



# Auchenblae Messenger

Founded in 1999 by Donald B. Rennie

**BUMPER AUTUMN EDITION**

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September 2013

## From The Editor

After the lovely summer I hope that you are all ready to get back to normal. I think you will agree that there is going to be a lot happening this autumn.

I would like to say a big "thank you" to all the contributors who have done really well getting their contributions in and also for putting up with the vagaries of my machine which loses things at times. Without you there would be no Messenger.

We have had a kind volunteer to take over the reins of the Memo and hope that it will soon be back with us again.

The next issue of the Messenger will be for December, with all the Christmas activities in it. Please send contributions to me at

[barpollybar@gmail.com](mailto:barpollybar@gmail.com) or phone to 320911 by the **15th November** at the latest.

Barbara

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## Messenger & Memo Distribution

Special thanks are due to Ann Rennie and Sheena Auld who have 'retired from service' distributing the 'Messenger'! Both have been involved on a regular basis from the very beginning, often having to go out whatever the weather if there were time restraints. It has been said before but distribution comes at the end of the whole production process and sometimes the team are at the mercy of technical hitches at an earlier stage! We wish both ladies well.

I am particularly grateful not only to Ann & Sheena but also to the whole team - regular & relief - for their good-natured response each month when I phone to check that they are able to deliver the Messenger or Memo!

Although we have people willing to step in for holiday/sickness cover we still need help on a regular basis - only half an hour per month to deliver to approximately 20 houses. If you feel you can help please contact me on **320524**.

**Anne Anderson**

*"....We are not just a group of auld wifies"*



## Auchenblae Friendship Group

We are still going strong. We are a group of people who like to meet once a week for a cuppie, a blether and to be entertained. We try to have various activities from talks, films, slideshows, music, crafts and the occasional lunch out. We celebrate birthdays with a birthday cake. Yummy! We also have regular games mornings. We make a charge of just £2 per session to cover overheads.

We meet on Wednesday morning in the Church Hall from 10.00am to 11.45am. There is a warm welcome guaranteed. As one of our regular guest speakers once said, "You're well named. I always feel that i am among friends when I come here." We are not just a group of auld wifies. Four men come to the meetings and really enjoy their company. Come and give us a try. if you want further information contact **Barbara at 320911**.

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## Nearly New Sale

On Saturday 21 September 2013, Gillian Milne and Isabelle Riddoch will be running the next in a series of Nearly New Sales which they have been running in the village for the past 6 years. The doors open 9am-11am, at Auch-enblae Village Hall and the entrance is £1.50.

For those people unfamiliar with the sales, this is a sale of very good quality children's items including the following: Toys and Clothes for any age of child, Books, DVD's, Crafts, Games, Sports Equipment, Musical Instruments & Nursery Equipment (including cots, prams, highchairs etc.). Proceeds from the sale are split between various local good causes.

### ***Gillian and Isabelle said:***

*You are welcome to attend our sales as a buyer, a seller or as a helper. If your children's cupboards are overflowing with toys, books, games and clothes, then why not purchase a seller number from us for £3 and let us sell your goods for you. 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 than selling, then please come along and support our sale, where you will pick up great deals on Nearly New Toys, Clothes & Equipment. On sale day, we only accept cash – no cheques.*

*Seller numbers will be available from Monday 2 September and are strictly limited, so please call early to secure your number. If you wish any further information, please do not hesitate to call: **Gillian Milne on 01561 320685 or Isabelle Riddoch on 01561 320759.***

## How to drug proof your kids course



*If you don't talk to your kids about drugs, who will?*



*A fun and interactive community based course developed by the national charity Care for the Family.*

*How to drug proof your kids equips parents with the information and skills they need to encourage their children to form a responsible attitude towards drugs, including cigarettes and alcohol, steering them away from their harmful use.*

