

Auchenblae Scout Group

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EVERYONE FROM THE 1st AUCHENBLAE SCOUT GROUP! THE COMMITTEE WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL INVOLVED FOR A SUCCESSFUL FIRST YEAR! WE ARE CURRENTLY LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS WHO WOULD LIKE TO BE INVOLVED WITH THE GROUP. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BECOME INVOLVED AS A LEADER OR AS A MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE PLEASE CONTACT DINI DUBBER AT dini.dubber@hotmail.co.uk.

Santa's New Idea
Said Santa Claus
One winter's night,
'I really think it's only right
That gifts should have a little say
'Bout where they'll be on Christmas
Day.'
So then and there
He called the toys
Intended for good girls and boys,
And when they'd settled down to hear,
He made his plan for them quite clear.
These were his words:
'Soon now,' he said,
'You'll all be speeding off with me
To bring the Christmas joy and cheer
To little ones both far and near.
'Here's my idea,
It seems but fair



That you should each one have a share
In choosing homes where you will stay
On and after Christmas Day.
'Now the next weeks
Before we go
Over the miles of glistening snow
Find out the tots that you like best
And think much nicer than the rest.'
The toys called out
'Hurrah! Hurrah!
What fun to live always and play
With folks we choose - they'll surely be
Selected very carefully.'
So, children dear,
When you do see
Your toys in socks or on a tree,
You'll know in all the world 'twas you
They wanted to be given to.
Anon

Dates for your Diary

December

6	Heritage Society
6	Burnett Street closes to traffic
10	Carols, Candles and Christmas Pies
11	Fabric Fund Coffee Morning
17—18	Auchenblae Drama Group Pantomime
18	Burnett Street reopens to traffic
27/28	Doctor's surgeries closed

January

3/4	Doctor's surgeries closed
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February

11	Messenger deadline
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The Auchenblae Messenger



Volume 12 Issue 4

Founded in 1999 by Donald B. Rennie

December 2010

From the Editors

Well, here we are for the final time. We're delighted to be able to tell you that Barbara Strauts has offered to take on the role of editor from now on. Barbara will be supported by Kevin Newstead, the chairman of the Messenger Group. We shall of course pass on our contact list to Barbara, but should you wish to contact her, the email address is below and her phone number is 01561 320911.

We have enjoyed our two years at the helm, some editions have been more interesting than others, we have to depend on all of you to submit your news. There are, of course, times of year when not too much is happening.

Christmas is almost with us once again, don't the years go past more quickly now—or is that a sign of growing older? We'd like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and send all good wishes for the coming year.

We'd also like to wish Barbara all the best in her new venture, we'll enjoy reading the "Messenger" instead of putting it together! Thank you for your support over the past 2 years.

Susie and Annie.

Corny Joke Corner



Two silkworms decided to have a race

The result—A Tie!

Messenger Distribution Team

Ann Anderson, Sheena Auld, Carol Nelson, Anne Caird, Sheree Caird, Therese Hendry, Ann Rennie, Trish MacEachern, Margaret Muiry and Moira Hutchison.

Messenger Production Team

Susie Brown, Annie Thow, Eddie Cairns, Kevin Newstead

Memo Production

Ann Rennie

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL THE KIDS THAT HELPED PUSH CARS UP THE HILL WHEN WE GOT THE FIRST SNOW!!

The Bruce Fountain

To mark the centenary of the Bruce Fountain in The Square, Auchenblae Community Association and Auchenblae Parks Committee, joined forces to fund its restoration.

A little bit of history! In 1835, an Alexander Bruce was publican at the Kintore Arms Inn (The Drum) where, it was said he ran “a hospitable house from which no one was allowed to depart with dry meal in his stomach”. It is claimed he was the instigator of the “Braes of Fordoun”, a horse drawn carriage which ran from Aberdeen *via* Stonehaven and Drumlithie to Auchenblae, with its stopping off point in front of the Kintore, of course! Although this particular enterprise was short lived, Alexander goes down in history as having maintained a vital link between Auchenblae and the outside world when he “placed an omnibus for passengers, on the road betwixt the village and Fordoun Railway Station”.



