

# The Auchenblae Messenger

Volume 6 Issue 3

July 2004



## Editor's Comments

FROM THIS MONTH'S EDITOR

### Inside this issue:

West Mearns Parish Church	2
Alpha Course	3
Auchenblae Over Sixties Friendship Group	4
Auchenblae PTA	4
Auchenblae Heritage Soc	8
Auchenblae Racquet Grp.	9
Publisher Workshop	10
Play Group	11

Although the editorship of *The Messenger* is a shared duty – which means that Ross Muiry and I only have to bend our minds to this task every four months (thanks to the *Memo* which appears on alternate months) these months seem to pass more quickly than ever. (Or are we just getting older?)

When the July edition is bearing down on us, I still have a faint hope that we'll be able to print it on two sides of an A4 sheet – because this is the time of year when many of our activities take a well-earned break. But that never seems to happen. The size of this edition is just a sign (if sign were needed) that there's still plenty happening in the village.

This might not be a bad time, however, to put on record our thanks to the folk who keep the *Messenger* and the *Memo* appearing with almost clockwork regularity. Looking back at previous editions, I see that about this time we've published our thanks to the team and the teamwork that quietly goes on to ensure that this feature of our village life continues. But I want to put in a special word of thanks to our two computer buffs, Kevin Newstead (our publisher for this edition) and Eddie Cairns who alternates with him in the type-setting department. In addition, Eddie regularly produces the copies on our newly acquired printing machine – and how long it actually takes to perform this service for us is possibly something of a state secret! The quality of *The Messenger* (and it is a quality production) is very largely due to Kevin and Eddie, and we want them to know that we really do appreciate the rather special service they give to our community. (*you are welcome—K&E*)

The whole *Messenger/Memo* production and delivery team wish all our readers a good summer, and whatever your plans for the holiday season, may this be for you all a time of real recreation and come back with a renewed appreciation of the village and community to which we belong. Go carefully on our increasingly crowded roads, Oh, and enjoy this edition of *The Messenger* before you take off!

Donald Rennie

### Special points of interest:

- Madagascan Charity Cycle run - Page 5
- Gala Pictures P. 6-7
- Arts Day P 8
- Community Assoc P 8
- Monthly Memo— P12



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## WEST MEARNS PARISH CHURCH



Minister: Rev. Catherine Hepburn,  
The Manse, Fettercairn, Tel. 01561 340203

Auchenblae Church Service 11 a.m. every Sunday  
except the first Sunday of each month when the  
Service is at 11 .a.m. at Glenbervie Church

### **AUCHENBLAE GUILD** **West Mearns Parish Church**

Came the 9<sup>th</sup> of June and with it the end of our Guild session. It has been a busy year for us all and a happy one too.

The Cake and Candy stall on Gala Day was a huge success, thanks to the wonderful selection of cakes, tray bakes, toffee ('tablet' to folk from the west) and other delicious items contributed by members of the Guild and Community Association and friends. Every last crumb was sold and over £200 was raised – our largest total to date. We were grateful for the loan of a big gazebo which kept the goodies dry. (Last year we could have done with one to stop the chocolate from melting!)



Sixteen members of our Guild Link from Ferryhill Church in Aberdeen drove down to Auchenblae on June 9<sup>th</sup> to join us for lunch in the Church Hall. After a very disappointing wet early morning, the sun had come out, the mist disappeared and the ladies saw Auchenblae at its best. After lunch and a short video of West Mearns Parish, some of the less able were taken on a trip up to Glensauigh where they were delighted by the rhododendron display, while others stayed and blethered in the hall! The rest went walkabout (and bought up all the strawberries!). A welcome 'cuppa' or 'fly' before our guests left, rounded off the day beautifully.

Now, with plans already in hand for next session, we are all enjoying a break. We wish all our members, their families and friends a very restful summer – with lots of sunshine wherever they may be.

## **PLEASE KEEP OFF THE GRASS!**

For a number of years now West Mearns Church have been trying to cultivate the little area of grass in front of the Church hall in Auchenblae. But every now and then we find that our efforts are frustrated by motorists who insist on parking their cars on it. The result – especially if it has been wet – is enormous ugly ruts in the grass.

We are well aware that parking space is at a premium, especially since restrictions have been placed on parking outside Auchenblae school. The space in front of the church building belongs to the church, but we have no objection to parents using the space while they wait for their children to come out of school (except, of course, when there is a funeral or other function in the church building).

