

Messenger Distributors

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

PRODUCTION TEAM

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Kevin Newstead Auchter House

Email: themessenger@mearns.org
"Keeping you informed"

*The Publisher of this issue was
Eddie Cairns*

Thursday 4th December

WRI Games Evening

Saturday 6th December	Village Hall	Auchenblae Festival	From 3 pm
Monday 8th December	McCallum's Store	Xmas Card Deliveries by Guides	
Saturday 13th December	Xmas Quiz	Village Hall	7:30
Wednesday 17th December	Church	School Xmas Service	
Wednesday 17th December	Church Hall	Over Sixties final 2003 session	
Thursday 18th December		Santa Drive	7—9 pm
Monday 22nd December	Village	Community Carol Singing	6:00 pm
Wednesday 24th December	Church	Carols and Mince Pies	2:30
Thursday 1st January	Village	Pram Race	12:30
Tuesday 6th January	Auchenblae School	School starts again!	
Wednesday 7th January	Village Hall	Playgroup re starts	9:15
Wednesday 7th January	Church Hall	Over 60's Friendship re starts	
Sunday 11th January	Light House	Restarts	
Saturday 24th January	Village Hall	Burns Supper	
Monday 26th January	School	PTA Meeting	
Monday Evenings in 2004	Village Hall	Indoor Bowling	7—9pm

THE NEXT MEMO.

If there is sufficient information for a Memo with February content, please leave it in the Post Office, or contact Ann Rennie at Mernis Howe by Wednesday 15th January 2004.

Please note that the next edition of 'The Messenger' will be published at the end of February 2004 with March information. The closing date for inclusion in this edition will be Sunday 15th February 2004.

If you have access to e-mail please send to: themessenger@mearns.org

Otherwise, hand to Donald Rennie— Mernis Howe. If you have access to a word processor, a floppy disc version (PC only) would be appreciated.

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

The
Auchenblae Messenger
Volume 5 Issue 6

December 2003



Editor's Comments

Welcome to the 31st. edition of The Auchenblae Messenger and, as usual, thankyou to all our readers for your continued support.

Traditionally, this end-of-year edition of your magazine has been known as the 'Christmas Edition' and is seen, amongst other things, as an appropriate occasion to say 'Thankyou' to all who have helped to make The Messenger and The Messenger Memo Supplement 'happen' during the past year. Special thanks are due to all who have made their contributions to the content of the magazine and to all those who have undertaken its distribution to your homes.

The Messenger Production Team is particularly pleased, at this time, to announce the considerable success of its recent application for further funding from The Lottery Commission. (See below).

During 2004, the Production Team -- (Ross Muiry, Donald Rennie, Eddie Cairns, Kevin Newstead and Barbara Strouts) -- will remain as at present. Anne Anderson will continue to organize Distribution by her team of distributors, and Ann Rennie will continue to produce the Messenger Memo Supplement on alternating months.

May I use this column to draw your attention to the seasonal community Christmas Card. The local photograph is by Eddie Cairns, and sales will go towards the funds of the Community Association.

The Auchenblae Guides will, as usual, undertake deliveries of your local Christmas mail, to supplement their own funds. As ever, we thank them for this service (see page 6).

The Production Team of your magazine would like to take this opportunity to wish you a restful and peaceful Christmas and New Year, and hope that you will enjoy reading your copy of The Auchenblae Messenger. R.M.

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Special points of interest:

- If you over 65 See page 2
- Community Carol Singing P 3
- WRI—P3
- Community Association P 4
- Festival P 5
- Memo Section P 10

The Messenger Receives New Lottery Funding

The production team are delighted to announce that they have been advised of the award of a grant from the New Opportunities Fund under the Awards for All scheme.

£3965 will be used next year mainly to purchase a high throughput laser printer with double sided printing facilities.

This will improve the quality of the newsletter reproduction and will get the Messenger on the streets, probably a day quicker than previously.

The funds will also allow us to update our DTP software and other image processing equipment.





