

Auchenblae Messenger

Founded in 1999 by Donald B. Rennie

Autumn Edition

VOLUME 17, ISSUE 3

SEPTEMBER 2015

From The Editor

We have another very varied selection of contributions for this edition of the Messenger. There is always so much happening in Auchenblae and so many very busy people. Try to give as much support as you can.

My thanks to all who have contributed. I will be in touch again by the 15th November for the December edition. I can be contacted at barpollybar@gmail.com

You may notice a facelift to the Messenger and..... full colour thanks to a generous oil company being persuaded by our publisher (Kevin) to donate an expensive colour printer to the Messenger. They declined to be identified but a big thank you to them anyway! Colour is much more expensive than monochrome so we may have to do some fundraising next year, but for the meantime—enjoy!

Inside this issue

Page

- 2. Parent Council
- 2. Church
- 3. Pre-School
- 4. Friendship Group
- 5. Art Show
- 6. Gardens Open
- 10. Drama Group
- 10. Heritage Soc.
- 11. Cycle Ride
- 11. National Poetry Day

Memo Date

The Next Memo is scheduled for October 2015 if you have any upcoming event dates please send them to :

auchenblae_memo@hotmail.co.uk or call Lindsay on **01561 320242**.
by 20th September 2015

MESSENGER & MEMO DISTRIBUTION TEAM

We are always looking for volunteers to assist in distribution. It doesn't take long and you get some exercise & get to meet people—how good is that!
Please contact Ann Anderson on 320524 to help

Auchenblae Parent Council

The Parent Council have the following planned;

Sponsored Walk to raise funds for Hi Tech learning gadgets. Please see school news letter for date and times.

Kid's Hallowe'en Festival Village Hall 31st October 1.30 until 3.30 pm. Open to pupils of Auchenblae School. Tickets go on sale at the start of October.

Winter Wonderland: Village Hall 6th December. Come along and meet Santa, Mrs. Clause and the three Elf helpers. Donation the only price. This event is going to be a lot of fun!

Last year the school ran an Education Enterprise Event and with the money raised a climbing wall has been purchased for all the children to enjoy. A very big thank you for supporting the Event.

You might be pleased to hear that the Driftwood Trees will be available again from September along with a new addition- Driftwood Reindeer. These items are on sale through the Auchenblae Tea Shop and Clatterin' Brig and are currently sold as seen. Every reindeer is different and all money raised goes straight to the school!

The Ragbag collection bank continues to generate funds with collections being made on average every 3-4 weeks. Thank you again for your support in this.

We would also like to say a HUGE thank you to the replies we get via the Auchenblae notice board.. These asks have covered a lot of things from old dress up clothing, building BBQs, jam jars, tug of war rope, empty carpet rolls, blown light bulbs and much, much more. "Thank you"

I personally would like to thank the many parent volunteers for their unconditional support and help. Many hands make light work!

Thank you.

Auchenblae Parent Council

West Mearns Parish Church

Welcome! Especially if you are new to the village. And a special welcome to the local parish church. You cannot miss it. It stands with it's tower high on a site that goes back into the mists of time. It might be said that you cannot afford to miss it! "All life is meeting" said a great scholar. Every Sunday at 11.00am (except the first of the month when there is an alternative at Glenbervie), you will meet people at the service and afterwards in the church hall for coffee. We might add that "abundant and eternal life is meeting Christ." One eminent atheist has said that "Heaven is a fairy story for those afraid of the dark." However it can be said that "atheism is a fairy story for those afraid of the light!" Don't be afraid nor shy-come along and meet.

Should you need the services of a minister the Reverend Douglas Lamb can be contacted on **01561 376816**

The Church will be closed from Monday 17th August for 2 weeks to allow floor repairs to proceed. The service on Sunday 23rd August will be a joint service held at Fettercairn Church at 9.30 a.m



AUCHENBLAE PRE-SCHOOL GROUP

Scottish Registered Charity SC021752



Pre-school news

We are looking forward to an exciting year ahead at the preschool group. Over the next few weeks we will be welcoming new children to both preschool and 2s group sessions.

The group held an end of term party in July, when we said goodbye to the children heading up to school nursery, we wish them all the best in their future and look forward to seeing them on our visits and around the village.

We still have funded places available for 3 and 4 year old children. If you would like more information please contact the playroom on 07817505657.



Toddler Group—

Church Hall, Friday 9.15am – 11.15am.