### What parents took away from attending the course:

**Parents are the strongest, single influence in a child's life...**

*Session Topics* Parenting through prevention  
 Building a strong foundation  
 Creating integrity and responsibility  
 Communication and participation  
 Creating a 'safe network' and peace of mind  
 Recognition and affirmation

*Strive to keep communication open.*

*Focus on family traditions a bit more.*

*Look at myself properly as a role model.*

**Thursdays 29<sup>th</sup> Aug - 3<sup>rd</sup> Oct 2013, 9.30 - 11.30am**

**Community Room, Bervie Primary School**

**or**

**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> Feb 2014 for 6 wks 7-9pm**

**Mearns Community Centre, Laurencekirk**

The course is free of charge

Places will be allocated on a first come first served basis.



Contact Stonehaven Community Centre, **01569 762688**, for more information or to book a place.

Visit **[www.dpyk.org.uk](http://www.dpyk.org.uk)** for more information.



## Adam Christie, Artist Extraordinaire

Adam Christie was born the son of a crofter in Cunningsburgh Shetland, and in his thirties he developed a degree of mental illness which necessitated his removal from Shetland to the Asylum at Sunnyside, Montrose.

Adam never returned to Shetland, and from 1901 until his death in 1950 the hospital was his home, and he was buried in a pauper's grave in Montrose.

For the remarkable story behind Adam Christie, we have to thank the late Dr Ken Keddie, who was a consultant psychiatrist at Sunnyside, and undertook a detailed piece of research on the life and times of this remarkable patient, and the book was called "The Gentle Shetlander."

Adam was remarkable in the sense that he had no formal artistic training, and he began to produce an amazing number of stone sculptures, using only an old file and a six inch nails as his carving tools. He was also a painter and poet, and made fiddles from old wooden tea chests.

The term "artist extraordinaire" was used to describe Adam, as his skills did not flourish in a formal artistic setting or training in these skills, yet his work was so admired that the Montrose sculptor William Lamb took him under his wing.

I had read the book, and in 2008 composed a song about this remarkable man, which has now just been re – released as a fund raising activity to erect a headstone to Adam Christie .

Little did I know that Adam Christie was again to feature in my work, and during the Father of the Bard project in 2009 I discovered that Adam Christie had sculpted the plaque to commemorate where Robert Burns had stopped at Hillside on his Highland Tour of 1787 and was one of the four men who contributed to the memorial.

A plaque was erected at Hillside last year, to commemorate this event and to ensure the story was never lost again.

An exhibition of Adam Christie's work is currently on display until the end of the month, and has brought together an amazing array of his artistic works.

Hosted and creatively displayed by Angus Council and Montrose Museum, the exhibition was promoted by the Howe o' the Mearns Heritage Association and generously sponsored by;

The Friends of William Lamb, Howe o' the Mearns Heritage Association  
Montrose Burns Club, Montrose Rotary Club, Arbroath Burns Club  
Emslie Collier, Montrose; Glaxosmithkline, Montrose

Rachel Benvie, Curator, Montrose Museum and her colleagues, have put together an amazing display of Adam's known collected works, and the exhibition called "For the Maker's Own Delight" captures the creativity and the life and times of Adam, and is an exhibition not to be missed by any heritage or local history group.

For an added Mearns connection, Helen Cruickshank, a well-known Angus poet, whose father was George Cruickshank and was Steward at the Asylum, provides a vivid account in the book *The Gentle Shetlander*, of how the patients worked on the Home Farm, and the wonderfully descriptive scenes of a harvest gathering.

George Cruickshank, born in 1845, came of farming stock near the village of Auchinblae, joined the hospital service as a young man, and was promoted to House Steward responsible for buying and storing all the commodities needed in the Asylum.

For further information please contact **Dave Ramsay on 01569 – 750730 or**  
**d\_ramsay\_mail@yahoo.co.uk**

## Auchenblae Guides

A big part of Girl guiding is working for badges. These range from the traditional cook and craft to more modern ones, the most popular of these is Chocolate badge. Some girls love this and have an armful of badges others are just happy to join in Guiding activities, as long as they enjoy their Guiding experience it is up to each individual how much they want to do.