WEST MEARN'S PARISH CHURCH

Minister: Reverend Catherine A. Hepburn—Tel. 01561 340203

CALENDAR OF ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS EVENTS AND SERVICES.

Sunday 30 th November	FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT 9.30a.m. Fettercairn, 11a.m. Auchenblae
Sunday 7 th December	SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT 9.30 Fettercairn, 11a.m. Glenbervie Church where the Sacrament of Infant Baptism will be celebrated.
Friday 12 th December	Auchenblae Church 7.30p.m. Carols, Candles and Christmas Pies
Saturday 13 th December	Joint Sunday School (Fettercairn/Auchenblae) Party at 2.30p.m. in Auchenblae Church hall.
Sunday 14 th December	9.30a.m. Fettercairn, 11a.m. Auchenblae In addition there will be a special service at Auchenblae at 7 pm. for those who may find Christmas a difficult occasion to celebrate e.g. where there has been a recent family bereavement.
Sunday 21 st December	9.30a.m. Fettercairn and 11.am. at Auchenblae CHILDREN'S NATIVITY PLAY. 2.30p.m. Carols and mince pies at Queen Elizabeth Court, Fettercairn.
Wednesday 24 th December CHRISTMAS EVE	6.30p.m. Children's Carol Service at Auchenblae 1.15p.m. for 11.30p.m. Watchnight Service, Fettercairn 11p.m. Informal Carols at Auchenblae with Watchnight Service at 11.30p.m.
Thursday 25 th December CHRISTMAS DAY	11a.m. Short Family Service at Glenbervie Church
Sunday 28 th December	After the 9.30a.m. Service at Fettercairn and the 11a.m. Service at Auchenblae there will be informal Communion celebrations to which all are invited and welcome
Sunday 4 th January 2004	Services at 9.30a.m. – Fettercairn and 11a.m. Glenbervie. At the conclusion of the service at Glenbervie, there will be an informal Communion Service to which all are welcome..

SENIOR CITIZEN'S FUND

Any Lady 60 years or over or Gent 65 years or over on or before Dec 31st 2003 and living in Auchenblae and would like to be remembered at Xmas please give your name to

Mrs. Jamieson Allenbank phone 320 383

On or before November 30th. If you got a parcel last year you will already be on the list and need not apply .

AUCHENBLAE PRE-SCHOOL GROUP

Children's Christmas Party to be held at the Village Hall on Thursday 18th December at 9.30 a.m.



Playgroup finishes for Christmas Holidays on Thursday 18th December after the party, with no 2's Group on Thursday afternoon or Playgroup On Friday.

Playgroup resumes on Wednesday 7th January as usual. 9.15 a.m. start.

Auchenblae Annual Pram Race to be held on New Year's Day, 12 noon for 12.30 start. Please contact Tracey on 320596 to note an interest to race, or for more information.

ON BEHALF OF THE PLAYLEADERS AND COMMITTEE WE WISH YOU ALL A FABULOUS CHRISTMAS AND A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR.!



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

We wish to thank everyone who supported the Sponsored Cycle Run in June and the Stovie Dance in October.

The Anchor Unit A.R.I. will receive £3,800. Auchenblae Primary School received £250 in June.

Your continued support is much appreciated.

Kind regards to all

Pat , family and friends

AUCHENBLAE INDOOR BOWLING CLUB

Sends *SEASONAL GREETINGS* to all past and present members and the village community.

After the celebrations why not make a New Year's resolution to be more active in 2004 and join us on Monday evenings from 7-9 pm in the village hall?

No Equipment required and a warm welcome guaranteed.

ARRANBARROW, FETTERCAIRN

Hi my name is Louise I wonder if you can help me.

I have just been to a house clearance and bought a box with a load of old photos in it. I believe the original owners of the pictures may have lived at Arnbarrow Fettercairn. They got married there on July 26 1910

Their names are Margaret Lucas Lindsay and William Reid

If anyone has any information on surviving family, I would be grateful to receive it. I would like the pictures to go to their relatives.