But we would like to make a plea to all motorists **NOT TO PARK ON THE GRASS OUTSIDE THE CHURCH HALL.** Perhaps some day we may find the wherewithal to replace the turf with a solid hard-core foundation, topped with gravel, but this could be a costly venture, and until then may we plead with all local motorists to act responsibly and refrain from using the grass as a free car park?

Thank you.

Donald Rennie

Acting Session Clerk, West Mearns Church.

## **THE MEARN'S HAS DONE IT AGAIN!**

For the seventh successive year  
**THE TOTAL RAISED FOR CHRISTIAN AID**  
**HAS INCREASED. THIS YEAR IT WAS £2082.91!**  
**THANK YOU EVERYBODY**

## **Lunch Time Alpha for Mums (& Dads?)**

Life, Christianity. The Passion of Christ. Have you ever wondered what it's all about? Come and get some answers on an Alpha course.

Courses are running countrywide from September, but there is one starting in Auchenblae at The Willows in August to include buffet lunch and crèche so you can take some time out to ask a few questions about the deeper issues of life. Alpha is not boring! It's stimulating, challenging, interesting and often great fun. You can meet up with older friends and make some new ones. One thing's for certain, wherever you feel you are in your spiritual life, whether committed Christian, atheist or somewhere in between, you'll enjoy the Alpha experience and get something of benefit out of it.

There will be an introduction to the course on Thursday, August 19th starting at 12 noon. This will include buffet lunch followed by a video after which you can decide whether or not to commit to the whole 10 week Alpha course. No pressure at all if you feel it's not the thing for you. There will be a crèche and the session will finish in plenty of time to pick up any school age children.

Please telephone Charles or Bren on 320371 to book a place at the introductory session so we know how much food to prepare and how many helpers we need at the crèche. There is no charge for the course.

## Auchenblae Over Sixties Friendship Group



It seems only a short time ago that I was writing about coming to the end of another session. Where does the time go? Once again we have tried to give a varied programme of activities. We hope that there has been something to please everyone. It is not always easy to put a programme together but we always try to do our best.

Membership is holding steady and indeed has slightly increased over the past few months. We are always pleased to see new friends and hope that you will think about joining us when we start up again after the school holidays. We say "thank you" to all who have helped during the year. Sometimes on a Wednesday morning we find that we are rather short of helpers due to illness or other commitments. If you feel that you can help in anyway, please let us know.

Once again we thank the Education Authority for allowing us to use the school bus and we say a big thank you to Jean for looking after us so well.

Have an enjoyable holiday and we will see you all again later on in the summer. Watch the notice board for details.

Barbara Strouts

## Auchenblae School PTA

As we approach the end of another school year, we bring good news on our various fund raising efforts.

Our recent Bag - 2 - School collection raised the sum of £205, many thanks to all who donated.

Our School Fayre on Saturday 12<sup>TH</sup> June was a great success. The sun shone all afternoon and everyone had a great time. The day raised the fantastic sum of £ 847.50 for school funds.

Heather Murdoch & Lindsey Roberts won first equal prize in the fancy dress competition. The Whisky Trail was won by Judy Robertson, the Chocolate Trail by Marian Stewart. Donna Milne guessed the correct number of Sweeties in the Jar. Our school secretary Mrs J Nicoll was the lucky winner of the top raffle prize of £100, with Annette Mills and Patricia Kelman collecting the two £25 prizes.

Once again may we extend our sincere thanks to all who supported us on the day and indeed throughout the year, without your support these events could not take place.

Our recent school inspection went smoothly and initial indications are that all is well at Auchenblae School. A full report will be published some time in September and will be made available to anyone who is interested. More good news! – Aberdeenshire Council have informed us that Mackie Academy Swimming Pool will be repaired for the start of next term, so at long last swimming Club will resume after a year long break.

On that happy note may we wish you all a sunny and relaxing summer break.

Our next PTA Meeting will take place on Thursday 16<sup>TH</sup> September – 7.30pm, **All Parents are invited to attend this meeting.**

### Dates for your Diary

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> July – School Closes for Summer Break

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> August – School Re-starts

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> September – PTA Meeting.





