

Dates for your diary

Christmas Shopping Night	Village Hall	26th November
Charity Fund Raiser	Clatterin' Brig	30th November
Heritage Society—"The Bell"	Village Hall	5th December
Community Assoc. Burns Supper	Village Hall	20th January 2012
Community Association Open House	Village Hall	29th January 2012

November 2011	December 2011	January 2012	February 2012
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March 2012	April 2012	May 2012	June 2012
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Auchenblae Messenger

Founded in 1999 by Donald B. Rennie

BUMPER CHRISTMAS EDITION!!

VOLUME 13, ISSUE 4

DECEMBER 2011

From The Editor

We really seem to have a bumper issue for you this time. Many thanks to all who have contributed. We couldn't do it without you. The production team are very grateful to all the people who are saying such nice things about us. Our aim is to please. As we come to the end of another year let us hope that we have a better winter than the last two, and a better summer next year. The next issue of The Messenger will be published at the end of March, 2012. Please send information to me by March 15th, to barbara_auch20002000@yahoo.co.uk

If you have information about happenings before then please give them to Ann Rennie at Mernis Howe, Inverurie Street for inclusion in the Memo.

I wish you all a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.
Barbara Strouts

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Candles, Carols & Pies
- Burns Night
- "The Bell"
- Christmas Shopping

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The Messenger Memo

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



Merry Christmas



Christmas..... Did you know?.....

The common abbreviation for Christmas to Xmas is derived from the Greek alphabet. X is letter Chi, which is the first letter of Christ's name in the Greek alphabet.

Oliver Cromwell, in England banned Christmas Carols between 1649 and 1660. Cromwell thought that Christmas should be a very solemn day so he banned carols and parties. The only celebration was by a sermon and a prayer service.

In 1643, the British Parliament officially abolished the celebration of Christmas.

The Puritans in America tried to make Thanksgiving Day the most important annual festival instead of Christmas.

Silent Night was written in 1818, by an Austrian priest Joseph Mohr. He was told the day before Christmas that the church organ was broken and would not be prepared in time for Christmas Eve. He was saddened by this and could not think of Christmas without music, so he wanted to write a carol that could be sung by choir to guitar music. He sat down and wrote three stanzas. Later that night the people in the little Austrian Church sang "Stille Nacht" for the first time.

St Francis of Assisi introduced Christmas Carols to formal church services.

Telesphorus, the second Bishop of Rome (125-136 AD) declared that public Church services should be held to celebrate "The Nativity of our Lord and Saviour." In 320 AD, Pope Julius I and other religious leaders specified 25 December as the official date of the birth of Jesus Christ. 26 December was traditionally known as St Stephen's Day, but is more commonly known as Boxing Day. This expression came about because money was collected in alms-boxes placed in churches during the festive season. This money was then distributed during to the poor and needy after Christmas.

In 1843, the first Christmas card was printed in England for Sir Henry Cole. He was busy man who wanted to save time in his own Christmas letters, but was also interested in encouraging the expansion of the postal system. 1000 copies of the card were sold at one shilling each. It was not until the 1860s that the production of cards accelerated, with cheaper printing methods. Then in 1870, the Post Office introduced a half penny stamp for sending cards.

".....British Parliament officially abolished the celebration of Christmas."

2nd Sunday in Advent: 'White Gift Sunday': 4th December

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

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

Carols, Candles & Christmas Pies

Friday, 9th December at 7pm in Auchenblae Church

3rd Sunday in Advent: 11th December

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

2.30pm: Carol Service at Queen Elizabeth Court, Fettercairn

4th Sunday in Advent: 18th December

Christmas Family Service with Nativity Play

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

CHRISTMAS EVE: Saturday 24th December

6.30pm: Auchenblae **Children's Carol Service**

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

CHRISTMAS DAY: Sunday, 25th December

11am: **United Christmas Day Service** at Glenbervie Church

CHRISTMAS 1: Sunday 1st January 2012

11am: United New Year's Day Service with short celebration of Holy Communion at Glenbervie Church.



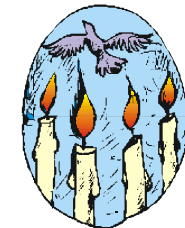
Auchenblae Guild Carols, Candles and Christmas Pies

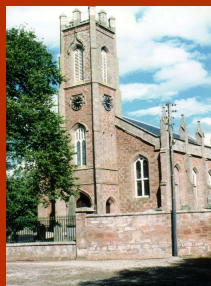
The members of the Auchenblae Guild are pleased to invite you all to our annual celebration of Christmas in Auchenblae Church on **Friday 9th December at 7.30pm.**

This is not a service, but a celebration of anything to do with Christmas. Thanks to Jenny the church always looks wonderful with all the candles and the Christmas tree.