Now to the man himself: Robert Bruce, son of the above, was an auctioneer, an invaluable profession within the community in those days when estate land was being measured and rentals valued. In a voluntary capacity, he served this community as secretary on the 1869 founding Committee of the Public Hall; a position he held for more than thirty years. In the village plan of 1893 he is now listed as the feuar of the hotel. In his will Robert left funds to erect a drinking fountain as near to the ‘Kintore’ as possible. The unveiling ceremony took place in 1910 with Mr. Alexander Fotheringham, Chairman of the Parish Council officiating. This gentleman has a tangible connection today as he was great grandfather to our own Kay Watson (nee Fotheringham). At the unveiling, you’ll notice amongst other changes, a grocer’s shop at the corner of Inverurie Street, the open gutters and no telephone box! The spacious area around the fountain itself is a legacy of a former way of life when the market square, with its common grazing land stretching up to Inverurie Street, lay in the heart of the village.

AUCHENBLAE HERITAGE SOCIETY

School Archive

As a joint project between the Auchenblae Primary School and the Heritage Society, a request goes out to former pupils of the school to remember their school days. It might be how a certain teacher taught, or how did you get to and from school, playground activities, sports, the 3 Rs, writing skills, spelling, mental arithmetic, the belt, tables etc etc? Old school photos, which would be scanned and returned, would also be greatly appreciated.

Anyone wanting to help build up this vital archive of Auchenblae's schooldays, should, in the first instance, contact one of the Auchenblae committee members - Sheena Auld, Pat Mennie, Gillian Siddens, Jenny Thompson and myself as Chairman. Thanking you in anticipation.

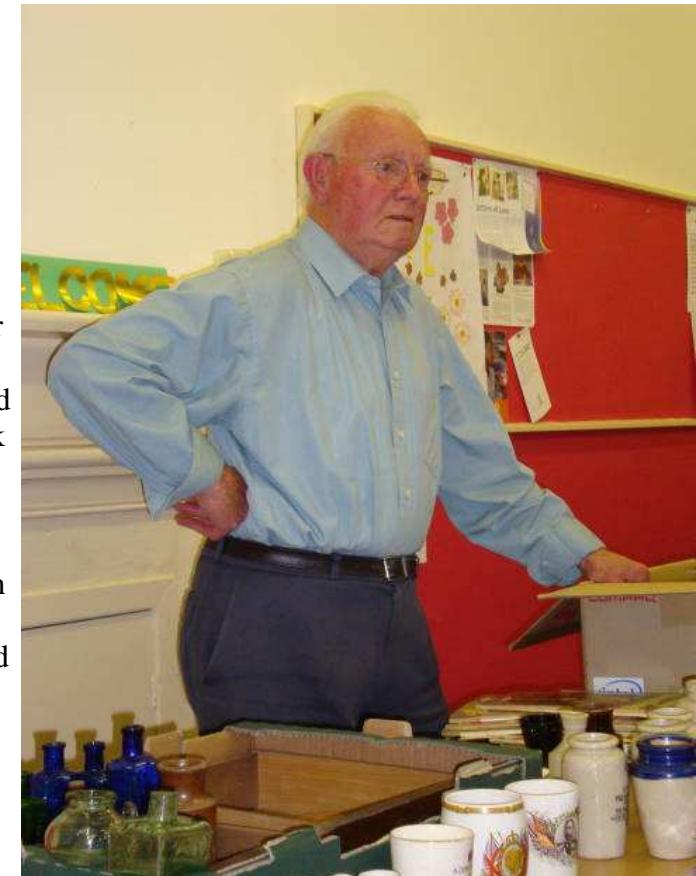
Tom Welsh

The talk given by Tom Welsh on 6th September was a spectacular success. His stories of the village and its folk from a different era were remembered with clarity, humour and affection. Those in attendance, and there were many, enjoyed a memorable occasion, which, in retrospect, should have been recorded, as Tom says this was to be his last talk - let's hope not?

The Bell

The next meeting of the Heritage Society is on Monday 6th December, 7.30pm in the Church Hall where Auchenblae's very own historian, Jenny Thompson will show a video and talk about the build up to the village's Millennium Celebrations, with particular reference to preparing the church bell for ringing in the new century.

