



# Auchenblae Messenger

Founded in 1999 by Donald B. Rennie

*Christmas Edition*

VOLUME 15, ISSUE 4

December 2013



## From The Editor

I find it hard to believe that we are almost at the end of another year. November 23rd marks 15 years since I moved to Auchenblae. It really was one of the best decisions I have ever made. Thank you for making me feel so much at home here.

As we move into winter let us hope that the weather is kinder to us than the last three years.

As you can see there really is a lot happening in the coming weeks. I hope you will join in as much as possible.

I will be collecting for the next edition of the Messenger from the beginning of February so that I have it all by the 15th. Please send to me at [barpollybar@gmail.com](mailto:barpollybar@gmail.com)

A Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year to you all.

Barbara

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### Inside this issue:

Friendship Group	2
Rainbows & Guides	5
Guild	6
Heritage Soc.	7
Community Assoc.	8
Church	12
Parks Comm.	15

## Messenger & Memo Distribution

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**

## Memo Date

The Next Memo is scheduled for February 2014 if you have any upcoming event dates please send them to :

**[auchenblae\\_memo@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:auchenblae_memo@hotmail.co.uk)** or call Lindsay on **01561 320242**.

by 10th January 2014

*“....join with  
others for a  
cuppie”*



## Auchenblae Friendship Group

Weather permitting we will continue to meet on Wednesday mornings during school term time. We have welcomed quite a few new members recently but we still have room for more. We are there for anyone who has free time on a Wednesday and would like to join with others for a cuppie, a blether and some form of entertainment. If you wish to know more phone **Barbara at 320911**.

## Auchenblae Senior Citizens

Any ladies 60 years or over or men 65 years or over who reside in the village and would like to be remembered at Christmas, please call 320383 or call in at Allenbank House. Please do so as soon as possible after reading this notice.

If you attended our Easter meal in 2012 I already have your name on my list.

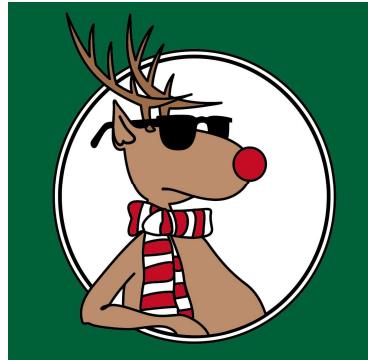
M. Jamieson

## Cake, Coffee & Candles Morning

Thank you to Isabelle for the cake, coffee and candles morning. Money raised was around £200 to be split between Auchenblae School, Scouts and Guides. With the support of the village this is brilliant result.

A thank you to the school children, village and Isabelle for collecting the bags2school now. We have a fantastic grand total of £325.00.

Also thank you to those who donate arts and crafts, wool and fabric.



# Auchenblae Drama Group presents

## BLOOD BROTHERS



a play by  
**Willie Russell**

**6th & 7th December 2013**

**Auchenblae Village Hall**

**Adults: £6.00 Concession £4.00**

**Tickets from: Judith 01561 320222**

## Carols, Candles & Christmas Pies

**Friday 6th December—7.00 p.m. for 7.30 p.m.**

This service is open to everyone and you are warmly invited to attend.

The Evening is held to herald Advent and by way of celebration, Auchenblae Church will be seasonally decorated with flickering candles throughout.

To the wonderful accompaniment of Helen Doig on the organ, come and sing your favourite carols in this truly special and memorable ambience.



The church will be open from 7.00 p.m. to allow time to soak up the atmosphere before singing starts at 7.30 p.m.

We also hope to have a guest instrumentalists to add to the pleasure of the occasion.

Mince pies, shortbread, mulled wine and soft drinks will be provided and served by ladies of the guild at the end of the evening.

There will be a voluntary 'retiral offering' at the end of the evening.

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## Auchenblae Coffee Morning and Fashion Show

A coffee morning with a difference will see local ladies take on the role of models for your entertainment. If this appeals to you, then Auchenblae Village Hall is the place to be on Saturday 23rd. November!

