



Founded in 1999 by Donald B. Rennie

## Christmas Edition

VOLUME 17, ISSUE 4

DECEMBER 2015

## From The Editor

I first came to live here 17 years ago in November. I was made to feel welcome immediately and I was amazed to receive an invitation to the senior citizens Christmas Lunch where I met so many people. I was soon involved with The Messenger, typing out articles and putting them on to floppy discs. How times have changed. So much easier now. Thank you to all of you for your support. You say such nice things about us.

I will be collecting for the next edition in mid February. I can be reached at [barpollybar@gmail.com](mailto:barpollybar@gmail.com) A Happy Christmas to you all.

Barbara

P.s—apologies from Kevin, the publisher, he is having to work away from home at the moment and this edition is a few days late as a result.

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## Memo Date

The Next Memo is scheduled for February 2015 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 20th January

## 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 Halloween Scare Fest was a huge hit !

Thank you to the many helpers involved in the setting up, supervising, jelly making , baking & clear up, many hands really did make light work.

Well done Georgina on winning the huge toy hamper

Our next event is on the **6th Dec 1:30pm until 4pm** and will see a huge amount of magic in the Village Hall

### **"Winter Wonderland"**

Come along and meet Santa, Mrs Claus & Elf 1 -2 & 3

This is a donation only price offering a lot of outdoor fun ! snowballs grass & tree's inside !! we will also be selling tea, coffee & cake and as a run up spectacular we have a huge hamper containing:

A tablet , huge dinosaur , perfume, wine, chocolate, bubble bath and lots of little extras.  
Everyone is welcome to this event ( young & young at heart)

A reminder that there is a clothing re-cycle bank in the staff car park.

The Education Enterprise Stall will be at the Village Hall Christmas Market on 27th Nov , selling Driftwood trees, reindeers and more.

A huge thank you to Auchenblae Stores & Tea Shop for housing & selling our Driftwood items along with Clatterin Brigg. Your support is amazing.

Watch this space for a family Burns Supper !

Thank you  
Auchenblae Primary School Parent Council

### **Auchenblae Community defibrillator**

You all may have noticed that the Telephone box has had a coat of red paint, the cabinet has been installed and the signage has been replaced round the top of the telephone box to now say "Defibrillator" as opposed to "Telephone". We have a slight technical issue holding up the go live date but hopefully this will be remedied by the time you are reading this. There is a Facebook page if anyone is interested, it will be where I post any information/ pictures and notices for Heart Start classes, and it's easily found by searching: "Auchenblae Community Defib". Thanks again to all who have contributed to getting this up and running.

Mark

## Auchenblae Guild

We are now settling well into our new season. We have learnt about our new projects, heard an eye-opening illustrated talk on the ladies making bags in Calcutta to rescue them from a life on the streets and listened to a very amusing talk by Douglas Lamb on this year's theme, "Go in peace"

By time you read this we will have had our annual coffee morning in aid of Guild Week and the Guild Service. Our next get together will be Carols, Candles and Christmas Pies on Friday 11th December at 7.30 in Church. We would like to welcome as many of you as possible at this really uplifting event. The Church will be beautiful, thanks to Jenny.

On Wednesday 16th December we will enjoy our Christmas Lunch at the Bistro In Auchenblae. Our January meeting will be on Wednesday 20th and will take the form of a winter lunch. We really do other things as well as eat. New faces are always welcome.

We wish all our readers the peace that the season brings

## West Mearns Parish Church

Christmas will soon be upon us. Maybe that word "upon" is just too apposite! For many folk Christmas can be a veritable burden. In all sorts of ways. We can be caught up in crazy consumerism. We can be bowed down with anxiety - what would the children like?; what do we get for a difficult relation?; what if the delivery of that something special doesn't arrive in time? Questions, questions. The list could go on. Then maybe there's the burden of a certain sadness: someone who is missing from the family on account of death or maybe just distance. That list could go on. Christmas can be a burden. Physically too as we maybe eat and drink too much with dinners and parties!

Part of the real meaning of Christmas is to lighten and even remove our burdens, "Come unto me and I will give you rest" said Christ. The promise of a better and brighter life such as we often lose in our ordinary living. Yes, Christmas is about the coming of light for our darkness, about removing our anxieties, aye, our guilt; about lifting us up to a new humanity.; of setting us on a new way of love and peace, with an eternal glorious goal at the end of all our striving.

