lovely new enclosure where they can roam and swim but really know how to pose for the camera. We walked up the cobbled streets with artisan shops next to designer names and headed for a square that had water jets that the girls

"....A day out to visit the Nestle Chocolate factory was a favourite"

could play in and get really wet. Another day a group walked to a wood carvers workshop , they watched him at work and bought woggles or badges with their names burnt on. Being in the mountains there is an adventure park where the girls whizzed back and forward over the river on zip wires each crossing moving up to a higher level or crossing a chain bridge , all securely fastened on and a few very brave girls did a bungee jump from the bridge over the river , a personal best for them.

Our highlight trip was to the Jungfrau , this time we were on vernicular railways very slow but very steep , we passed right inside the Eiger mountain , the train stops so you can get out and look through glass windows set in the wall of the mountain , unfortunately it was very misty so we could not see far . When we arrived at the top of Jungfrau the girls were very disappointed that we were not allowed out onto the snow due to danger of avalanche so no sledging or husky ride. We were able to go into the ice palace and three of the Aboyne Guides made their promise , a mountain top moment for them to remember.

Ballenberg was a lovely place to visit with traditional chalets and see how they used to farm and watch craft people at work followed with a trip into Inverlaken a very busy city with lots of well known shops , the girls even found a Claire's ! Great contrasts of old and new .

The reason this area is chosen by Guide groups is because there is a Guiding World Centre , called Our Chalet , we visited and looked round the rooms and met Guides from USA . 2 girls made their Guide Promise , another special memory for them.

And of course there was the local village of Abelboden to visit , we could take the cable car or a very steep walk to browse the shops and buy gifts , the girls swam in an open air pool with a backdrop of snow capped mountains , Laura and I found a wonderful coffee shop that had the most amazing selection of cakes !! There was an oompa band playing one afternoon in a hotel garden , a folk evening in the street the night we left, the sound of cow bells in the distance and everywhere you looked there was a view of mountains that took your breath away, it was just all so beautiful .

We ended our trip with a meal in a hotel and travelled overnight in the bus to arrive to have a picnic breakfast in a park in Brugge , well a picnic in the bus as it was raining. This gave us a day of sightseeing before boarding the return overnight ferry crossing. We arrived back in Luthermuir on Sunday evening , the girls were singing Guide songs for the last few miles , so happy to be home but a great trip and good experience for us all. They coped with travel sickness , homesickness , cooking , washing up , cleaning , spending money in three different currency's and generally looking after themselves for two weeks without too many grumbles. The first week we said never again but Laura now says well maybe ..

Evelyn ,Laura ,Ellie, Allana, Alana, Lindsay, Chloe, Millie , Rachel, Stephenie, Heather and Rosie.