Now in its eleventh year this 'special' event held by Auchenblae Guild, is again indebted to Carrie Murdoch of Encore Dress Agency who personally selects outfits for each model ranging from casual to formal.

It really is a particularly relaxing and enjoyable way to spend a morning with stalls including Savoury/Produce; Books; Fair Trade and an interesting raffle by way of distraction.

You are welcome to come and go as you please, or indeed to sit throughout the entire show. Entry is £3.50 (primary school £1.50) and as usual in Auchenblae style 'the kettle will be on' from 10am till noon.

## Auchenblae Rainbows

Sarah McArthur , who reopened Auchenblae Rainbows is leaving us to move with her family to California. Her Rainbows had a leaving party and gave her a gift to remember her time with them.



## Auchenblae Guides



### CHRISTMAS CARD DELIVERY

The Guides will be doing their delivery service in the village for the 2 weeks before Christmas.

Please look out for the posting box in the Shoppe from 9<sup>th</sup> December – first delivery will be 11<sup>th</sup>.

This is partly a fundraiser but also give the Guides an opportunity to do a community service that is part of Guiding programme.

# Auchenblae Guild

After a really hectic Guild Week in November things are getting back to normal. On Friday 6th December we are holding our annual Carols, Candles and Christmas Pies. See the intimation elsewhere in this issue.

*“....The guild is no longer a meeting of Wifies only”*

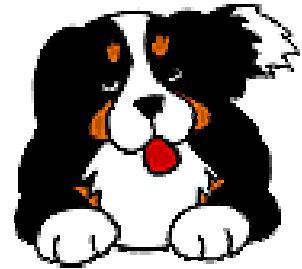
Our monthly Guild Meeting takes the form of our Christmas Lunch on Wednesday 11th December at the Crown at Laurencekirk, an event to be looked forward to with great anticipation.

Our January meeting will be a Scottish Stovies Lunch. We will be entertained by a Box of Memories.

We are open to all. The guild is no longer a meeting of Wifies only. We do have some male members in Auchenblae.

## Dogs

Thanks are due to most dog walkers. There is a marked improvement in the state of pavements and paths. However, there are still one or two people who are not cleaning up. Come on. It only takes seconds.



# Auchenblae Heritage Society

The attached photos show Ian Williamson giving his introduction about how 78 rpm records were made. The next is Bill Pirie and his "Horn" gramophone, and the third is a general view of the audience having their tea break.

On Monday 2nd September, the Heritage Society's first talk got off to a great musical start by playing a selection of old 78 rpm records, originally rescued from the skip by Sheena Auld

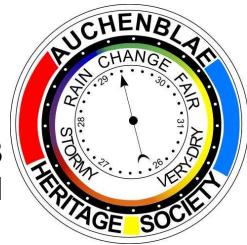
Ian Williamson gave an introduction on the history of how these old shellac records were made, which included the use of a microscope where the varying fluctuations of the groove in the plastic/vinyl could easily be seen.

Bill Pirie, with the help of Ian Cowie and Tom Welsh played these records on five different wind-up gramophones.

Malcolm McCoig introduced each record by giving a short biography of the performers, ranging from Jimmy Shand to Will Fyffe; Willie Kemp to Harry Belafonte. "Mrs Elrick's wee son Goerge" sang, Neeps Tae Pluck and the evening ended with a rousing virtuoso performance of Rimsky-Korsakov's, "Flight of the Bumble Bee" by trumpet player, Harry James.

This was an excellent example of members of the committee working as a team to provide a memorable night.

Next meeting is on **Monday 2nd December** when Dr David Walker of Aberdeen University will give an illustrated talk on The Development of the Country House in North Aberdeenshire.



# Auchenblae Community Association

The **Community Association** would like to remind all the children that a very special guest will be visiting our village on **Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December at 5pm**. Santa will be stopping at our Grotto to say hello to all the girls and boys with a Christmas treat before flying off to get ready for Christmas Eve.



