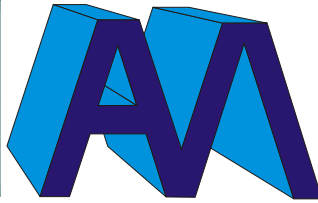


THE AUCHENBLAE MESSENGER
THE NEWSLETTER
FOR THE
AUCHENBLAE COMMUNITY



Messenger Distributors

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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

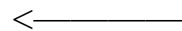
Wednesday 2nd July		Over 60's Friendship Group—Closed July /August	
Thursday 3rd July	Auchenblae School	End of school service	9.30 a.m.
Tuesday 19th August	Auchenblae School	School starts again!	
Wednesday 20th August	Auchenblae School	Pre-school group open /induction day	
September 5th - 7th	Art Show	Auchenblae Village Hall.	
October / November		Blue Bags Collection again!	

THE AUGUST MEMO.

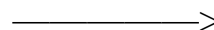
If there is sufficient information for an August Memo, please leave it in the Post Office, or contact Ann Rennie at Mernis Howe by Monday 21st July.



"A fly cuppa"



"what are you doing with that camera?"



Please note that the next edition of 'The Messenger' will be published during August 2003. The closing date for inclusion in this edition will be Friday 22nd AUGUST 2003.

If you have access to e-mail please send to: 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>

The
Auchenblae Messenger
Volume 5 Issue 3

July 2003



Editor's Comments

It would surprise this month's editor if you hadn't noticed that this edition of the "Messenger" is somewhat slimmer than usual – and there's a perfectly logical reason why that should be. For this is the time of the year when many of the activities that are an established part of the life of the village are laid aside, and those who have been leading and organising them get a well-merited breather before they all start up again in the autumn.

What better use of the editorial, then, than to record the thanks of the whole community to all the willing hands that have been leading, helping, planning and organising the welter of activities that enhance the quality of life in Auchenblae.

To begin to name them all would be to commit a form of editorial suicide! But to ignore them – or worse still, to take them all for granted would be unforgivable, because we're all in their debt. When we look back over the darker months of the year, November, December, January, February...while many are happy when they come home from work to draw up to the fire – watch the telly, or read a good book – how often did we spare a thought for the volunteers among us who could so easily have done the same, but whose sense of duty saw them struggling through the rain (or the snow!) to be there for the Brownies or the Beavers, the Guild, the Guides, this that or the other committee or whatever, *BECAUSE THEY KNEW THERE WOULD BE OTHERS DEPENDING ON THEM TO BE THERE.* Without people like that how very much poorer this village would be.

But it's not enough to give them all three hearty cheers, while the rest of us sit back and let them get on with it. 'One volunteer is worth ten pressed men' the old phrase used to run. But, men or women, do you know what being a volunteer means? It may mean a willingness to *give up a night by the fire this winter to let others depend on you.* It may mean that, but it certainly means asking yourself *Is there some way – any way at all, I can help to make Auchenblae a better or a happier place not just for me, but for the whole community, young old or in between?*

I'LL BET YOU WHAT YOU LIKE, THERE IS!

Perhaps now is the time, when we're preparing to enjoy the summer break, to think on these things in a positive kind of way, so that when the round of community activity begins in the autumn, the willing few may find they're not just so few after all, and everyone will stand to gain.

Have a good summer!

Donald Rennie

Special points of interest:

- Gala 2003– P4
- PTA–P3
- Monthly Memo– P10

HOP TO THE SHOP

It's an answer to prayer! Auchenblae's village grocery store is not to close down after all. In fact, it has a new lease of life, taken over by Angela Metelski and family and retaining Frances. What could be better?

Some changes have been made already; more to come. So, if you haven't already - check it out! And keep checking it out.

The village needs to support its stores, so while you're at it, check out the Post Office and the butcher's shop as well. You might just find what you're looking for without getting the car out.....

B.G.



West Mearns Parish Church & Auchenblae Guild

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

Every Sunday: Fettercairn Church 9.30 a.m.
and

Every Sunday (except 1st) 11.00 a.m. Auchenblae Church

VISITORS AND THEIR CHILDREN WELCOME AT ALL SERVICES

Starting in July, there will be a **SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL**
Every Sunday for the children. For details please speak to
JUNE SCOTT at Glensauch Tel. 01561 – 340482

GOOD NEWS ABOUT CHRISTIAN AID

This year, in West Mearns we raised **£2077.67** in Christian Aid Week. That's more than we've ever raised before! To all who contributed in any way

THANK YOU!

And a special word of thanks to the Anderson Singers hose concert on Saturday 31st May added £205 to the total.

ALPHA ANYONE?

We're thinking about running a lunchtime Alpha course starting in the autumn.

This would start with a light lunch around the table at 12 noon, followed by a video and discussion, finishing about 2 p.m.

Alpha runs for ten weeks, but there is an introductory video (with lunch) for those who want to see what it's all about before committing. We won't take it personally if you think it's not for you!

The videos give a comprehensive and very interesting introduction to the Christian faith. Anyone can look in – whether atheist out of curiosity, or Christian needing a refresher course, and of course all points in-between. It's also a very good way to make new friends!