BADEN-POWELL AWARD IS THE HIGHEST AWARD A GUIDE CAN ACHIEVE. GUIDES HAVE TO HAVE 2 YEARS EXPERIENCE AND GAINED BADGES AND CHALLENGES TO START THIS. IT IS DIVIDED INTO 5 ZONES WITH A RESIDENTIAL ADVENTURE EVENT. WE HAVE 4 GUIDES ALMOST FINISHED THE AWARD, THEY ARE HEATHER, MILLIE, LINDSAY AND CHLOE. HERE IS A REPORT FROM CHLOE AGE 14

### BADEN-POWELL AWARD WEEKEND – INVERNESS

We four Guides from Auchenblae went on a Baden-Powell residential weekend. We went up to Inverness on the train and met up with some old friends from our trip to Switzerland and made some new ones. Once we arrived we had to walk two miles to our Youth Hostel. It was hard when we each had a suitcase!

We did a scavenger hunt and had to travel round Inverness by bus and on foot, finding landmarks and answering allocated questions. We went swimming and on a "not very scary" ghost tour.

We learnt valuable teamwork and communications skills as we had to present some of our folio with the zones we had already completed, to our peers on the weekend.

It was a very enjoyable weekend and we have learnt so much that has helped us move onto the next step in completing our award.

Evelyn and Laura Guide Guiders

## Auchenblae Guild

Our meetings start again on Wednesday 18th September at 2.30pm in the Church Hall. There will be an introductory tea. The Speaker is the Reverend Catherine Hepburn who will speak on the theme "A fellowship to build". There will also be a short update on the progress of the Guild Projects.

In October, on the 16th, we will welcome Mr, Nick Williams of the Cyrenians, a group of people that we have all heard of but are not sure what they do. Come and find out.

November will be very busy. The Guild Week service will be on Sunday 17th. At our meeting on Wednesday 20th our speaker will be Mr. Sandy Jessop who will tell us all about life as a sheriff. Saturday 24th will be the annual Coffee morning and Fashion Show by Encore of Fettercairn.

An interesting few months in prospect. Anyone who is interested can come along, and remember we now have male members. In Auchenblae we have two already. Come and join them.

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### National Poetry Day

For a few years now we have celebrated National Poetry Day in Auchenblae. Anyone who is interested can come along and either read a poem or two themselves, ask someone else to read one for them or to just sit and listen. Refreshments are also served.

This year we will be meeting on Thursday 3rd October in the Church at 7.30pm. The evening will be hosted by the Minister, the Reverend Catherine Hepburn and the poetry part will be introduced by our local poet Mr Peter Morriss. The theme this year is "Water".

This is a very enjoyable evening and we find that numbers are steadily increasing. If you haven't been before do give it a try.

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### An old problem

Once again people are beginning to notice that some irresponsible people are not cleaning up after their dogs. It is not only unsightly and smelly but children end up with it on their shoes and clothes, and other dogs, who love to roll in anything smelly, get covered in it and have to be cleaned.

It is against the law to allow dogs to foul anywhere without cleaning up. It only takes seconds and the bags can be deposited in any bin.

Please play your part and keep Auchenblae clean.





## Auchenblae Heritage Society

We've all heard of "rescue" dogs and cats, but when a collection of old 78 rpm records come into this category, it's worth doing something about it. Thrown into a bin after the death of old Jimmy Smith of the Den, one of our committee members, much to her credit, "rescued" them, and those still playable, will form the basis of the Heritage Society's first meeting on **Monday 2 September, 7.30pm** in the church hall. A 1920's wind-up gramophone, the marvellous Columbia Vivatonal Graphola supplied by Bill Pirie, will hopefully bring these old records back to a scratchy life once more.