Malcolm McCoig
Chairman



Tom Welsh giving his talk



AUCHENBLAE DRAMA GROUP

Proudly present the 2010 Christmas Pantomime:
Little Red Riding Hood

Friday & Sat 17th & 18th December—7.30 p.m.
Sunday 19th December—2.30 p.m.

Auchenblae Village Hall

Tickets: Adults £6.50—Child / conc. £4.50
Tickets from Judith Houghton—01561 320222

Mearns and Coastal Healthy Living Network

MCHLN are currently seeking new volunteers for the Auchenblae Lunch Club (Wednesdays during school term time) and for their shopping service. If you are interested please contact them on 01561 378130. You should also use this number if you wish information on any of the services they provide which include: support in getting out and about, gentle exercise classes, shopping service and a handyman service.



Preschool for 3 and 4 year olds

Monday-Friday 9.15-12.45
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

Please stop in to visit a preschool or two's group session.
We are upstairs in the Village Hall. Press the buzzer to be let in.
Or call Ara on 01561 320 278, or email auchenblaepreschoolgroup@gmail.com for more information

Parent and Toddler Group

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



Auchenblae Friendship Group



We always have room for new members. If you are at a loose end on a Wednesday morning do come along and join us in the Church Hall from 10.00am to 12 noon. You will be made to feel very welcome. We have recently had a variety of entertainment including talks, slide shows, films and music. Recent new members are very enthusiastic. Do at least give us a try. If you do decide to join you will even get a birthday cake. For more information phone Barbara on 01561 320911.

Barbara Strouts

The ravages of time resulted in several bits of the fountain disappearing. The central urn went missing, the sphere and pinnacle, as well as the four elaborate finials. No-one seemed to know what had happened to these 'bits' for many years, but one by one they eventually turned up in gardens or wherever and were given to me for safekeeping. In this year of the centenary, it seemed appropriate that an effort should be made to reinstate them.

Going by old postcards and photographs, we could see where the various pieces should be. Of the finials, only two badly damaged ones were ever found. To have new ones made was to prove too costly at £390 each! Added to that, it is no longer possible to get the same granite and the nearest match looked quite different. However, a new pinnacle was fashioned from the redundant remains so at least all material is still original.

To date, we haven't recovered the shallow brass cups we all drank from so freely and which, by today's standards, would pose a serious cross contamination epidemic, but somehow we all survived!

Jenny Thomson



Auchenblae Community Association

Flower Tubs

Thanks to all who kindly watered and cared for the flower tubs close to their homes – it is very much appreciated.

Thank You

The Community Association wish to thank all who contributed to a most successful year and wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Healthy, Happy New Year

St Paldy's Fair

Celebration matters.

In a time of civil war in Latin America refugee camps set up three committees: one to organise education, one to organise the sanitary arrangements, and one to organise the community celebrations. Our community life in Auchenblae and the area of Fordoun was great-

ly strengthened and enjoyed in our recent celebration of St Paldy's Fair. Together the Church, the Primary School, the Heritage Society, family and friends marked our history and heritage with a modern twist as young and old moved across the Kirkton of Fordoun between School and Church, Soup Kitchen and the site of the old school, now part of the Kirkyard. There was tasty soup (around 140 bowlfuls served up), fly cuppies with very fine pieces, a variety of market stalls, an historical exhibition on the old school site, workshops on traditional children's games, and the young people showed us what hope and joy we can take in the next generation with the pipes, a highland dance, a drama telling of the place of St Palladius in our history and faith in the Mearns, and the songs each class from

Nursery to Primary 7 wrote and performed with the skilled help and fun of local singer/ songwriter Dave Ramsay - each song an immediate hit and classic. The children appeared to have great fun learning about school and games and faith and life in 'olden times' in the Kirkton of Fordoun that is now their place of school work and fun, faith and life today.

Thanks are due to the very many people who played their part in enabling the hospitality, market place, history and entertainment of the Fair to take place - and the sun shone on us.

Road Closure

Please note that Burnett Street, between the village hall and Bridgend will be closed for 11 days from 6th December. This is to allow for sewer connection.

Pedestrian access will be maintained.