Afterwards you are invited to join us for mulled wine, tea and coffee, not forgetting the Christmas pies.

If you are feeling jaded this is guaranteed to put you in the mood for the preparations and celebrations to come.





West Mearns Parish Church

**WORSHIP AT WEST MEARN'S PARISH CHURCH:
AUCHENBLAE, FETTERCAIRN, GLENBERVIE**

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS DIARY 2011

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.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

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

Saturday, 19th November

Auchenblae Guild Coffee Morning and Fashion Show at 10am at Auchenblae Village Hall

Guild Week: 20th – 27th November

Sunday 20th November: 9.30am at Fettercairn: Dedication of the Guild;

11am at Auchenblae: Sunday Worship

2.30pm Fettercairn Guild Service at Queen Elizabeth Court

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: Auchenblae Guild Service

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

Metelski's Stores

Opening hours for Christmas and New Year

Fri 23rd Dec	7am - 7pm	closed 1 - 2pm
Sat 24th Dec	8am - 5pm	closed 1 - 2pm
Sun 25th Dec	closed	
Mon 26th Dec	9am - 11am	
Tue 27th Dec	9am - 5.30pm	closed 1 - 2pm
Wed 28th Dec	8am - 5.30pm	closed 1 - 2pm
Thu 29th Dec	8am - 7pm	closed 1 - 2pm
Fri 30th Dec	7am - 7pm	closed 1 - 2pm
Sat 31st Dec	8am - 5.30pm	closed 1 - 2pm
Sun 1st Jan	9am - 11am	
Mon 2nd Jan	9.30am - 11am	
Tue 3rd Jan	9am - 5.30pm	closed 1 - 2pm
Wed 4th Jan	8am - 5.30pm	closed 1 - 2pm
Thu 5th Jan	7am - 7pm	closed 1 - 2pm

Thank you for your continued support.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.
From Angela, Ludi, Frances and Janick



Auchenblae Community Association

Village Flower Tubs

Thanks to all who have watered and cared for the Plant Tubs close to their homes – although the rain this summer ensured a plentiful supply of water! Your help is very much appreciated.

Diary Date:

Burns Supper – Friday 20th January

Auchenblae Community Association celebrates the birth of Robert Burns in the village hall on Friday 20th January. This sell out event is held only every second year and is anxiously awaited by our regular patrons - so make a note of the date in your diary now.

The traditional four course meal, prepared by the committee, will be followed by an excellent programme of entertaining speeches, song and music. Tickets cost £15 each and will be available in mid-December from **Jenny Thomson (320245)**.

As people are starting to make plans for the festive season which is nearly upon us, we would like to invite everyone to keep an eye out for the village Christmas tree which will be placed by the Bruce Memorial Fountain in the coming weeks. The Association will be decorating the tree and village hall with lights to add a bright spark to our now darker days.



The Association also would like to remind all the children there will be a very special guest visiting our village on the 24th of December at 17:00 hours. Santa will be stopping at our Grotto to say hello to all the girls and boys with a Christmas treat before he goes on his busy night ride.

Christmas Cards are available from Community Association. If you would like to purchase cards with images from the village in a snowy setting please let us know.

As we reach the end of the year we would like to wish everyone a;

Merry Festive Season and Happy New Year



".....very special guest visiting our village"

HALLOWEEN: Love it or hate it, Halloween is one of the most exciting nights for the children in Auchenblae. I love answering the door to find little people for their Treat or Treat, scary outfits, corny jokes and lots of fun. I took a photo of one very scary group.

Evelyn Richardson



NEARLY NEW SALE NEWS: This October saw the 12th Nearly New Sale in the Auchenblae Village Hall run by Isabelle Riddoch and Gillian Milne. Since the very first sale started back in 2007 the girls have raised in excess of £12,000 for various charities including the Friends of Carronhill, the Neo-natal unit in Aberdeen, BIRT, MS, Barnardos, Cash for Kids, The Archie foundation to name but a few and also to more local charities including Auchenblae School, Nursery, Playgroup, Scout Group and Laurencekirk Primary School.