## A CHARITY CYCLE IN MADAGASCAR TO RAISE FUNDS FOR RESEARCH INTO EATING DISORDERS

I am planning to take part in a charity cycle through Madagascar in September 2005. This is a 600km (400 miles) ride over a period of eight days from the highlands of Madagascar, along the east coast and across the full length of the neighbouring island of Ile St. Marie. The charity I will be supporting is RIED (Research into Eating Disorders) and I will be expected to raise a minimum of £3,000 in order to be eligible to take part in the cycle. At least 70% of the monies raised will go directly to the cause, a substantially higher figure than is usual for this type of event.



RIED has played a vital role in supporting complex research into eating disorders. Current investigations include the causes of adolescent eating disorders, new treatments and the mechanism of the brain in understanding eating disorders. Anorexia Nervosa and Bulimia Nervosa are still little understood and often misrepresented. Anorexia Nervosa has the highest mortality rate of any psychiatric condition and the affect on the families of those suffering can be catastrophic. For the last eight years I have specialised as a psychotherapist in treating eating disorders and I feel extremely committed to not only supporting this cause financially, but also to help raise awareness of the prevalence and complexities of eating disorders.

I will be organising a variety of fundraising events to raise my sponsorship over the coming months. Firstly, Hamish, my husband and I plan to cycle 100 miles in early August. You may well see us waving our sponsor sheets around the village and we would greatly appreciate any sponsors, however small. Secondly, I am planning to organise a CEILIDH BALL in the village hall on Saturday, 18th September. Ballgowns (however ridiculous!) and black ties required!! Watch this space for further details.

Should anyone care to sponsor me, make a donation, provide raffle items or just supply me with any other good fundraising ideas, your support would be HUGELY welcomed. Any cheques should be made payable to RIED and any donations could be popped through our door (old Police House at the top of the village).

Thank you so much in anticipation of your support and to all those who have already sponsored me.

Judith Houghton—Tel: 01561 320222

Cathkin

Glenfarquhar Road

Auchenblae

### GLENBERVIE HOUSE

Traditional Scottish walled garden on a slope with roses, herbaceous & annual borders, fruit and vegetables. Victorian conservatory, pot plants and climbers. Woodland garden. Teas, plants and baking stall. Not suitable for wheelchairs.

**£2.50 Children £1**

### Charities

40% Aberdeen Renal Research

60% net to SGS Charities



From Date	To Date	Opening Time	Closing Time
25 July	25 July	02:00:00 PM	05:00:00 PM











## Auchenblae Community Association

**Auchenblae Community Association** wish to thank everyone who, by their attendance at numerous events and giving of time and support, contributed to a happy and successful Gala. To all local organisations, stall holders and all who assisted in any way **THANK YOU!**. Although the figures have yet to be finalised, your efforts enabled the Association to raise in the region of **£2,400**.

**Art Show - Friday 3rd - Sunday 5th September** - We will of course endeavour to contact all local artists but would welcome further entries from artists in the locality. If you wish to exhibit please contact the secretary - Alice Morgan on 01561 320081 before **31st July 2004**.

**Forthcoming Events** ..... Planned events in the next few months include a Quiz Night, Ceilidh and Bingo.

**Village Flower Tubs** - The Council kindly donated the plants for the flower tubs which were planted and distributed by members of the Community Association - thanks to the nearby householders for watering the plants and ensuring a summer long display.



**ARTS DAY FOR OLDER PEOPLE**

**COME ALONG AND HAVE SOME FUN!  
TRY THINGS OUT AND ENJOY A CEILIDH**

**MEARNS ACADEMY, LAURENCEKIRK  
SATURDAY, 26TH JUNE 2004  
10.30-4.00PM**

**COST : £2.00  
(includes lunch)**

**TRANSPORT AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST  
CARERS WELCOME**

Drumming  
Dancing  
Movement  
Painting

Storytelling  
Bellydancing  
Ceilidh  
& more!

Singing  
Drawing  
Candlemaking  
Glass painting

For more information or to book transport, please contact :

**MEARNS HEALTHY LIVING NETWORK**  
**TELEPHONE : 01561 378130**

## Auchenblae & District Heritage

**SUMMER(?) WALK**—In spite of some blustery winds and occasional showers the Heritage Society ended their year's activities with a walk led by Jenny Thomson and Ian Bell to the grounds of Monboddio House.