Douglas Lamb

"O come all ye faithful"

Some Church Services this Christmas in West Mearns

Friday 11th - 7.30p.m/ Fordoun Kirk (Auchenblae) Carols, Candles and  
Christmas Pies

Friday 18th - 9.30a.m. Auchenblae School Service

Thurs 24th - 6.30p.m.Christmas Eve Service: Fordoun Kirk (Auchenblae)

Thurs 24th - 11.30 p.m. Christmas Eve Service Fettercairn Kirk with carols  
from 11.15 p.m.

Friday 25th - 11.00a.m. Christmas Day Service: Glenbervie 11.00a.m.

Christmas is the day that holds all time together. Alexander Smith

After all Christmas is but a big love affair to remove the wrinkles of the year with kindly remembrance. John Wanamaker

# Auchenblae Friendship Group

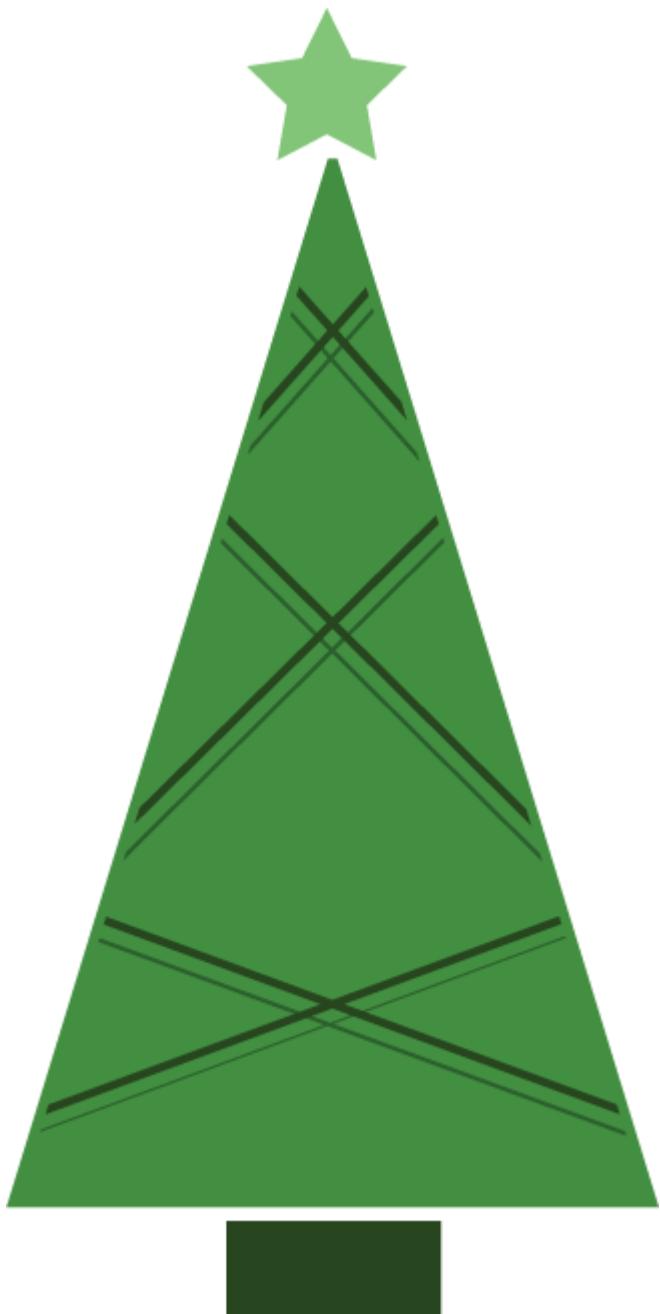


We continue to thrive and really enjoy our weekly meetings. A good time is had by all. We have had a really special treat this session. Rhianna, a girl in Primary 7 has been baking cakes for us. They really are delicious. So much talent in one so young!

Our Christmas Party is on Wednesday 23rd December a real sing-a-long of Christmas songs and carols.

Our meetings after Christmas are very weather dependent. We hope to be able to meet each Wednesday morning but if there is thick snow or ice around we do have to cancel, albeit reluctantly.

We send Christmas greetings to you all



## YULETIDE STILL

Across the Mearns, tired skies  
burn from amber to gold,  
A departing Sun slowly dips  
behind sleepy hills.

Across the Mearns, at peace  
on Christmas Eve,  
All is silent, all is still.

Oh! how I savour the peace  
and gentle still of Christmas Eve,  
When in the twilight hours,  
A lone bell tolls the hour,  
Calling the goodly folk of the  
Mearns to their church on a hill  
in a field of flowers.

Across the Mearns, at peace  
on Christmas Eve,  
All is silent, all is still.