Without the assistance of the many dedicated helpers who turn out to every sale, the event could not take place. A huge vote of thanks goes out to everyone who helps, in any way, to ensure the continued viability of the sales. Also, the understanding of the local villagers for the 2 hours during the sale itself is much appreciated. Most sales see an influx of over 100 buyers which obviously impacts greatly on the village. Auchenblae School kindly agreed to additional parking in their grounds and this is clearly signposted in the hopes that the public attending the sale park responsibly.

The sale is now a pretty well known event and attracts sellers and buyers from Aberdeen to Montrose. In these days when money is tight it is a great way to reuse and reduce waste while also raising money for lots of good causes too.

Looking forward to the next sale in March 2012.

Isabelle & Gillian

Auchenblae Bowling Club—Junior

Auchenblae Bowling Club Junior Bowlers end of season competition

Presentation of trophies took place on Monday 14th November 2011.

Congratulations to :

Winner Jamie Cree and Runner-up Robert MacEachern

All the juniors were enthusiastic and bowled well. It is hoped that they will continue to play next year and that more juniors will join them.



Cardio - balance Fitness Class

This class is held in the Jubilee Hall on Tuesday mornings from 9.30 to 10.30. It is open to all on a drop-in basis and costs £5 per class. It is suitable for different levels of fitness.

If you would like more details please contact

Julie Giles on 07766577168



Auchenblae Pre-School Group



Christmas Shopping Night
Saturday 26th November 7 – 9.30pm
Auchenblae Village Hall

£3 entry - includes a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie!
Get the Christmas shopping off to a flying start at many of our festive gift and craft stalls...

Decorations, Chocolates, Cards, Jewellery, Bags, Books, Stocking Fillers,
Candles, Cakes, Goodies and lots more...
Come and pamper yourself at our Nail Bar!

Registered Charity no SC021752

Auchenblae Parks Committee

We kindly request that care is taken when disposing of items at the recycling facility at the football pitch. On occasion debris is left lying about which is unsightly and offensive to others. Thank you.

Another message of thanks is due to the great many dog owners who pick up after their pets. We realise that they are in the majority and are let down by a few who are less responsible.

Access into the football pitch by a four wheel drive vehicle is causing some damage. Any information on the perpetrator will be treated in confidence.

The golf course remains open over winter, weather permitting. The pavilion is mostly unmanned with an honesty box in place for non-members wishing to play. Winter Rates apply.

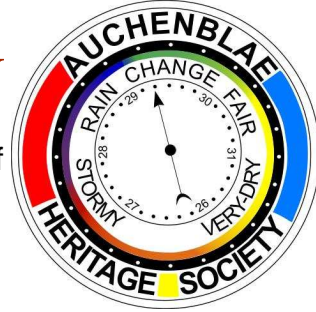
May we take this opportunity to wish the readers of The Messenger a Happy and Peaceful Festive Season. We look forward to welcoming you back to the Den and Golf Course in springtime.

Jenny Thomson—Correspondence Secretary

Auchenblae Heritage Society

The Society got off to a flying start for it's new season of talks on 5th September, when a packed church hall heard Dave Ramsay's informative and lively presentation on Robert Burns' father, William Burness of Glenbervie.

"THE BELL" On Monday 5th December at 7.30pm in the church hall, Auchenblae's very own historian, Jenny Thomson, will show a video and talk about the build up to the eve of The Millennium celebrations in the village, with particular reference to the refurbishment of the church bell's mechanism. It was in 1997 that the decision was taken to try and restore the rotted wooden wheel which allowed the bell to swing and so ring out once again. Local man, Bob Jamieson, with the help of Jenny's husband, Jimmy, completed the task, just in the nick of time on the last day of December 1999!. The video captures the atmosphere in the village and the build up to the successful and historic ringing-in of the new 21st Century. Not to be missed.



".....just in the nick of time!".

Auchenblae Community Association—Open House

The Auchenblae Community Association is hosting an open house on Sunday the 29th of January 2012 from 2-4 pm. We invite all the "Friends of the Association" to an afternoon Tea to say Thank You for supporting us throughout the year.

Everyone is welcome to come to have a cup of tea and find out what the Community Association does throughout the year; how funds raised are used to maintain the hall and about events that are organised by the Community Association. We want to find out what you would like to see in your village hall, what activities should we be promoting and how can we make the most of a beautiful building in our village.