3rd Sunday in Advent: 12th December

Services at Fettercairn (9.30am) + Auchenblae(11am)

6.30pm: Carol Service in Drumlithie

4th Sunday in Advent: 19th December

Christmas Family Service with Nativity Play

Manger gift for Shelter's work with the homeless.

Services at Fettercairn (9.30am) + Auchenblae(11am)

Auchenblae Primary School Christmas Show

Monday, 20th December in Auchenblae Church, 2pm and 6.30pm.

CHRISTMAS EVE: Friday 24th December

6.30pm: Auchenblae Children's Carol Service

11.15pm (for 11.30pm): Fettercairn Christmas Eve Service

CHRISTMAS DAY: Saturday, 25th December

11am: United Christmas Day Service at Glenbervie Church

CHRISTMAS 1: Sunday 26th December

Christmas Worship with short celebration of Holy Communion

Services at Fettercairn (9.30am) + Auchenblae(11am)

CHRISTMAS 2: Sunday 3rd January

New Year Worship: Fettercairn (9.30am) + Glenbervie (11am)

There will be a short celebration of Holy Communion at the Glenbervie service.

LAURENCEKIRK HEALTHCARE CENTRE

The surgery will be closed on the following dates:-

Monday 27th December, 2010

Tuesday 28th December, 2010

Monday 3rd January, 2011

Tuesday 4th January, 2011

Repeat Prescriptions?

Please order your repeat medication in plenty of time if this is due near the holiday period on telephone number 01561 376426 or via the web site -

www.laurencekirkhealthcarecentre.co.uk

Emergency Cover during Public Holidays

In an EMERGENCY on the public holidays please contact

NHS24 on 08454 24 24 24

or contact

Laurencekirk Healthcare Centre for the emergency arrangements on 01561 377258

WEST MEARNS PARISH CHURCH

From: West Mearns Manse

Dear Friends,

Well another New Year's resolution bites the dust – again! I have two goes at it; making the resolution that is. It's on my list for January 1st as another year begins and I make it every first Sunday in Advent as the Church New Year begins. The resolution is: "start preparing for Christmas in August and avoid the last minute rush". And have I done that this year?.....no.....sorry!

It's not good enough to say I wasn't in the mood mid-summer; it would not be true as I often find myself singing Christmas carols in July as I stop looking back to one Christmas and forward to the next. I could argue that August whizzed by so fast (like the rest of the year) that I blinked and missed it. It maybe has more to do with being shy of the question often posed by Jesus in his parables and teaching: "Are you ready?"

Are we ready to greet Jesus, the babe born homeless in Bethlehem, in all the homeless, the refugee Jesus fleeing Herod's murderous rule in all refugees and asylum seekers, the carpenter Jesus in our workmates and colleagues, the challenging Jesus in those who are different from us, the son and brother Jesus in our own families and communities, the loving Jesus, God with us, whoever we are wherever we are, whatever the date is or the season?

As once again Advent gives us a fresh opportunity to prepare for Christmas may we be ready this Christmas and every day to welcome the gift of God's love in Jesus and to share that love with all who need it.

God bless you and yours;
God make your hearts bright and give you peace.

Catherine

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS DIARY 2010

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.

Saturday, 4th December from 6.30pm

Christmas Fair and Festival of Carols in Fettercairn Public Hall.

In aid of the Church Fabric Fund.

2nd Sunday in Advent: 'White Gift Sunday': 5th December

Services at Fettercairn (9.30am) + Glenbervie(11am)