**Auchenblae Community Association** wish to thank all who contributed to a successful year, both by their donations and attendance of the many fund raising events. Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year.

## AUCHENBLAE BURNS SUPPER

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January**

**7pm for 7.30pm**

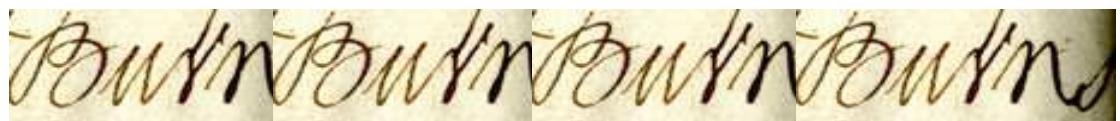
**Auchenblae Village Hall**



A full complement of excellent speakers will amuse and entertain. Traditional format will be followed with musical interludes.

Tickets cost £17.50 and include a four course meal. This is a BYOB event – so come prepared!

As demand is always high, reserve your tickets now. Please contact **Jenny on 320245**.

A large, handwritten signature of the name "Burns" in a cursive, flowing script. The signature is repeated four times in a row, with each "Burns" slightly overlapping the previous one.

## Auchenblae Vintage Calendar

A calendar for 2014 showing scenes of the village is now on sale, with proceeds going to Auch-enblae Church fabric fund.

Each month's photograph has been taken from a collection of vintage postcards owned by Jenny Thomson, the earliest dating back to 1904.

The calendar clearly shows that the main artery of the village comprising: Burnett Street; Monboddo Street; Kintore Street; High Street and Inverurie Street has changed little over the years. However, it is plain to see that the people in these images and their modes of transport come from another era.

Many of the buildings too have changed very little while others have disappeared altogether, not least the whisky bonds and distillery, near the Den. In this particular photograph taken in 1907, a crowd can be seen gathered in the square before the erection of the Bruce fountain some three years later.

The calendar, priced £6.00, gives a fascinating insight into village life in bygone days and copies can be purchased at The Old Post Office Tearoom & Shoppe in the village or can be ordered by phoning Jenny on 320245.

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## Informal Coffee Morning

There will be a coffee morning at Linwood on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December, in aid of church fabric funds. It will start around 10am and finish at 12.30ish!

A special guest on this occasion will be Miss Helen Scott from Inverbervie who will have reached her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday that week. Nurse Scott was district nurse in Auchenblae for many, many years and lived in the Nurse's house opposite Millarton, in the High Street.

It is hoped that Helen's friend, and our very own Miss Mary Craig, will also manage to be there as she will have celebrated her 103<sup>rd</sup> birthday that week.

This is a very informal get together and anyone is welcome to drop in and also to help.

There will be a small savoury produce stall etc., plus a new acquisition of books and the obligatory raffle, with all proceeds going to the church fabric fund.

Entry will be £3.00 with any children half price – or less.

In Association with the Auchenblae Drama Group

*Cindy Douglas*  
presents

# EAT to the BEAT

POP UP JAZZ SUPPER CLUB

[www.cindydouglas.co.uk](http://www.cindydouglas.co.uk)  
[www.facebook.com/eattothebeatjazz](http://www.facebook.com/eattothebeatjazz)

*"Singer led jazz with  
a smile on its face"*

THE MUSICIAN



photography by Peter Maries

SATURDAY  
**23**  
NOVEMBER  
**7.30pm**

Auchenblae Village Hall,  
TICKETED EVENT, £25 (inc. 2 Course Dinner)  
Gourmet dinner prepared by The Wicked Chef  
Licensed

Tickets available from [www.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk) or visit [www.facebook.com/eattothebeatjazz](http://www.facebook.com/eattothebeatjazz) for other sellers

or Call Kevin on  
**320471** to reserve  
tickets.