If you would like to become a "Friend of the Association" and find out how you can participate in your community please come along and find out about the opportunities available. We rely greatly on the generous support of our "Friends" who; bake gorgeous cakes, help with serving in the refreshment tent at the Drumtochty Games, man various Gala stalls, organise Car Treasure Hunts and donate items to the raffles. There are some perks too, you can take part in the activities and share the fun.

We look forward to seeing you at our open house and sharing all the exciting activities planned for 2012.

Coffee Mornings

As some of you are aware there have been some regular Coffee Mornings in the village over the past few years. They are not big affairs, held in the village hall, but are held in private houses, especially the homes of Carol Nelson, Jenny Thomson and Ann Galbraith. They have a small army of willing helpers to assist. Very many thanks are due to all these ladies and to their long suffering husbands, who help out in a big way.



We enjoy the coffee, the very tasty eats and lots of chat. There is always a raffle, a book stall and also some nice goodies to buy for lunch or tea. They are a great social occasion. Jenny Thomson is holding the next one on December 17th at her home from 10.00am to 12noon. The whole point of these very enjoyable get togethers is to raise urgently needed money for the Church fabric fund. The total raised so far is a magnificent £3985.15. Next time you see one advertised on the notice board do come and give it a try. I promise you that you will enjoy it.



DID YOU KNOW..... Coffee was first consumed as early as the 9th century, when it appeared in the highlands of Ethiopia. From Ethiopia, it spread to Egypt and Yemen, and by the 15th century had reached Persia, Turkey, and northern Africa. From the Muslim world, coffee spread to Italy, then to the rest of Europe and the Americas. Today, coffee is one of the most popular beverages worldwide.

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

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

We are now pleased to be able to offer you a 'How to Drug Proof your Kids' course in your area.



This is a community based course developed by the national charity, "Care for the Family". It gives parents the information and skills they need to encourage their children to have a responsible attitude towards drugs including cigarettes and alcohol and steer them away from their harmful use.

The DPYK course will be run by two local trained facilitators and will last for 6 two hour sessions.

This is what other parents have said about the DPYK course – "Great! I learnt a lot and really enjoyed it", "I really enjoyed this course and found it very valuable" another "This course should be made compulsory for all parents" and finally "The course is absolutely 1st class". Visit www.dpyk.org.uk or contact me on the number below for more information.

I am hoping to run a daytime course (time and venue to be confirmed) in the local area in January/February 2012. To register your interest please contact **Trish MacEachern on 01561 321263**

Auchenblae Friendship Group



"....but most of all we offer friendship"

The group has now been going for over 11 years. It is amazing that in that time, although we have lost some members, our membership has stayed very much the same. We must be doing something right.

Do come and join us if you are at a loose end. If you have recently moved to the village give us a try. We are mainly pensioners but we are open to any one who has time to fill. We meet in the Church hall on Wednesday mornings from 10.00am - 12 noon. We offer a variety of activities, but most of all we offer friendship. If you would like further information please phone **Barbara on 01561 320911**.

Barbara Strouts

Auchenblae Guild

The Auchenblae Guild is a thriving gathering. We meet on the third Wednesday of the month, usually in the Church hall at 2.30pm. We have a variety of speakers who talk on many different topics from say, HIV programmes in Africa to local environmental issues.

Our December meeting takes the form of a Christmas Lunch at the Crown in Laurencekirk on Wednesday 14th December at 12.30pm, always very enjoyable. Prior to that is our Christmas celebration Carols, Candles and Christmas Pies, in Church on Friday 9th December at 7.30pm.

"....Christmas Lunch at the Crown"

I have said it before, and will no doubt say it again, but we are no longer an exclusively women's guild. Indeed, in Auchenblae, we already have one fully paid up male member. The national secretary of the guild is also a man and he will be the speaker at the local guild rally in May next year.

Do come and give us a try for stimulating meetings, and above all fellowship.

AUCHENBLAE SURGERY

Closing dates

Monday 26th Dec, Tuesday 27th Dec, Monday 3rd Jan, Tuesday 4th Jan

During these days the surgery will be closed all day but for urgent medical advice then please call NHS24 on 08454 24 24 24.

Donation

We would like to thank Caroline McNicoll and the 'Friends of the Courtyard' for kindly donating a cheque of £350. We are using this generous donation to purchase a new spirometer (a machine that measures patients lung function), as the current one is in desperate need of an upgrade. So thanks again to everyone who contributed.