Louise
aqny24@dsl.pipex.com

BROADBAND INTERNET ACCESS

BT have now set trigger levels for telephone exchanges in the Mearns that advise how many people have to register before BT start equipping the exchanges.

They are detailed below together with how many people have registered to date.

Exchange	Registered to Date	Trigger
Auchenblae	52	150
Drumlithie	23	100
Fettercairn	16	100
Laurencekirk	84	300

Please register at
http://www.bt.com/btbroadband/register/ns_register_intro.jsp

If you would like Broadband. First indications are that village numbers will get up to 2Mbit lines and numbers in Drumtochty will be limited to 512 kbit lines.

BALLOON RACE

Thanks to everyone who supported the balloon race to raise funds for Manoj Eppar in Vadala Mission in India. A wonderful £690 was raised which was immediately transferred to the operation fund in India. We are awaiting information on the outcome.



Only one balloon was returned, by S. Alexander, Laurencekirk, who wins a meal voucher from the Alma Arms Hotel in Laurencekirk, the balloon being found at 'SmiddyHill' on the Garvock.

The 'owner' of the balloon, Chris Robinson (Young) of Auchenblae, has received her prize of a bottle of whisky courtesy of Fettercairn Distillery.

Two further prizes were drawn using the names of those who purchased balloons. These were:

- ❑ Mr A. Anderson of Auchenblae won a £20 book voucher, part donated by Hoggs in Montrose.
- ❑ Young Thomas Leigh of Auchenblae won a £10 gift voucher from Boots.

Thanks again for everyone's support and particularly to Mearns Academy for the support of their Charities Committee and for the use of their playing field, a great venue on a wonderful day.

Auchenblae Racquet Group



Postponement of Indoor Season

We are sorry to have to say that there will be no indoor tennis for juniors or adults until after the Christmas holidays, due to an injury suffered by our coach Wendy Byres. Wendy underwent emergency surgery on her knees after an unexpected worsening of a long term problem last weekend.

We will keep everyone who has expressed an interest in the tennis group, informed of dates, times and venues for a re-start.

We are sure that everyone will join us in sending Wendy our best wishes for a speedy recovery.

COMMUNITY CAROL SINGING

We are organising a group to sing Carols around cember. All are welcome to join us. We would dren and invite individuals or groups including School, Guild, WRI, Light House, Heritage Soci-



the village on the evening of Monday 22nd De- love a mixed group, including adults and chil- Brownies, Guides, Beavers, Cubs, Sunday ety, Over 60's group, anyone at all to join us.

Guitar accompaniments and song sheets will be if you have one to add to the effect.

available. Wrap up warmly and bring a lantern

We will meet together at 5.50 p.m. on forecourt of Thomson's Garage. We then propose to sing a selection of popular carols at each of the points indicated and approximately the times indicated.

Finishing at the Village Square where we hope to offer refreshments, served from 'the Drum', so please stay. Join us and lend your voices, or just to listen and enjoy.

6:00 – 6:15 p.m.
6:20 – 6:35 p.m.
From 6:40 p.m.

Corner of Village Hall - Mayfield Lane
Hillview Road, cul de sac
The Square

Do please come along to all or any of the points shown, either to lend your voices, or pop out from your doors to listen for a while.

AFTER ALPHA?

A group of eight people, who have previously enjoyed an Alpha course here at The Willows, are at present happily involved in a video and discussion series entitled "A Life Worth Living". This is a follow-up to, and enlargement on the extremely popular course on Christianity by Nicky Gumbel, and is run on the same lines to include a meal.

"After Alpha", as we've taken to calling it, is due to finish sometime in January, after which we intend to embark on another Alpha course.

Please phone 320371 with your name to book a place on this next Auchenblae Alpha. The course is invariably enjoyable and builds both friends and confidence. Sometimes, it's life-changing.....

You can come to the introductory evening and then make up your mind if you want to follow up with the 10-week course. There is no charge, but food contributions are always welcome.