# The Maggie Law Maritime Museum

*presents*

## A Gala Charity Fund Raising Event

To raise funds to purchase the Visit Scotland brown tourist signs sited on the A92 for The Maggie Law Maritime Museum

*at The Village Hall, Gourdon*

*on St Andrew's Night*

**Saturday 30th November 2013 - 7.15 for 7.30pm**

*Guests are invited to wear a "Touch of Tartan"*

*Guest speaker for St Andrew's Night speech:*

**Alex Johnstone MSP**

*Whisky Tasting Session: "The Angel's Share" by*

**David Doig, Distillery Manager**

**Fettercairn Distillery and Tamnavoulin Distillery Speyside**

**Grand Charity Auction**

*Entertainment by*

**Dave Ramsay, Ray Milne & Tom Roberts**

*Catering by the Old Post Office Tearoom, Auchenblae*

*Licenced bar by Bruce and Debbie, the Harbour Bar, Gourdon*

*7.00pm – midnight*

***Tickets on sale here-Price £18***





## **WORSHIP AT WEST MEARNS PARISH CHURCH: AUCHENBLAE, FETTERCAIRN, GLENBERVIE**

### **ADVENT & CHRISTMAS DIARY 2013**

**Sunday Worship:** 9.30am at Fettercairn every Sunday

11am at Glenbervie on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month

11am at Auchenblae all other Sundays in the month

All welcome. Sunday School for the children at all three churches.

### **GUILD WEEK: 17<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> November**

2013 sees the 125<sup>th</sup> Birthday of the Church of Scotland Guild. We celebrate this anniversary with two special united services to which all are welcome – not just Guild members past and present, though you are especially invited and welcome.

**Sunday, 17<sup>th</sup> November: 11am,** United Service at Fettercairn,

followed by a light Guild Birthday lunch in Fettercairn Church Hall. All welcome.

### **Saturday, 23<sup>rd</sup> November:**

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

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November: 11am,** United Service at Auchenblae,

involving members of the Guild. All welcome.

2.30pm Fettercairn Guild Service at Queen Elizabeth Court

**CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL:** Fettercairn Church: **Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> November**, 10am – 4pm; and **Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> December**, 11am – 4pm. The Christmas Tree exhibition is in the Church, the Christmas Fair and teas are in the Village Hall. On Saturday there will be a soup and sweet lunch in the Village Hall.

### **ADVENT SUNDAY**

**Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup> December:** Services: **9.30am** at Fettercairn (come and worship in the midst of a wonderful forest of Christmas trees; **11am** at Glenbervie.

## Carols, Candles & Christmas Pies

Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm in Auchenblae Church. Come and celebrate this special time of preparation for Christmas so we may better know 'the reason for the season' (and be less stressed!).

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent: 'White Gift Sunday': 8<sup>th</sup> December

Services: **9.30am** at Fettercairn; **11am** at Auchenblae.

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

6.30pm at Fettercairn: a short, gentle "**Hard to be Merry this Christmas**" service recognising that for many there is special sadness at this time of year.

### Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> December: Sunday School Party

2 – 4.30pm at Auchenblae Church Hall



### 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent: 15<sup>th</sup> December

Services: **9.30am** at Fettercairn; **11am** at Auchenblae.

2.30pm: Carol Service at Queen Elizabeth Court, Fettercairn

6.30pm: Carol Service in Drumlithie Village Hall

### 4th Sunday in Advent: 22<sup>nd</sup> December

Services: **9.30am** at Fettercairn; **11am** at Auchenblae.

Christmas Family Service with Nativity Play

### CHRISTMAS EVE: Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> December

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

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

### CHRISTMAS DAY: Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> December

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

### CHRISTMAS 1: Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> December

Services: **9.30am** at Fettercairn; **11am** at Auchenblae.

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



## Nothing to do in Auchenblae?

Along with many other villagers I attended a meeting in the Village Hall regarding the proposed building of a hotel, tearoom and farmshop along the Glen Road. Speakers were many and varied. Reasons were given for and against the proposal. One pro speaker indicated that as there is nothing to do in Auchenblae and nowhere to meet for a drink with friends, families are planning to leave or have already left the village.

May I suggest the following?