In the Mearns homely nooks,  
Little children safe to their warm  
cosy beds sleep tight;  
Their faces mirror the joy of  
Christmas that embraces to bless  
this Holy night.

In celebration of the Christ child's  
birth in a humble stable,  
Across the Mearns, at peace  
on Christmas Eve,  
All is silent, all is still.

On Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> November, the latest Nearly New Sale was held at the Village Hall by Isabelle Riddoch and Gillian Milne. With the help and support of a group of friends, the girls have been running these sales in Auchenblae since 2007. This year, they have finally decided to hang up their hats as their own children are growing older and the time is right to pass the sale on to a new, younger group of organisers.

Over the last 8 years, the girls have run 21 sales and raised almost £21,000 for various local and national charities. In addition to raising cash for charity, the sales allow families to recycle and purchase a vast array of good quality nearly new items for very competitive prices. The sale fully supports the concept of re-using and re-cycling.

Over the years the charities supported have ranged from national charities such as; Multiple Sclerosis Society, Motor Neurone Disease Scotland, Cancer Research UK to more local charities such as: Archie Foundation, Maggie's Centre, Cash for Kids, Fighting for Sight, Aberdeen Royal Infirmary. The girls have also made donations of resources and cash to all the village groups over the years including both

Laurencekirk and Auchenblae Primary Schools, Auchenblae Nursery and Pre-School Group, the local Scout and Guide groups, the OAP Christmas Lunch fund and the Church clock appeal, to name but a few.

For this final sale, the chosen charity was SNAC; Scottish Network for Arthritis in Children. JIA (Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis) affects about one in every thousand under 16s yet most people don't even know that

kids can get arthritis. SNAC was set up by parents of kids with JIA to provide support and information for families affected by the condition. Three families in the village have children who suffer from the condition. Isabelle and Gillian have thoroughly enjoyed running the sales and are very proud to have been able to raise this amount of money to support local and national charities, which have all meant something to them personally or to those close to them. They would like to thank all the helpers who have supported them in their venture over the years, without whose help the sales would not have been possible

It is hoped that the sales will continue to run in the village under the stewardship of new organisers and Isabelle and Gillian would like to wish them all the very best for the future.

Picture 1: Gillian and Isabelle and their band of helpers after the Sale on Saturday

Picture 2: Gillian and Isabelle with flowers presented to them as a token of appreciation for running the sales.





## APSG News

We have come back to a busy Term 2, filled with lots of activities and crafts, we have had fun with Halloween, been looking at fireworks and bonfire safety. We are away to start making our Christmas Crafts for the Craft Fayre on 27th November. Before we truly enter the madness and magic of Christmas, we will be looking at St Andrew, celebrating the day on 30th November.

## Bonus Ball

Recently 10 more balls were added to the National Lottery with the numbers increasing from 49 to 59. The person who wins receives 75 of the takings so, if all the numbers are sold, this means your winnings will now be £44.25 with £14.75 going to raise money for APSG. If the winning number was not sold there will be a rollover. If anyone would like a pre-paid number please contact Jacqui McAlister on [jacquiparker@hotmail.com](mailto:jacquiparker@hotmail.com) to see if your lucky number is still available. Alternatively you can buy numbers on a weekly basis from the village Shop.

Thank you for your support and GOOD LUCK!!

## Nearly New Sale

We had a tidy of our toys and raised £52 at the latest Nearly New Sale to make way for new toys. We would like to thank Gilly and Isabelle for doing a fantastic job with the Nearly New Sale over the past nine years and we look forward to running these events as we move forward.

## Adverse Weather

If Pre-school is closed you will NOT receive a phone call, instead you should do the following: Access the school closures list on Aberdeenshire Council website: <http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/closures> or Call the School closure information number on 0870 054 4999, the Auchenblae School pin is 021230. An update will be available on the APSG page on Facebook. If Auchenblae School is closed then Auchenblae Pre-School will be closed. Please ensure your emergency contact details are up-to-date, in case we need to close mid-session.

## easyfundraising

While you are doing your Christmas shopping online (or any time of year), please remember to go through easyfundraising first. Once you have registered you will be helping raise money for APSG, while you shop, at no expense to you.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN A SPACE FOR YOUR CHILD, PLEASE CALL THE PLAYROOM ON **07817 505657**.