If there is enough interest for a lunchtime group, this will be the fifth Alpha course at The Willows. Please phone **Charles or Bren Gordon on 320371** for more details.

Auchenblae Over Sixties Friendship Group

Here we are at the end of another successful year. As usual, our programme has been a varied one. Our numbers stay very much the same, apart from illness, so we must be getting something right.

We have just had a very enjoyable outing to Millers of Midmar. Certainly all the comments that I heard were favourable. This session will end on Wednesday July 2nd., and we will then take our summer break.

We hope to see you all in August for the new programme, which will be the same format as this year with some new ideas, and some old favourites. We hope that the school bus will once again be available, to take the people who need transport, to the Church Hall. We look forward to seeing you all again, and any one else who decides to give us a try. You will be made to feel very welcome.

Barbara Strouts



Auchenblae Pre-School Group

Calling all parents of children under 5 years of age... Auchenblae Pre-School Group are offering a unique opportunity to visit one of their sessions and learn all about how the Playgroup, 2s Group, and Toddler sessions run.



At the beginning of the new term, the Group will be holding its first Open Day/Induction Day. The usual Playgroup session that morning will be cancelled and replaced with this very special session for all children in this age group to attend with their parents. One of the aims of this session will be to go through much of the information parents need to know to enable the sessions, and the Group, to run smoothly and efficiently. It is important that all parents of children enrolled for next Session attend the Open Day/Induction Day. The provisional date arranged is the 20th August, please make arrangements to attend with your child for this date. The session will also offer parents interested in sending their children to the Group a chance to see what we can offer. A firm date will be confirmed in the next couple of weeks by personal letter to each of the parents with children enrolled for the new Session. The firm date will also appear in next month's Memo for those who do not already have children enrolled.

All four members of the Playleading staff will be working at this session along with two Duty Parents. The Playroom will be set out as for a normal session and it will provide a good opportunity for children and parents to learn about their role as a duty parents, play with the children, ask questions, and generally learn what Playgroup and 2s Group are all about.

All parents of children under 5 years of age are encouraged to come and will be made welcome. The Group makes a valuable contribution to the local Community and has much to offer children and parents. Further details will be available nearer the time from Pamela Sellar, Chair, **01561 320168**.

Sheila and Tracey, the pre-school groups fundraising team would like to say a big thank-you to everybody who helped us out during the past year. All of your ideas, time and donations contributed to this being a very successful year. We hope you enjoyed it as much as we did and we look forward to hounding you again next year! Our group would not survive if it wasn't for the help and support of parents/ guardians and the local community. Let's keep up the good work and once again thank-you all very very much.

Pre-school Group Sessions at the Village Hall

Mother & Toddlers
Mondays, 1.15pm – 2.45pm

2's Group
Tuesdays, 1.15pm – 2.45pm
Thursdays, 1.15pm – 2.45pm

Play Group
Monday to Friday,
9.15 ~ 11.30/ 11.45 am (flexible pick-up)

Pre-School Group – Change of Committee

At the AGM on Tuesday, 11th June, a new Committee were elected. Most of the previous Committee had served two years and stepped down at the meeting. The new Committee is made up as follows: Pamela Sellar, Chair; Therese Hendry, Secretary; Trish MacEachern, Enrolment Secretary; Margo Titmuss, Treasurer; Sheila Gray & Tracey Harrison-Lewis, Social & Fundraising, & Duty Rota; Craig MacEachern, Health & Safety Officer, & Equipment Officer; and Julie Stephen, Social & Fundraising, & Duty Rota. Some of the roles on Committee are yet to be allocated. The Group would like to thank all those who served on the outgoing Committee and wish the new Committee the very best. Please continue to give your support to the new Committee and bear with them whilst they get used to their new roles.

Auchenblae's Resident Duck Herders!



.....More Auchenblae School sports



Auchenblae Primary School held their summer Fair on Saturday 14th June, 2003. The PTA Committee would like to thank all parents and every one who came along on the day for the support and donations we received for all the various stalls. A big thank you should also go to Mr Adamson, Mrs Sutherland, Mrs Hector, Mrs Duncan, Mrs Mckenzie, Mrs Nicoll and all the others from school who gave up their time to come along and help with teas and stalls. (Again Mrs Hectors Fairy Cakes and Green juice went down a treat with all the children) The weather was brilliant with the sun shining on us the whole afternoon. Everyone enjoyed the Aberdeen Satrosphere Magic show and the face painting looked great fun.

The various stalls included Splat the Rat, Football and Netball Competition, Balloons, cake and Candy, raffle, bottle stall, lucky dip etc were busy all afternoon.

The fancy Dress Competition was won by Heather Murdoch who was a fantastic daffy duck. Thank you to Mr Donald Ren- nie and his wife for coming along to be our judges for the day.

Whisky Trail winner John Eddie. Give the Gnome a Home Shirley Castles, Sweet Trail winner Angus Walker.

We have raised approximately **£800** for the school. This is a fantastic figure for a small school. If you were there on Satur- day We hope you had time to look round in the playing field to see the new play area, stepping logs, tables and seats and the sand pit.

Forthcoming dates:

THURSDAY 3RD