The Community Association arranges many events such as the Pub Nights and the Curry Nights, the Gala week and the Art Show, an opportunity for artists to display and sell their paintings and for all to enjoy tea or coffee and home bakes.

The Church has Sunday services after which there is an opportunity for fellowship over a cup of tea or coffee in the Church Hall where there is also an opportunity to buy or order Fairtrade articles.

The Church Guild has monthly meetings for all - no need to be a Church member.

On Wednesday mornings in school term time the Friendship Group meets and everyone at leisure then is invited along.

For older people there is a weekly Lunch Club, also in term time, open to everyone in the village.

There is an excellent Drama Group with opportunities for budding actors, stage managers, prompters, wardrobe mistresses, scene painters, stage hands and who knows what else.

There is a Writing Group.

There is a flourishing Tennis Club with coaching for the young people.

There is a Bowling Club for adults.

There are Guides, Brownies and Rainbows and Scouts, Cubs and Beavers.

The School also organises activities, a high spot being the annual Daffodil Fair.

The village already has a well stocked shop where customers' requests are seriously considered and a Tearoom serves light lunches as well as teas and coffees.

We are lucky to have our own Surgery with Dispensary and access to Physiotherapy and Podiatry at our own request.

Finally, the well stocked Mobile Library comes to the village every Monday morning with two stops. It has an excellent children's section much enjoyed by the delightful tots from the Playgroup (I think).

**AND THERE IS NOTHING TO DO IN AUCHENBLAE? Please think again!**

# Auchenblae Parks Committee



Well, what a year it has been!

After the devastation in the Den following the Christmas floods, a massive task faced the Committee to repair the damage. However, an appeal to the community to lend support, both physical and financial, enabled a transformation to take place.

An amazing 80 people arrived to the Den Work Day, and an incredible amount of work was achieved. It was wonderful to see the community pull together to kick start the reinstatement of our much loved Den.

Since then Auchenblae has been very fortunate to receive significant financial support from MacPhie of Glenbervie, C&S Smith and Aberdeenshire Council to help fund necessary work.

In September, civil engineering contractors carried out further flood damage repairs and more importantly, flood prevention measures, to hopefully avoid destruction to the same extent in the future.

Sincere thanks must go to everyone who contributed in so many different ways.

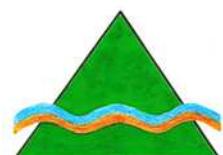
During this year's long and sunny summer the Den was much enjoyed by locals and visitors, and it was wonderful to see the play areas, tennis courts, putting green and woodland walks being appreciated by so many.

The golf course has also seen improvements, with considerable drainage work funded by a grant from Tullo Wind Farm. This allows the course to remain playable even during inclement weather. Members and visitors have commented on the excellent playing conditions.

The next few months will be quieter, however much thought will be given to 2014 and the projects we hope to undertake.

Auchenblae is very fortunate to own such great facilities as the golf course, football pitch and the Den. These areas are all managed and maintained by Auchenblae Parks Committee, which is made up of volunteers from the village and surrounding area. If you would like to get involved, our AGM is in February, and we would be delighted to welcome new members with fresh ideas and enthusiasm. Please look out for posters nearer the time.

In the meantime, Auchenblae Parks Committee wishes all members of our community a merry Christmas and a happy and healthy 2014.



## Dates for your diary

Eat to the Beat—music & dining	Village Hall	23rd November
ADG play—“Blood Brothers”	Village Hall	6th & 7th December
Carols, Candles & Christmas Pies	Church	6th December
Informal Coffee Morning	Linwood	14th December
Burns Supper	Village Hall	24th January 2014



## Old Post Office Tearoom & Shoppe

Kintore Street, Auchenblae

Tel. 01561 320 660



**David Jones and his staff wish all of their customers a very  
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.**

Thank you for all your custom throughout the year and we look forward to seeing you during 2014.

We are very pleased to be able to offer festive lunches and dinners throughout December . Please contact us for full details or find us on Facebook

**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**— Lindsay Cochrane

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