Brenda Gordon

LIGHT HOUSE



Light House numbers are growing and we're having lots of fun. This session will end with a Christmas party on December 7th and will start again on January 11th with a new, exciting series of games and songs, illustrations and Bible stories. New members always welcome.

Phone Charles on 320371.

Some of our Young Leaders and friends were in Aberdeen in early November at a concert given by Michael Harcus, the popular Christian singer and songwriter.

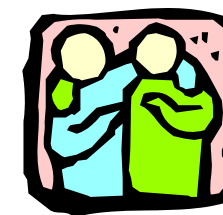
Since Michael is an Orkney lad, he had his friend Cameron Stout (of Big Brother fame) along with him. So our Light Housers ended up meeting Cameron, and having their photos taken with him (thanks, Andrew!).

More treats to come - watch this space! Or, better still, bring your child along to join in the fun.

Bren Gordon

Auchenblae Over Sixties Friendship

A Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year to all our readers.



Although a few of our friends have been hit by various illnesses we have still managed to enjoy a varied programme. We will finish for the holiday on 17th December. The new programme will probably begin on 7th January 2004, but watch this space, and the notice board for confirmation of the date.

If you are not sure whether to come and join us why not make a New Year Resolution to at least give us a try.

Barbara Strouts



"For Home and Country"

SCOTTISH WOMEN'S RURAL INSTITUTE

AUCHENBLAE BRANCH

Thursday 4th December 2003

**"Cheese and Wine"
Games Evening**

Competition: 3 Mince Pies
Shortcrust Pastry
Novelty: Christmas Candle

Duty Committee Member: Pat Mennie.

AUCHENBLAE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

BURNS SUPPER

Saturday 24th January

Village Hall
Chairman: Arthur Anderson
Impressive Array of Speakers
Excellent Musical Entertainment
Traditional 4 Course Meal
Tickets from Local shops and
Committee Members.

LUXURY CHRISTMAS HAMPER

Large Hamper of Traditional
Christmas Fayre - Luxury
Items - Everything you need
for a **really Merry Christmas!**
Tickets On Sale at the Village Shop

Auchenblae Community Association wish to thank all who contributed both by their attendance and donations to another year of a fund raising programme designed to be both entertaining and of interest to all. Your continued support is much appreciated. We shall of course continue to deal with all village issues referred to the Association for discussion and endeavor to provide solutions.

We wish you all a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year

CHRISTMAS SPECIAL

Pub Style Quiz

Village Hall 7.30pm
Saturday 13th December
Entry: £2.50 (to include cheese
and snacks)
Wine and Beer on Sale
Tel. Alice Morgan (320081)
for entry info

AUCHENBLAE CHRISTMAS CARD

Village Scene photographed by
Eddie Cairns

**On Sale in The Post Office and
McCallum's Store**

W.LINDSAY (BUTCHER)



David and Andy would like to wish all their customers a **Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year**, and thank them for their custom during the past year.

Orders now being taken for

TURKEYS, CHICKENS, ROASTS, ETC

**ELIZABETH AND ALL THE GIRLS IN THE
POST OFFICE
WISH YOU ALL**



**MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR**

Thank you all for your continued support

**Why Not Check Out The Personal Banking
Facilities at Auchenblae Post Office.**

Getting cash at any Post Office™ branch is free, easy and safe with our new automated banking service – all you need is your card and Personal Identification Number (PIN). The service is available to customers with selected current accounts, basic bank accounts and the Post Office card account

Ask at the counter for details!

AUCHENBLAE SCHOOL PTA CHRISTMAS 2003

December is always very busy month for all involved with the school and this year is no exception, but I will save the Christmas events till later.

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to our Bag – 2 – School collection. As usual the community have done us proud and although the exact figure is unknown as we go to print, our funds will receive a healthy boost. Please keep collecting your used ink jet cartridges, as these too add to our funds.



Our Book Fair takes place on Tuesday 25th & Thursday 27th November this year to coincide with the parent interviews.