Toddler group will return on Friday 21st August. Children from 0-3 welcome. Come along for a cuppa, cake and chat. 1st session free, £2.50 per family.



Committee News—Open Day and Coffee Morning

Saturday 22nd August. 10am-12noon. Come along and visit the playroom to find out more about our 2s Group and funded places for 3 - 5 year olds at Preschool. Tea/coffee and home bakes served. All welcome.

Christmas Shopping Night

Friday 27th November. 6pm – 9pm. Back by popular demand, Mince Pies, Mulled Wine, Local stalls. Save the date. More details to follow.

Tree maintenance work and weed killing operations will take place in **Auchenblae Den** in the next few weeks. "No Access" signs and warning tape will be in place at the restricted areas. Disruption will be kept to a minimum, but your cooperation is requested during the period. Thank you from Auchenblae Parks Committee.

Auchenblae Friendship Group



We are back to our regular meetings on Wednesday mornings at 10.00am to 11.45am in the church hall. The committee are grateful to all who support us and are keen to welcome any newcomers to join us. We meet as friends and to enjoy ourselves. There is nothing solemn about our meetings and visitors remark on just how friendly it is. Even if you don't know anyone there you will be surprised at how quickly you fit in. Give us a try. **Contact Barbara on 320911.**

The photo shows us enjoying an extra treat, a lunch at the Clatterin' Brig



Nearly New Sale

Gillian and Isabelle are delighted to announce the confirmed date of the next Nearly New Sale as Saturday 7 November 2015, from 9-11 at Auchenblae Village Hall.

This is the latest of our sales and will run in the normal format. It is an excellent opportunity for you to have a complete clear out before ...dare I mention it.... Christmas. It is also an excellent opportunity to pick up high quality toys, books, games, clothing and nursery equipment too.

Should you wish any further information please contact either of us on the numbers below. We are always looking for new buyers, sellers and helpers, so please come along and support this event. Seller numbers will be released at the start of October.

Thank you,

Gillian Milne 01561-320685 / 07761-408168 & Isabelle Riddoch 01561-320507 / 07740-704548

Charity Art Show Friday 11th & Saturday 12th September

All proceeds from the event will go to Stracathro Hospital Stroke Rehabilitation Unit.

We hope you will support this fund raising event for a most deserving cause.

Alice Morgan/Sue Hodgson/Gina Easter

Auchenblae Village Hall September 11th and 12th 2015

Friday 11th – Preview Evening 7-11pm Tickets £8

age 18 years & over- includes admission, catalogue, first drink & cheeseboard - Grand Raffle

Saturday 12th - 12-4pm

Entry includes tea, coffee, cake & Catalogue

Adults £3 Children £2 Pre- School free

Add Soup & Roll for £2

**** Raffle** Children's Art Competition - Prize Giving**

Any queries ask Alice Morgan 320081 email alicemorgan@btinternet.com

Auchenblae Children's Art Competition



PICTURE SUBJECT: In and Around the Den



2 age groups 5-8 years 8-12 years - 1 picture per artist

A4 size with Name, Age & Contact details to be written on back of picture.

Prize awarded to artist judged to be winner of each group

All entries wishing to be included in judging to be brought to the Hall on Thursday 10th September 6-7 pm Prize Giving - 3pm Saturday

Any queries ask Alice Morgan 320081 email alicemorgan@btinternet.com

CHRISTMAS CARD SALE

In conjunction with the Art Show, some rather special Christmas Cards will be on sale. Local artists Margaret Muiry and Grace Dumphie have kindly provided original artwork for 6 exceptional and unique Christmas cards. As before, all proceeds from the Christmas Cards will go to the Stroke Rehab Unit.



Any queries or to order ask Alice Morgan 320081 email alicemorgan@btinternet.com

Auchenblae Gardens Open Weekend Proceeds to Church Clock Replacement

We certainly picked the right weekend, didn't we? No rain at all over the two days, with a glimmer of sun and pleasant warm air throughout, adding to our visitors' enjoyment and allowed them to stroll through the village, rather than dash about.

From the School House up in the Kirkton, to Hillview Road at the other end of the village, wee groups of people were standing around studying their maps, to see which way they had to go to get to the next garden. And they weren't to be disappointed when they got there either!

Back in the hall we were kept busy preparing and serving strawberry teas as well as selling goods from the stalls. There was a real buzz as people returned full of stories about the gardens they'd visited, leading to lots of discussions between us all, which created a particularly happy atmosphere.