We followed a route that used to be taken by Lord Monboddio when he came to the old Free Kirk where he was an elder. A plaque which commemorated Lord Monboddio was removed after the Free Kirk when it closed, and was mounted on the wall in "Fordoun Kirk" (now West Mearns Church in Auchenblae).



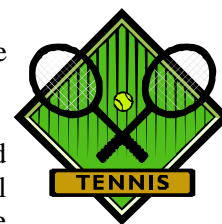
The Heritage Society resume their meetings on **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September** when Christine Kydd will be giving a talk entitled "Amazing Mearns" – and all members of the Society and any who haven't been to the Heritage Society before, but would like to find out more about it, are warmly invited to be there.



## Auchenblae Racquet Group

The 2004 Season is now well underway and we are again experiencing good turn out across the age ranges on our Wednesday afternoon/evening sessions.

**Young Juniors.** A beginners' class on Wednesdays between 5:00 and 5:30 pm, organised and run by Gina Easter (320269) and Carol Shea (320748). This session is led by 16 year old local tennis ace, Matthew Shea and costs just 50p per child which includes juice and biscuits at the end.



**Juniors.** A class for older and more able players between 5:30 and 6:30 pm is coached by Wendy Byres, a local LTA licensed coach assisted by Matthew. This allows this group to be split using both courts if necessary. This session costs **£1:50** per child and also offers refreshments at the end. For all sessions, racquets can be borrowed in most age and size ranges.

**Adults.** A very successful group for adults at ALL levels meets between 6:45 and 7:45 pm. We are a friendly bunch, some more able than others, but we meet up to get some exercise, receive some specific tennis tuition from Wendy, practice some shots then have some fun 'playing games'. Costs for this session involve splitting Wendy's hourly fee (currently £12) between the week's attendees and billing the totals every couple of months.

**Season Ticket.** ALL players, once they have decided they want to play regularly, MUST purchase a season ticket for use of the facilities. This is a separate cost as the provision and management of the courts and facilities are under the remit of the Auchenblae Parks Association. The costs for these are: £4 per child, £10 per adult and £20 for a family Ticket and this covers your use of three courts at any time throughout the year. These can be obtained from Gina Easter (320269).

Summer Camps and Sessions. Wendy will be offering a series of Summer Tennis Camps, including one in Auchenblae. Details of these, including dates and costs will be available soon on local papers, local shops and to current Tennis contacts.

It is also hoped to continue the weekly sessions during the holidays, but this will depend on commitment. Our season will hopefully continue to the end of September or beyond (light depending) and we will organise some tournaments along with a BBQ towards the end of the season. Please look out for more information as the season progresses.

**Mini League/Ladders.** We hope to organise and operate some informal league ladders for the Juniors and Adult groups. If you or your child would like to take part as an encouragement to play more games over the summer, please let us know.

We welcome new players of all ages and all levels. Please contact either Gina Easter (01561 320269) or Carol Shea (01561 320748) or just come and join us on a Wednesday.

We wish you a Happy Summer and a long and hot playing Season.  
Gina and Carol

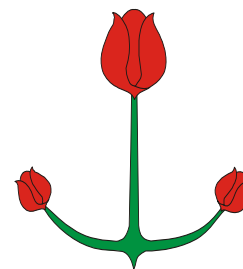
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## AUCHENBLAE FRIENDS OF A.N.C.H.O.R.

We would like to thank all those who took part, assisted in and donated to the Cycle Run on the 6th June 2004 where we managed to raise £1,200.

Special thanks goes to Caroline who raised £87.50 at her PJ party.

The money will be donated to the A.N.C.H.O.R Unit at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary



31<sup>st</sup> May 2004

Dear Sir/Madam

**Free Publisher Workshops**

The Auchenblae Newsletter Development Project has been awarded funding through Direct Grants to promote IT in this rural area. This funding is making it possible to offer some free Microsoft Publisher workshops to community groups in partnership with Aberdeenshire Council. Initially there will be one 2-hour workshop available as an introduction to Publisher. Participants should be computer literate and wish to increase their knowledge of a different software package. The workshops are not suitable for those with little IT knowledge or those with a large experience of Publisher. It may be possible at a later date to offer a more advanced course and if this is of interest to you please notify us of names and contact numbers.

