

The

Auchenblae Messenger

Volume 9 Issue 1

February 2007



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Auchenblae Parks Committee

The AGM will be held in the Committee Room at the Village Hall on **Tuesday 27th February at 7.30pm**. We would welcome new members.

The Parks Committee, who are they and what do they do?

The committee is a group of Auchenblae people who 'look after' the different bits of land belonging to the village.

Which bits of land?

The Den which includes the tennis courts; bowling and putting greens; children's play area and adventure play ground; the dam; the 'high roadie' and all the bits in between.

The Football Pitch and the surrounding areas of young woodland.

Gilbert's Hill The hillside grounds around the War Memorial.

The Golf Course With a membership of 500 (and a waiting list!), Auchenblae Golf Course is managed by the Parks Committee as a business on behalf of the village.

Why do we need a Committee?

These areas belong to the village.

They are not maintained by the local Authority.

Without local commitment, these areas would follow suit of other villages and be taken over by the local Authority.

Auchenblae Friendship Group

We are now started into our new session. If anyone else would care to join us we can still welcome more people to our group. We are very informal and meet to provide friendship to anyone who is retired and who has nothing to do on a Wednesday morning. Meetings are held in the Church Hall every Wednesday during school term time, from 10.15am until 12.15pm. If you do not have transport it can be arranged on the school bus. Please ring me if you are interested on **320498**.

Grateful thanks are due to the sons of our dear Katie White for the generous donation of the collection from her funeral to the Friendship Group. We are still deliberating on a fitting memorial to her.

Barbara Strouts

West Mearns Parish Church & Auchinblae Guild



Minister: Rev. Catherine Hepburn

The Manse, Fettercairn—Tel 01561 340203

9.30 a.m. Every Sunday at Fettercairn

11.00 a.m. First Sunday of the month Glenbervie

11.00 a.m. Every other Sunday in the month

Service at Auchinblae Church

In addition to Sunday School, there is now a crèche for very young children every Sunday at Auchinblae and Glenbervie

VISITORS ESPECIALLY WELCOME AT ALL SERVICES

Auchinblae Guild (West Mearns Parish Church)

The Guild got off to a good start for 2007 with a very happy Scottish Lunch – stovies and cloutie dumpling! Members also viewed a DVD of the annual Scottish Conference which took place in Glasgow last summer.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday **February 21st at 2.30 pm** in the Church Hall when the speaker will be Mr Brian Cartwright of Luthermuir whose topic will be music and it's composers. Our meetings are open to everyone – just come along for a warm welcome.

Ann Rennie.

From this Month's Editor—Craig Sandeman

Happy new year to all. May I hope that your resolutions are all intact and you are all feeling the benefit of eating five fruit and veg a day or giving up smoking or drinking less. I can hold my head up high and declare that I have indeed honoured my resolutions and shall continue to do so. My resolution... Not to make any resolutions. Well, it does avoid disappointment doesn't it? And my motto is that disappointment is something which should be suffered by others not yourself.

Ramble, ramble, it's all I ever do! You will get used to it, I promise. Unfortunately you have been blessed with my editorial prowess again this issue while Donald takes a well earned rest and I, and I am sure I am not alone in saying this, look forward to his return and a more steady hand on the tiller!

Auchinblae & District Community Association

Hall Booking System

The recent implementation of the **Public Entertainment Licence** by Aberdeenshire Council has meant some changes in the booking system of the Hall. To comply with the Licence, it's fire regulations and the requirement by the Council for the Licence Holder to maintain a documented booking record, both the booking diary and the hall key will be held by the authorised key holder – Sue Hodgson.

From 1st February Sue can be contacted on **(01561) 320207** or by email: sue.hodgson@homecall.co.uk
The continued co-operation of all hall users in implementing these changes is greatly appreciated.

Craft Show

In the last Messenger it was indicated that we were considering holding a Craft Show/Sale. This has been discussed and a decision deferred at present.

Soup and Sweet Lunch



A Soup and Sweet Lunch is to be held to raise funds to eliminate an outbreak of rot in the Church. It has been decided while these repairs are ongoing, to modernise the toilet area, making it more suitable for disabled visitors.

The Lunch is to be held in the Village Hall on **Saturday 24th February from 11.30am till 2pm.**

A raffle will be held to boost funds and donations for this will be most welcome before the event. Tickets will cost £3.50 (concessions for children) and will be available from church members and the post office.

Please come along and choose from a selection of warming home made soups and delicious puddings!
We'll be delighted to see you there!

LIGHT HOUSE.



The first 2007 session of Light House started at The Willows on Sunday **21st January** at the usual time of 11a.m. to 12 noon.

Our new programme is entitled "The Adventures of Zoe and Oliver" and it is suitable for all children between the ages of 4 and 12. We're also happy to welcome young teens on board to help with the games, and anyone with musical ability will be especially popular!