Apart from the villagers who always support this event, there were people from our neighbouring communities as well as from Banchory, Aberdeen, Stonehaven and Montrose, that we know of. We greatly appreciate their attendance.

I personally am fully aware of the extra effort each one of our 'gardeners' made in the run up to this event. So, my sincere thanks go to Cary and Davie, Sandra and Royston, Elaine and Thierry, Beryl and Colin, Margo and Jim - and of course Jimmy, who also had to put up with extra demands from me!

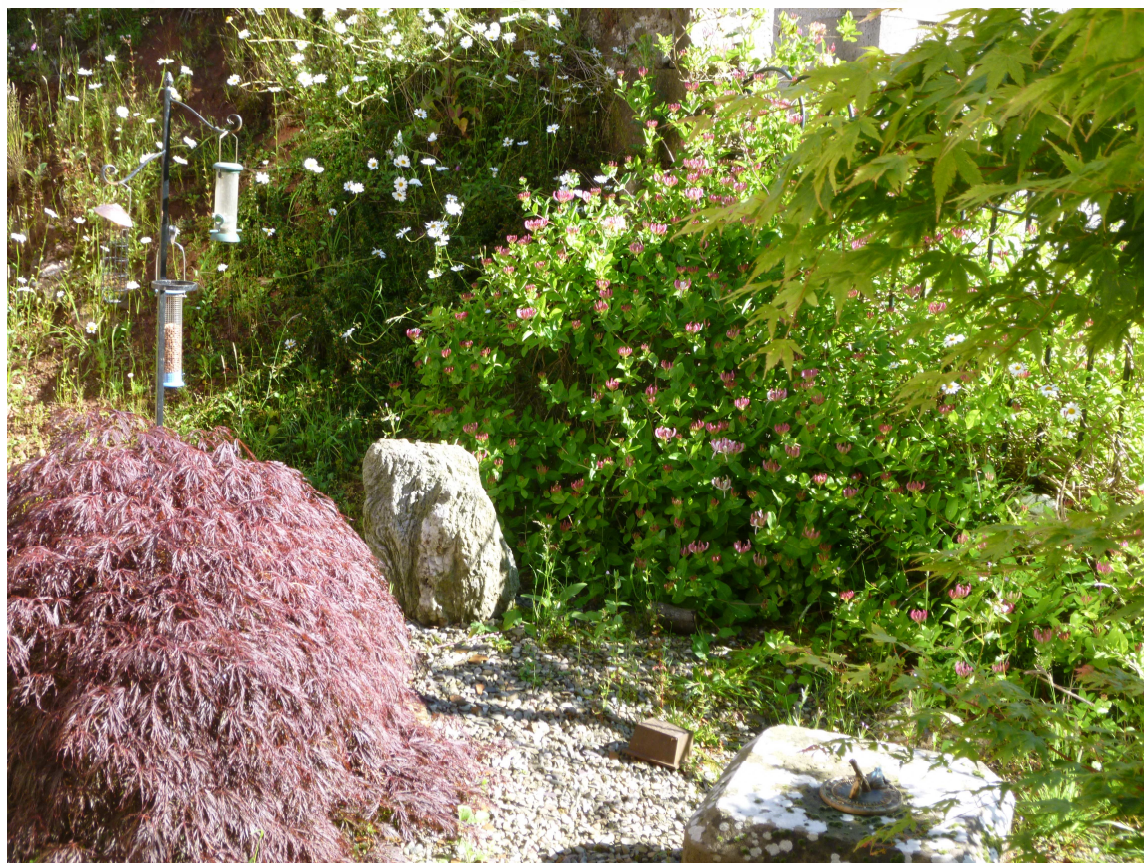
They all gave up their entire weekend so willingly and without their help, this fundraising event would have been impossible.

As a result of Auchenblae Gardens Open Weekend, along with several donations, £1,805 has been raised towards the renovation and replacement of the clocks on the church tower.

Auchenblae Gardens Open 2015



Auchenblae Gardens Open





Auchenblae Drama Group



We're still alive and acting, preparing, planning. Reindeer Race Night, "A play, a pint and a pie," Ceilidh. Ideas at the moment.

WATCH THIS SPACE.

Pantomime Christmas/New Year. 2016. Hall is booked!