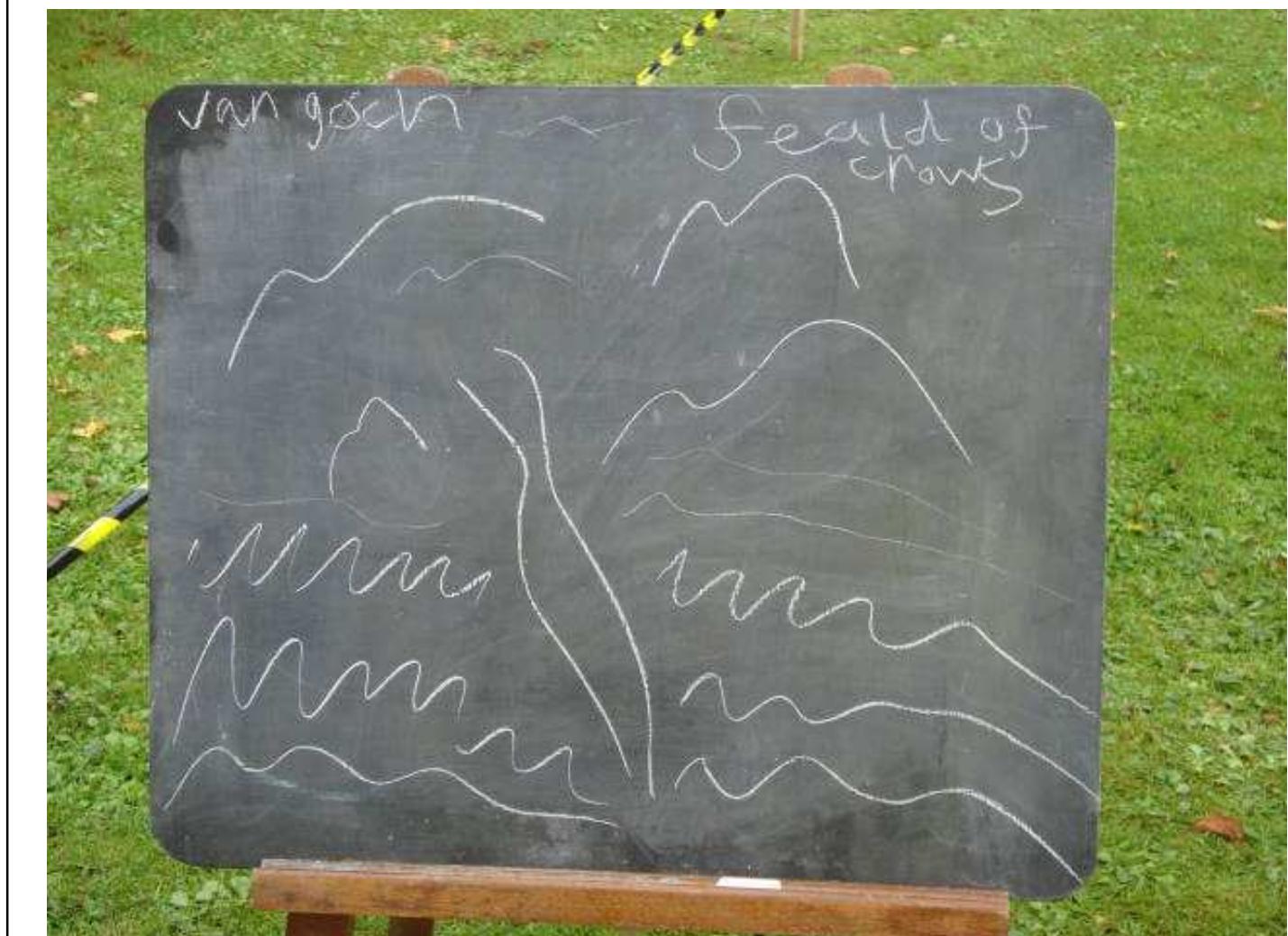
Gifts wrapped in white paper for children & adults in need welcome.

Indoor Bowling

Anyone interested in restarting the indoor bowling for an afternoon weekly session in the village hall starting mid January?
If so, please phone Bill Barry 01561 320749

Van Gogh at the Paldy Fair

Two years after the small Kirkton of Fordoun school closed, Vincent Van Gogh was born (1853). The photograph shows a child's chalk drawing done on the blackboard which was part of the Heritage Society's Paldy Fair display of where the old school was in the kirkyard. The drawing is of Van Gogh's final painting, "Field with Crows" and I'm sure Vincent would have been very pleased with the interpretation. Congratulations Molly!



AUCHENBLAЕ SURGERY

With the New Year just around the corner, it is always a good time to reflect on the year gone by.

We were all relieved at the beginning of the year to see that the impact of the swine flu pandemic was less than expected. This was at least in part due to the success of the National vaccination programme which was launched in 2009. We had a good uptake of the vaccination with most of the eligible patients receiving it.