In addition to all this nostalgia (from Willie Kemp to Will Fyffe, or Larry Adler to Jimmy Shand) Frances Swanston, Aberdeenshire's Environmental Planner will briefly and informally explain what local input would be helpful to her in writing the Draft Appraisal Document for Auchenblae's proposed conservation status.

Annual membership £5 or £3 is now due at the meeting. Visitors £1.50 All welcome

Future talks will include the development of the Country House in Aberdeenshire and the Closes of Montrose. Further details to follow

## Auchenblae School & Nursery Parent Council

Our AGM will take place in the school on Tuesday 10th September from 7pm. All parents / carers of children attending the school or nursery are welcome to attend. If you fall into this category, please consider coming along and getting involved. The Parent Council needs you!

The whole school will be taking part in a sponsored walk on Friday 6th September to raise money to go towards updating the school's computers. Please help us with our fundraising and give generously to help us reach, or even better exceed, our target of £2,000. Please take care when driving in and around the village that day as groups of children will be out walking that morning. Any parents / carers who are able to give up their Friday morning to accompany the children should contact Sue Barrie (340673) or Sheila Morgan (321137).

If any villagers have any spare wool or knitting needles that they would like to donate for the school knitting group, please hand them into the school or contact Isabelle Riddoch on 320759.

The Parent Council is planning to hold more Cinema Events. These events are a fun way to help us fundraise for the school and can be a great way of entertaining the family, especially on a rainy day. Please keep an eye out on the village noticeboards for posters with more information and come along and watch our movies.

Finally, good luck to all the kids moving up to Mearns Academy and to any boys and girls going in to Primary 1 or joining the nursery, or the school after the holidays.

# Auchenblae Community Association

## AUCHENBLAE & DISTRICT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Scottish Charity No: SC026926 Company No: SC332446

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**TUESDAY 1<sup>st</sup> OCTOBER 2013**

**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**

### TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT REVIEW

As advertised in the Observer & Mearns Leader, Aberdeenshire Council are proposing various changes within Auchenblae Village including double yellow lines, waiting restrictions etc. If you have any objections to these proposals the Council invite your comments via the link below.

<http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/roads/traffic/orders.asp#currentproposals>

**Objections should be submitted no later than Friday 30<sup>th</sup> August.**



# Auchenblae Art Show 2013

6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> September

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup>  
Preview Evening  
7-11pm**

Age 16 years and above  
Tickets £8.00

Includes Catalogue,  
Glass of Wine & Cheeseboard  
Licensed Bar and Raffle

Tickets available from:  
Sue Tel. 01561 320207 & Jenny Tel. 01561 320245

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 8<sup>th</sup>  
2 - 4.30pm**

Adults £3.00    Children £1.50  
Refreshments & Raffle

*"....strawberry teas were much enjoyed "*

## Gardens Open Weekend

We were truly blessed with good weather this year, as the sun just shone and shone in the weeks leading up to, and including, the weekend.

I always stress that we're not looking for weed free zones, but I am acutely aware that anyone who agrees to participate, spends a great deal of time, one way or another, preparing for the event.

So, sincere thanks to Frances and David at 'Kirklytham', Shirley at 'Grange Cottage', Amanda at 'Lutherbank allotment!', Miss Mary Craig at 'Donardo', Davvy and Adam at 'Kannada' and Stephanie and Rab at 'Jade House'. It was very apparent that your gardens were greatly appreciated and admired by every single person who visited over the two days.

Meanwhile in the hall, the strawberry teas were much enjoyed as always and thanks must also go to those who donated baking as well as savoury produce, plants, books and raffles for the stalls.

The total sum raised over the weekend was £1,364.22 (and counting), plus a donation of £240.00 towards the Church Fabric Project.