Info from **Gillian Siddons 01561 320360**

HAVING AN INDIAN SUMMER GARDEN PARTY, BARBECUE (HA HA!) HOUSE PARTY??

Borrow good washable beakers from the drama group and lots of mugs, cups and saucers, No both-recycling, washing up easier/

Donation for Auchenblae Drama Group.

Contact **Gillian after Sept 4th on 320360.**



Auchenblae Heritage Society

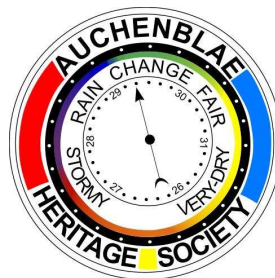
Jenny Thomson "Auchenblae's Hidden Past."

Church Hall 7.30 Monday September 7th.

All welcome.

N.B. Membership fees due. (£5/£3)

Any Queries to Secretary **Gillian 01561 320360**



Girl Guiding run Rainbows (Age 5-7 years), Brownies (Age 7-10 years) and Guides (Age 10+) in Auchenblae. If anyone would like a place for a girl in one of the Auchenblae Units, please go to

www.girlguiding.org.uk/join This will generate an automatic email to the Unit Leader to follow up. Units will start up again during the first week in

September (Brownies Monday **, Rainbows Wednesday 5.30 to 6.30 pm and Guides 7.00 - 9.00 pm).

Sponsored Cycle Ride

A date for your diary. Around the highways and byways of rural Aberdeenshire to the east of the village.

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 26th
10.00am. Meet at the church hall

Approx. 15 miles. Short cuts possible or longer route if you're really keen. A bit hilly, lots of interesting places on the route.

It's not a race. Soup and a fine piece for a rewarding finish at the village hall.

In aid of the John Muir Trust preserving some wild places in Scotland, and for olive trees and education in Palestine to help preserve their culture, villages and country.

For registration, information, sponsorship forms, offers of help contact **Gillian Siddons 01561 320360, Upper Cairnhill, after 4th September.** Happy summer time cycling in the meantime. See you on your bikes.



NATIONAL POETRY DAY **Thursday 8th October 2015**

In celebration of National Poetry day, a warm welcome to-

Come and join us for an evening of poetry at West Mearns Parish Church, Auchenblae. From 7.30pm to 9.00pm. The evening will be introduced by Peter Morriss, published writer and poet in the Mearns.

Come along and read your favourite poem or you can have someone to read them for you. Come along and share your own poems written by yourself or someone you know.

Theme for poems this year is 'LIGHT'

Kincardineshire and the Mearns is full of wonderful poetry waiting to be shared on National Poetry Day.

The evening will be followed by Tea/coffee and a fine piece.

Entrance Fee- Free

Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy a warm friendly evening of poetry in celebration of National Poetry Day 2015 in the church hall, Auchenblae 7.30pm to 9.00pm 8th October 2015.

Dates for your diary

Toddler Group	Church Hall	21st August
Pre-school open day	Village Hall	22nd August
Heritage Society	Village Hall	7th September
Art Show	Village Hall	11th & 12th Sept.
National Poetry Day	Church	8th October
Sponsored Cycle Ride	Church Hall	26th October
Kids Halloween Festival	Village hall	31st October



Community defibrillator



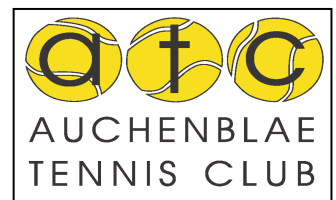
The Village Telephone box has now been adopted by the community council and will be the site for the community defibrillator. Very shortly it will be getting a lick of nice red paint and the missing glass panels being replaced to bring it up to scratch, some livery will be placed on the phone box to inform people of its use.

Thanks to all the volunteers so far who have volunteered to undertake training in case it ever needs to be used, there are still spaces for people to come along and learn some lifesaving skills, you just never know when you might need them, hopefully dates will be announced very shortly. My email is below if you want to drop me a line.

Thanks again to the community association, community council and mostly the people who have donated to help make this happen.

mark.strickland@nhs.net

Auchenblae Tennis Club's Junior Sessions start again on 18/19 August and continue on Tuesday and Wednesday evening until 29/30 September. There are a few vacancies for children of 7 years and older so please contact **Lindsay Shaw on 01561 320900** or via the Club Facebook Page if you would like more details.



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

Memo Production— Lindsay Cochrane

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