Car-park

We would ask all parents to discourage their children from playing in the car park. The car park can be very busy, with poor visibility in these darker nights.

Website

Our new website is now up and running, and as well as finding up to date information regarding the surgery, patients can also order repeat prescriptions and request telephone appointments. It is still in its infancy but already proving very popular, however we do welcome any comments from patients that may help to improve it further.

www.auchenblaesurgery.co.uk

Staff

Congratulations to Dr Thomas Philip who qualified in July. We wish him all the success in his new position at Carden Medical Practice, Aberdeen. And our congratulations also go to Dr Claire Lindsay on the birth of her son, Hamish on 28th May. Dr Lindsay will be returning to work around March 2012. As there is no training doctor with us this year and Dr Lindsay is off on maternity leave we have welcomed Dr Joanna Green, who is working with us till August 2012. Dr Green has surgery sessions on Tuesdays and Fridays.

(You can find out more topics of information regarding the surgery in our quarterly newsletters, either request through our website or ask at reception.)

The staff at Auchenblae Surgery would like to wish all our patients and their families a very merry Christmas and a Healthy New Year.



Found—Once again I have found at our front door a nice little black package tied up with a loving knot and two nice handles for carrying. Also some white ones thrown over the hedge, again Tied with a loving knot and two nice handles for carrying.

If the owner could collect at their leisure, Or can be delivered to your door handle free of charge.
BJ

Auchenblae Guides



Guides , Brownies , Scouts , Cubs , Beavers and their Leaders attended church for Remembrance Day and paraded their unit flags alongside the Union Flag. We had a good procession walk with the flags up Gilberts Hill to lay the Poppy wreath at the war memorial. Photo shows the flag bearers and the wreath bearer.

Guides will be doing their Christmas card delivery service again this year .This is a fund raiser for the unit but also covers part of their Guide programme.

To be of Service . Please check village notice board for start date , collecting boxes will be in Metelskis shop and we will also provide one in the church hall.

Guiding team ; Evelyn ,Laura , Allana and Heather



A Window in Kinneff

A charity fund raising event will take place on St Andrew's night at the Clatterin' Brig, Fettercairn, under the banner of a Touch of Tartan, where guests are invited to wear an item of tartan, to celebrate Scottish culture and heritage.

The evening meal and concert, organised by Catterline singer / songwriter Dave Ramsay, is part of a wider fund raising programme to support the restoration of the windows at the Old Church Kinneff. All proceeds from the evening will go to the Kinneff Old Church Preservation Trust to support their work in this important restoration.

The Old Church at Kinneff, has a unique and important place in Scottish history, as this was the site where the Scottish Regalia, the crown the sword, and the sceptre were hidden, after they were smuggled from Dunnottar Castle in 1651 where Cromwell had placed the castle under siege. A daring plan involving the minister's wife meant that the Scottish Regalia were smuggled from the castle, and concealed and safeguarded in secret for nine years, beneath the floor of the Old Church, by the Reverend Grainger and his wife.

Local businesses have generously sponsored this event, with Gregor Waite of Charles McHardy butchers Stonehaven, sponsoring the haggis, Neil Gammie, Fernieflatt Farm, Kinneff, sponsoring the neeps and tatties and the shortbread being sponsored by a world brand name.

The guest speaker for the St Andrew's address will be Nigel Don MSP, and a top table of invited guests and a capacity audience of 70 people can look forward to a great evening of Scottish food and entertainment.

Entertainment will be provided by Geordie Murison, the legendary bothy ballad performer, Dave Ramsay, Ray Milne, Tony Peters from the Preservation Trust, and the accomplished young fiddler, Ross Hull.

A compilation CD called a Window in Kinneff, will also be available on the evening, and this collections of songs and stories about Kinneff and the Old Church, has been produced by Dave Ramsay, and will also help to boost the restoration funds.

Tony Peters, Secretary of the Kinneff Old Church Preservation Trust said: We are delighted to be working with Dave in this fund raising event. The Old Church has suffered severely over the last two winters and the six windows facing the sea have to be repaired urgently before they disintegrate completely and cause substantial damage to the fabric of the historic Old Church. Over the next few months we are endeavouring to raise over £30,000 to cover the necessary work.

Tickets priced £12 are available from the Shell Hoosie, Stonehaven, Metelski, Auchenblae, the Fettery Shoppe, Fettercairn, The Clatterin' Brig or direct from Dave on 01569 - 750730

All proceeds to The Kinneff Old Church Preservation Trust