Work is to start imminently on repairs to the Church hall roof followed by much needed external refurbishment. Apart from Church activities, this small hall is used weekly during term time, by the Friendship Group; the Lunch Club; the Guides; the Mother & Toddler Group and over winter months by the Scouts.

Jenny Thomson

West Mearns Parish Church Fundraising Committee



## BIRD BOXES IN THE DEN

As part of their "Adventure Service Challenge", pupils from Primary 6 & 7 at Auchenblae School, have designed and made bird boxes to be placed throughout the Den.

Members of Auchenblae Parks Committee met the children on 21st June to take possession of their work.

As the photo shows, these boxes were individually hand-crafted and very special!

A promise was made that the boxes would be put in place this year so that our birds would become familiar with them before next year's search for a nesting site. All sixteen have now been placed throughout the Den by Bill Barry, one of our Den groundsmen.

A link such as this, between youngsters and the Parks Committee, is helpful in fostering a pride and responsibility in the area.





## **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**

### **GLENBERVIE CHURCH COFFEE MORNING**

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> October, in Drumlithie Village Hall, 10 – 11.45am; stalls

### **HARVEST THANKSGIVING**

Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> September: 9.30am at Fettercairn; 11am at Auchenblae;  
and on Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> October at 11am, at Glenbervie

### **HOLY COMMUNION**

Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> October: 9.30am at Fettercairn; 11am at Auchenblae

Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> November: 11am at Glenbervie. This service is followed by our **Act of Remembrance** at the Glenbervie War Memorial in the Church grounds.

### **REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY**

Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> November: 9.30 at Fettercairn; 11am at Auchenblae

**Christmas Tree Festival** - Saturday 30th November and Sunday December 1st

### **ADVENT SUNDAY**

Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> December: 9.30am at Fettercairn; 11am at Glenbervie.

## **Den Flood Repair Fund** This appeal has now closed.

Sincere thanks to everyone who has contributed towards repairing damage wreaked on our Den during the night of 23rd December last. At the time we wondered how we could ever recover from the devastation. But recover we have, thanks to local help, both physical and financial, which is exactly what we asked for in our initial appeal back in March.

The piggy bank collection which David at the Old Post Office organised, has brought in £128.07. Thank you David for doing this and I believe some tips, meant for the staff were added, so thanks to them too.

Other sums received came from the following sources: Auchenblae Heritage Society £100; Bob Jamieson's DVD footage of the flood £140.00; the 'Mad Chicken Wifie's' sale of eggs £52.00; Clare's Phoenix card party £35.00 and three individual donations amounting to £410.00.

We also received a most unexpected donation of £200 from John Fraser who, it transpires, is the nephew of the late Bob Peattie! John, who lives in England, read about the damage through the online Messenger and decided he would like to give a contribution.

Thanks to the amazing work done before and during our Work Day, the Den now looks remarkably unscathed, but huge damage was done to the old dry stone walls which edge the burn, particularly between the old sluice gate at the dam and the pavilion. These areas will have to be shored up to prevent further erosion. A contractor with heavy plant is scheduled to come very soon to start on this, as well as further work upstream. The massive stones which are presently in the car park will be used in this operation.

Additionally, should we experience another flood on this scale, a mound will be built at the north end of the lade to create a water retention area, hopefully limiting damage downstream. SEPA and Scottish Flood Forum are aware of this plan. It should be stressed that this mound will not prevent access by pedestrians to the woodland walks.

P. S. Aberdeenshire Council has awarded financial aid to allow this work to proceed and a generous donation has been pledged by Macphie's of Glenbervie on completion of the project.

## **Visitors to the Den**

This year has been especially busy with families from Aberdeen, Dundee and everywhere in between coming along with picnics and spending the whole day in the Den. It's good to see these children running around happily in a safe environment. However..... although we have signs up requesting donations towards upkeep, it's assumed by the majority that the Den is financed by the Council. As we all know, this is not the case, and a little donation towards upkeep, through the honesty boxes, would be most welcome.