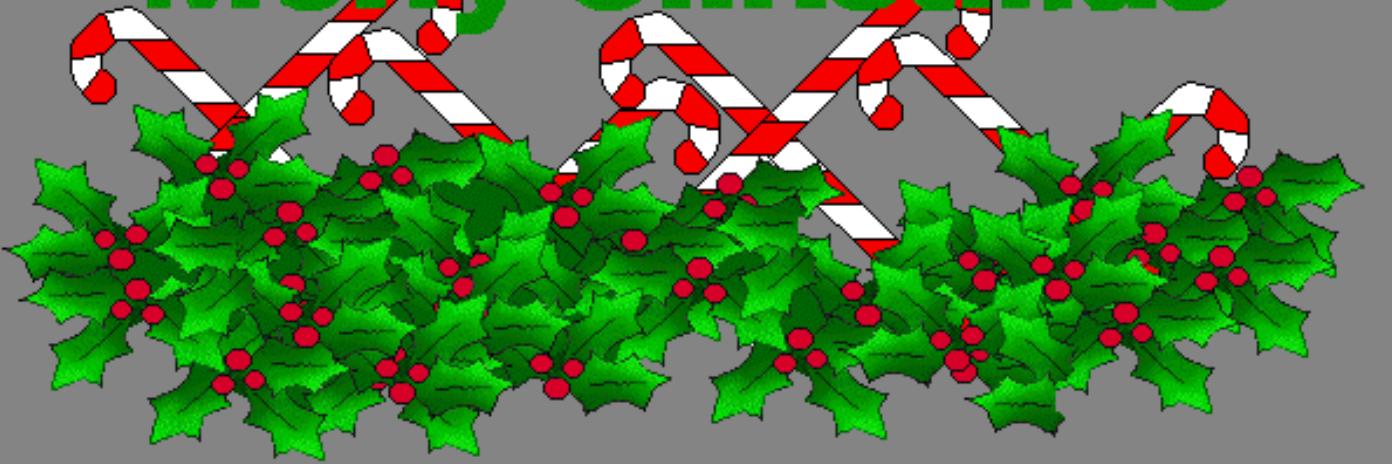


**The 2016 edition of the Auchenblae Calendar is now available.**

Once again we are grateful to David and staff at the shop for handling the sales.

The calendar costs £6.00 with proceeds going towards maintenance of the church building. All images used are courtesy of local amateur photographers.

**Merry Christmas**



*To welcome in the Joyous Season  
The Annual Evening of  
'Carols, Candles and Christmas Pies'  
is to be held in  
Auchenblae Church  
on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December*



*You are warmly invited to come along to sing your  
favourite carols by flickering candlelight*

*Doors open 7pm with singing starting at 7.30pm*

*Mulled Wine, Mince Pies, Shortbread and Teas  
will be served by Auchenblae Guild .*

*Transport can be arranged, by calling Jenny on  
320245*



## UPDATE ON THE CHURCH CLOCK

I have to say that I've never known a project that has triggered so much local interest, as when one of the clock faces was ripped from the church tower during January's gale force winds.

Amazingly the copper dial was still intact, but the supporting framework was in a sorry state.

In the interest of public safety, the two remaining faces had to be removed immediately.

On inspection at ground level it was clear that the numerals on the dials were almost illegible. This, along with the cost of their reinstatement on the tower was to be an expensive project and would entail huge fundraising

However, the ambitious Silent Auction in May and Gardens Open Weekend in August were greatly supported, giving funds an excellent kick start, making the goal less daunting.

In addition to the generosity of local people, we have received so much unexpected help from others no longer in the area, but who still feel a strong connection with Auchenblae. We were completely overwhelmed as donations flooded in from throughout Scotland; England; and even from America and Canada. It would be unfair to single out particular names, so to one and all, a heartfelt THANK YOU from Auchenblae. To date a staggering £9,099 has been raised.

The fabric convener of our church has wisely decided that while the necessary scaffolding is in place, repairs should be made to any damaged sections of pointing on the tower itself. This is a specialised job using lime mortar befitting the age of the building and is scheduled to start next April. Although everyone is anxious to see the clocks back in place, we will need to exercise a little more patience until springtime.

I previously showed photographs taken inside the tower of the clock mechanism. This time I thought it might be of interest to see the massive bell itself.

Jenny Thomson



# Auchenblae Drama Group & Cinema Club

We are very pleased to announce the arrival of a Cinema Club. Thanks to the Wind Farm we have the best cinema screen in the Mearns, shire. And thanks to the Drama Group we have a sound system.