The Workshop will be most useful to those wishing to produce a basic newsletter format publication for their organisation e.g. Church Newsletter, Yearly update on Clubs events etc. The sessions are initially planned for Auchenblae, Laurencekirk and St Cyrus but it may be possible to hold them at additional locations if required. It may also be possible to run a series of 3 subsequent follow on classes if individuals would find this useful (there would be a small cost for these)

The dates and locations of classes are listed below. The maximum size of class will be 4 or 5 due to limitations of hardware but this may be possible to increase if individuals have their own laptops. Obviously places are limited so the sessions will be allocated on a first come basis, all replies must be with us before 18<sup>th</sup> June. If these dates are not suitable and you would like to join a workshop please let contact us & we will try to arrange further dates.

Auchenblae Village Hall	7.00-9.00pm	Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> June
Laurencekirk	7.00-9.00pm	Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> June
Mearns Community Centre	1.30 – 3.30pm	Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> June
	7.00-9.00pm	Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> July
St Cyrus Village Hall	7.00-9.00pm	Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June

We would very much appreciate if you could share this information with other groups you know of who may benefit from this training as it is extremely difficult for us to know of all relevant groups. I look forward to hearing from you. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact Karen McWilliam or Susan Robson on 01561 378298

Yours sincerely

Susan Robson  
 Adult Education Co-ordinator



## Auchenblae Pre-School Group

### Chairpersons Report

Following an exceptionally busy year during which Playgroup numbers reached record levels, the Committee has still achieved an overwhelming amount during the short time.



The **Community Association** has been a great help to our group. This year we have had new flooring and banister in the stairwell, a new lamp fitted in the corner of the playroom and assistance with the fitting of the new **children's sink**, all of which we are very grateful.

With **Chris Robinson** leaving at Easter to have her baby after seven years with the group the Committee would like to thank her for all her hard work over the years and wish her all the best with her new family. We would also like to officially welcome **Liz Leigh** and wish her well in her new role as Senior Playleader where she will work alongside Karen Clements, both will be working on their SVQ Level 3 in the forthcoming year.



And finally, the **Lottery Award** which the group received last month. This has made such a difference to look of the playroom.

The Playleaders have finally received their "wish list" of new toys and equipment. The bright modern toys have also been gratefully received by the playgroup children. Many thanks to our Treasurer Margo for her efforts in achieving this fantastic award.

The Committee have worked tirelessly over the past year and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them officially for their efforts. I would also like to wish the new Committee every success.

Regards  
Pamela Sellar, Chairperson 2003/4

The Auchenblae Playgroup will be closed for the Summer Holidays, however the pre-school parents / carers will be meeting on an informal basis in the den on Mondays and Thursdays between 10.00 a.m. and 12 noon.  
Thank you for your continued support





THE AUCHENBLAE MESSENGER  
THE NEWSLETTER  
FOR THE  
AUCHENBLAE COMMUNITY



**Messenger Distributors**

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

**Copies of the Messenger can be collected from the local shops, Drumlithie Post Office and Fordoun Post Office.**

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**"Keeping you informed"**

***The Publisher of this issue was***  
*Kevin Newstead*

Auchenblae Messenger Supplement  
**MONTHLY MEMO**

Saturday 26th June	10.30-4.00 p.m.	Arts Day for Older People	Mearns Academy
Tuesday 29th June	7.00—9.00 p.m.	Publisher Workshop	Village Hall
Friday 21st June		SCHOOL CLOSES	
Tuesday 17th August		SCHOOL RESTARTS	
September 16th		PTA Meeting	Auchenblae School

**Community Association**

Friday 3rd – Sunday 5th September ART SHOW  
3rd December CHRISTMAS CONCERT

ALL INFORMATION FOR INCLUSION IN THE SEPTEMBER *MEMO*  
SHOULD BE GIVEN TO ANN RENNIE, 'MERNIS HOWE' Tel. 01561 320622  
**BY 15<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2004**



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**Please note** that the **next edition of 'The Messenger'** will be published during **August 2004**. The closing date for inclusion in this edition will be **Thursday 12th July 2004**.

If you have access to e-mail please send to: **[themessenger@mearns.org](mailto:themessenger@mearns.org)**

Otherwise, hand to Ross Muiry— Marybank. If you have access to a word processor, a floppy disc version (PC only) would be appreciated.

**Thanks from all the team!**

***We're on the web!***  
***<http://www.mearns.org>***