Jenny Thomson

Correspondence Secretary

## MOON WALK NEWS

We did it.....on Saturday 8 June, we completed the 26.2 miles of the Edinburgh Moonwalk.

The atmosphere in Moon City before the event was very special, as we were surrounded by women (and men) for whom this charity meant a great deal. We felt privileged to be part of it all and this inspired us to do our best.

We set off at ten to midnight on a pretty dreich night in our bras and see through ponchos, thinking we would never make it without putting on several more layers. However, despite numerous showers and an icy breeze coming off the Firth of Forth, we battled on and completed the course in an impressive 6 hours and 11 minutes. We got our fair share of supportive comments from spectators. As you can imagine, in the wee small hours as people were leaving the various hostelrys, some of these comments were very entertaining indeed!!

We set ourselves a fundraising target of £500, however due to the generosity of all our supporters, including so many of you from the village, we have raised an incredible £3,392.00. We were ecstatic (not to mention very relieved) to finish as you can see from the picture below. If you would like to view our updated blog, it can be accessed via the following link:

<http://www.walkthewalkfundraising.org/smallmediumandlarge>

Once again, thank you so much to those of you who supported us.

Team small, medium and large.

Isabelle (small!), Gillian (medium!) and Margo (large!)



# Auchenblae Brownies



Auchenblae brownies make the most of our superb local environment to enjoy nature. Den making was very popular this last term.

The brownies and leaders enjoyed a pack holiday to Banchory in May with Harry Potter being the theme for the weekend. Activities included making owls, broomsticks, cooking, exploring the local area - including the sweet shop.

Brownies are having a Big Brownie Birthday in 2014. There are lots of activities planned locally and nationally for the brownies to take part in and celebrate this. .

Brownies are open to girls from the age of 7 to 10, if you want information please go onto [www.girlguiding.org](http://www.girlguiding.org) to register your interest and a member of the local team will get in touch with you.

Jane Wharry is the Unit Leader for 1st Auchenblae



## Dates for your diary

Nearly New Sale	Village Hall	21st September
Auchenblae Guild	Church Hall	18th September
National Poetry Day	Church	3rd October
Auchenblae Heritage Soc.	Church Hall	2nd September
Auchenblae Comm. Assoc. AGM	Village Hall	1st October
Art Show	Village Hall	6th-8th Sept.



### JUNIOR ART COMPETITION

#### Auchenblae & District Community Association

Are you an aspiring artist or really like to draw and paint? Then Please think about submitting your art work for our

#### Junior Art Competition

During our art show.

When: September 6th, 7th and 8th 2013

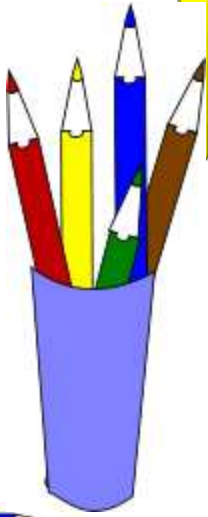
Age Groups: Under 5's, 6-10, 11-16

**Rules:** Art should be submitted to the Village Hall on Thursday the 5th September between 5-6 p.m.

Write your name, contact number and age on the back of your piece.  
Art work submitted should be no bigger than standard A4.

**Prizes:** The winner in each age category will win art supplied and a special prize for "Best in Show".

All junior art works will be voted on by visitors to the Auchenblae & District Community Art Show and winners will be announced on Sunday the 8th September at 1500. If you have questions contact Jacqueline on **07525 966196**.



**Messenger Distribution Team**—Anne Anderson, Sue Barrie, Anne & Sheree Caird, Therese Hendry, Jeanette Hoedl, Ann Howe, Carol Nelson, Barbara Strouts

**Messenger Production Team**—Barbara Strouts, Kevin Newstead, Eddie Cairns

**Memo Production**—TBA

The publisher for this issue was **Kevin Newstead**