In April, Kay Watson made the decision to leave the surgery for pastures new. Kay started work here in 1998 as receptionist and took over the position as Practice Manager when John Eddie retired in 2005. Kay's wide range of knowledge and bubbly personality is greatly missed by staff and patients. I have now taken up the post with the impossible task of 'filling her shoes'. But hopefully, with the continued support of a great team, the surgery will continue to move forward.

We also welcomed our two new receptionists to the team, Carole McRae who works mornings and Julie Colman, working in the afternoon. They have both settled in well and already feel like 'old hands'.

In July, we were delighted to see the return of Dr Claire Lindsay. Claire was on maternity leave after giving birth to a beautiful bouncy baby boy in September 2009. Claire is currently working her usual sessions, Tuesday mornings and Friday afternoons, as well as covering Dr Pirie's holiday and study leave.

In August, Dr Thomas Philip joined the surgery. Thomas is in his final year of GP training and works between the Auchenblae and Laurencekirk practices. He is already proving very popular with patients.

In September, we kick started our seasonal flu programme and the majority of patients have now received their vaccination. But for anyone who is pregnant, or suffers from any heart/lung problems or diabetes and has not yet received one then please contact the surgery to arrange an appointment with Carol, our Practice Nurse.

We have recently set up a new repeat prescription email service. Patients can now order repeat medications by email at: nhsg.auchenblaeprescription@nhs.net

Please ensure that your **name, address, date of birth, name and strength of medication** are on your email. You will then be sent an email as confirmation of receipt. Patients who do not have access to a computer can still order on our prescription line - 01561 321006.

We are currently working with NHS Grampian's IT team to update our website and hopefully this will be up and running by the New Year. Patients will be able to keep up to date with what is going on within the surgery and there will be a chance for patients to express any opinions/ideas on how services might be improved.

In conjunction with this, we will be trying to restart our Patient Participation Group (PPG). These groups can benefit both patients and practice by creating a better connection between the practice and its patients. We hope it will encourage open, constructive discussion and analysis of the services we provide. Anyone who is interested in participating and would like more information, please get in touch.

And finally, we will be closed on Monday 27th and Tuesday 28th December and then on Monday 3rd and Tuesday 4th January. Patients who require urgent advice on these dates should contact **NHS24 08454 242424**.

We would all like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Gillian Salter
Practice Manager

Church Fabric Fund

It is now just over a year since we started the coffee mornings in aid of the Church Fabric Fund and what a success it has been. In that time we have raised to date £2911.65 which goes to show how generous people have been at putting their hands in their pockets. I would like to say a big thank you to everybody that has supported this cause especially to the people that have held coffee mornings in their homes, some times at short notice and on some of the most miserable of days, and to the people who have contributed in the way of baking, raffle prizes and books for our book stall. There is a lot of time and effort put into it and I really appreciate the people that have given up their free time to do this. I hope that long and continued support will carry on. Our next coffee morning will be at Jenny Thomson's on 11th December. All welcome.

Carol Nelson

Standard opening hours for Household Waste and Recycling Centres

Household Waste and Recycling Centres across Aberdeenshire will be open at standard times from Monday 29 November. The new times are:

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday, 9.00am to 5.00pm
Tuesday, 9.00am to 8.00pm (late night opening)
Saturday & Sunday, 10.00am to 5.00pm

This change applies to sites at Banchory, Ellon, Fraserburgh, Huntly, Inverurie, Laurencekirk, Macduff, Peterhead, Stonehaven, Turriff and Westhill. Opening hours are unchanged at all other sites at present. For more details, including times for part time sites, please call Wasteline on 0845 600 3 900 or visit our web site at www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/waste.

Auchenblae Guild

We have had a successful start to the new season of Guild meetings. We have a number of different speakers lined up this year and meetings will be very enjoyable, as usual.

The Guild Christmas Party will be held on Wednesday 8th December in the Crown hotel, Laurencekirk.

Another important date is **Friday 10th December** when we hold our annual **Carols, Candles and Christmas Pies** celebration. Numbers attending this event are increasing and it is so nice to see the children being brought along. This is a far from solemn celebration of Christmas and we cordially invite you all to attend. Refreshments will be served at the end of the service and will include Christmas pies.