Unfortunately the swimming club has been unable to resume, as the pool is still out of order, as yet Aberdeenshire Council have not offered us an alternative venue. Football club continues to be well attended and enjoyed by many pupils.

Our Christmas celebrations start off with a School trip to the theatre to see "Peter Pan" on Tuesday 9TH December. (Continued on page 5)

PTA (Continued)

Friday 12th December - Christmas Party in school from Pam – 3.15pm.

Wednesday 17th December – 9.30am - Christmas Service in Church - Everyone is welcome to attend.

Our annual Santa Drive has been arranged for Thursday 18th December 7-9pm, this is an evening enjoyed as much by the adults as the children!

School closes on Friday 19th December and re-opens on Tuesday 6th January 2004

Auchenblae PTA would like to wish everyone

A very Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year.

The next PTA meeting will be on Monday 26th January 2004

ALL PARENTS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND.





IST AUCHENBLAE BROWNIES AND GUIDES

This summer our Brownies and Guides took part in a Guiding Scottish Arts Challenge. Each unit was given a disposable camera for their project from HQ.

The Brownies chose 'Auchenblae , Field of Wild Flowers ' as their theme and the girls took photos of wild flowers along the roadsides around the village . They named and displayed these on a poster.

Guides chose to take a series of photos using letters on road signs , car number plates and other villages places to spell out ' Auchenblae Go for It' , on their poster. Both posters are on display in Stonehaven Library window. They all passed the challenge and have a new badge for this.

Any new girls wishing to join Guiding are welcome.
Brownies aged 7 – 10 meet on Mondays 6.00pm – 7.30 pm
Guides aged 10 + - meet on Wednesdays 7.00pm – 9.00pm – both in Church hall.



CHRISTMAS CARD DELIVERIES

Guides will be doing Xmas card deliveries again this year. A collection box will be in McCallum's Stores from 8th December , first delivery Wednesday 10th and regularly thereafter up to Christmas. Donations given are used for Guide funds.

Auchenblae Guides have been doing this for the past 15 years, it is both a fund raiser and a way the girls can give a small service to the village.

I thought you might like to know how this started. A former Guider June Gordon set each Guide patrol a challenge based on the parable of the talents. They were each given £5.00 and told to double it as a fund raiser.

Nicola Bey thought up the Xmas card deliveries for her patrol and it was very successful, the following year people asked if we were going to carry on , so here we are.

Evelyn and team (Laura, Emma ,Kathryn, Aileen , Nicola)
Any queries please call. 01561 320362



AUCHENBLAE FESTIVAL PROGRAMME

Auchenblae Village Hall Saturday December 6th
St Nicholas Day
3pm to Midnight (1am)

AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES 3 pm to 5:30 pm

Circle Dancing for All
Puppet Show, Story Telling
A possible visit by St Nicholas but he is very busy!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
Lots of Stalls, Refreshments
Auchenblae Primary School Poster Competition -
"The True Meaning of Christmas"



EVENING CONCERTS 7 pm - 9 pm

Auchenblae Juniors— Singing and dancing
Kirkton Singers
Kathryn Nicoll on piano.
Elisabeth on German Pipes
Beannachar Players present " The First Christmas Tree"
Judy Robertson—Vocals
And Others.....

CEILIDH 9:30 pm — 1 am

Dancing to Ceilidh Band " John & Gail"
Also Robert Kerr of Stonehaven Crazy Celidh Club
Bring your own Drink Admission to Ceilidg £5.

PROCEEDS TO SHELTER AND MEDICAL AID CHARITIES
ALL WELCOME
SEE YOU ON SATURDAY 6TH DECEMBER
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT GILLIAN SIDDONS
UPPER CAIRNHILL

McCALLUM'S STORE



Angela and Francis would like to thank all our customers for their support to date and wish them.

**A Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year**

VILLAGE CHRISTMAS CARD

Available from
The Post Office
And McCallum's Store
Profits to Village Funds