I hope you saw our film in November. Look out for future showings.



to Auchenblae of a donation we now have a wonderful if not Aberdeen-

**Calling all Performers  
Auchenblae Christmas Variety Show needs you!**

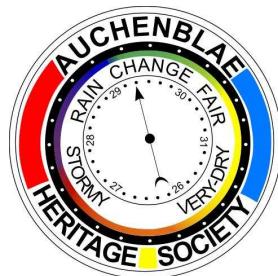
**12th December 2015**

**If you wish to showcase your talent on stage please contact:**

**Tracey 01561 320982  
or Gillian 01561 320360**

## Auchenblae Heritage Society

Auchenblae Heritage Society



Monday 7th December 7.30pm, Church Hall.

"Piping Pigs and Groping Mermaids."

An illustrated talk by Professor Jane Geddes of Aberdeen University. All welcome. Cup of tea to follow.

Any queries to **Gillian 01561 320360**

## Auchenblae Cycle Ride September 26th

**Many thanks to all those who supported this event. We raised £870 for the John Muir Trust and the Olive Tree Trust (Palestine). A great time was had by all. Wonderful cycling area. Sixteen cyclists and one dog.**

**Gillian Siddons Upper Cairnhill**



As suggested by the council , Rainbows used 2 unwanted recycling boxes as flower planters.

We filled about a third small stones , then compost , they do take quite a lot and are very heavy so need to be in a permanent place. We planted one with nasturtiums ( or nasty urchins as my niece called them ) and the other

with a free packet of wild flowers from a magazine. They grew well and are about to be replanted with bulbs.

#### RAINBOW AND BROWNIE COUNTY EVENT

Auchenblae Rainbows and Brownies went on a special outing to Aberdeen to join 500 other girls and their leaders from all over Kincardine and Deeside at a cinema to a Sing Along a Frozen movie . We went by bus and as it was a nice day we had a picnic and a play in a park near the beach , then walked to the cinema. The cinema staff were brilliant and so welcoming and organised , every seat had a munch box with popcorn , sweetie and a drink. The girls, of course , knew all the words to the songs and had a great time.



For enquiries about joining Rainbows , Brownies or Guides please go to [www.girlguiding.org](http://www.girlguiding.org)

#### CHARITY ART SHOW In Aid of

#### STRACATHRO STROKE REHAB UNIT

**TOTAL PROCEEDS £2,635.00**



The Charity Art Show, held in September, raised the superb total of £2,635.00 . Included in this total is the sale of 900 specially commissioned Christmas Cards – our thanks to Margaret Muiry and Grace Dumphie for providing the Art Work. Thanks to all who so generously gave raffles and donations, bought Christmas cards and contributed in any way to the success of the event. Your support for this deserving cause is greatly appreciated.

Alice Morgan/Sue Hodgson/Gina Easter

# Dates for your diary

**Winter Wonderland**  
**Heritage Society**  
**Carols Candles & Christmas Pies**  
**Christmas Variety Show**  
**Guild Christmas Lunch**

**Village Hall**  
**Church Hall**  
**Church**  
**Village Hall**  
**Village Hall**

**6th December**  
**7th December**  
**11th December**  
**12th December**  
**16th December**

Queen Elizabeth is Patron of Girlguiding .

Everyone in Girlguiding has been given a cloth or metal badge to celebrate her becoming our longest serving monarch.

Princess Elizabeth's parents wanted her and her younger sister Princess Margaret to have as normal a childhood as possible so the 1st Buckingham Palace Guide Company was formed , and the princesses enrolled, Elizabeth , aged 11 as a Guide and Margaret , aged 7 as a Brownie . The company had a total of 20 Guides and 14 Brownies made up from the children of court officials and palace employees. They turned the palace summerhouse into their HQ ,Princess Elizabeth tried campfire cooking , pitching tents and badge work , her badges included cook, child nurse, needle woman and interpreter.

In 1943 she became a Sea Ranger and passed her boating permit and served as coxswain .

In 1946 she became Chief Ranger of The British Empire.

She has always shown a keen interest in how Guiding has developed over the years without losing its core values.

Ranger Guides celebrate their centenary next year and all sections of Girlguiding will have special challenge badges to work for. If anyone in Auchenblae was a Ranger we would love to record your memories , on something called a Podcast , I will have to ask my grandchildren to show me how to do that.

Evelyn Richardson

**Guides will be doing Christmas card deliveries in the village in the 2 weeks before Christmas.**

**There will be a box in Auchenblae Stores and Church Hall from 1st December with the first delivery on 9th.**

**This is part service and part fundraiser for the Guides.**

**Thank you to everyone who uses our service.**



**Messenger Distribution Team**—Anne Anderson, Sue Barrie, Anne & Sheree Caird, Hilda Findlay, Therese Hendry, Jeanette Hoedl, Trish & Robert MacEachern, Gillian & William Milne, 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**