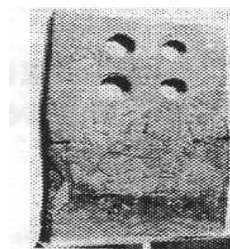
Please call Charles or Bren on 320371 for more information if your child would be interested in coming to the Light House. Or just bring them along on any Sunday morning and see if they like it! For those new to the village, we're opposite Metelski's Store, up the steps.

AUCHENBLAE AND DISTRICT HERITAGE SOCIETY

Date for your diary:

"AUCHENBLAE CHARACTERS"

(Some of the long gone ones)



To be preceded by a short A.G.M.

Monday 5th March 7.30 p.m.

Church Hall

All Welcome - bring your grannies, aunts and uncles, nephews,
next-door neighbours.....

But please leave your cats at home.

Auchenblae Senior Citizen Fund

Auchenblae senior citizen fund are looking forward to another good year. We had our AGM back in October and although it was poorly attended we plodded on and got our Christmas parcels out . Many thanks to Francis and Angela for their help again.

We decided to swap position on the committee so we're now;

Chair person Wendy

Treasurer Jean

Secretary Tracey

Our plan for the beginning of the year is a coffee morning at Wendy's followed by Jeans and then Tracey's. We hope to do another sponsored walk in May and also a 'guest host' coffee morning. Here are the dates we have so far;

Saturday 10th February-coffee morning at Wendy's

Saturday 17th March-coffee morning at Jean's

Saturday 14th April-coffee morning at Tracey's

Saturday 19th May-sponsored walk.

Once again thanks for supporting the fund and if anyone would like to suggest new fundraising ideas please let us know.

Auchinblae Drama Group



2007 has started with the Auchinblae Drama Group excited about competing in the SCDA (Scottish Community Drama Association) competitions on February 24th. We'll be performing "Frankenstein's Guests" at the Aberdeen Arts Centre and our performance will be marked by an SCDA Adjudicator.

Our usual Count Dracula will be having his coffin reupholstered in sunny Australia and we are thrilled to have Kris Newstead standing in for us on this occasion. God forbid it we actually get a placing at this, the Regional rounds, we would move on to Dunkeld to perform in the Divisional Rounds. We would love for those who enjoyed the performance and those who missed it to come along to the Aberdeen Arts Centre and lend some vocal (positive) support.

When that's over with we will be focusing on 'Auchenfest' which we will be holding over the weekend of the 8-10 of June. Auchenfest is our festival of performing arts and we want to showcase and encourage as much local talent as possible. While there is a programme of events we would love to hear from all areas of the performing arts to incorporate them into our festival.

Currently our events program is as follows;

Friday 8 th June Evening	Local performing talent and a short play written by our own Craig Sandeman and performed by the Auchinblae Drama Group.
Saturday 9 th June Afternoon	Family mask workshop and costume/set workshop.
Saturday 9 th June Afternoon	Emotion masks – you perform the way your mask feels.
Saturday 9 th June Evening	Family masked Ceilidh – band to be confirmed.
Sunday 10 th June	Shakespeare in the Den. open air children's performance and an adult performance in the evening.

We're waiting to hear from interested performers in all areas; music , poetry , performance art , stand up comedy and film making. If you would like to perform please call **Gillian on 320360** or come along to the Auchinblae Drama Group weekly meeting at the Drumtochty Arms Hotel meeting every Wednesday at 7.30pm.

See you there.

You can also check us out on our new website www.auchinblaedramagroup.co.uk

Food for thought—Seasons Eatings

Thought for the month.

‘A Recipe should be a tune to which you write your own words’. In other words, a guideline based on the main ingredients and cooking style.

Guidelines for Good Eating.

Do you have any ‘rules’ you try and follow to ensure good food and good health. Here are a couple to start.

1. *Buy and eat as locally and seasonally as you can whenever you can.*

2. *Get to know your local producers/suppliers*

Taking this into account here is a wonderful family weekend lunch/dinner that I tried recently. Ideal for weekends with guests when you do not want to be tied to the kitchen, but need a delicious hot meal when you come home. Also very economical and mostly quite good for you.

SEASONAL BEST: Oysters, mussels, scallops, Mackerel, Cod, Halibut, Pork, Cauliflower, Celery, Red & Savoy Cabbage, Curly Kale, Chicory, Turnip, Forced Rhubarb

STILL GOOD: Most roots, Lemons & Bananas, Seville (Marmalade) Oranges

FOOD FACT:

DID YOU KNOW....

Rhubarb is a vegetable. Tomatoes are fruits.

It's all about the seeds.

Slow (Very slow) Cooked Shoulder of Pork,

A whole shoulder of pork can be cooked very slowly in a very low oven for up to **24 hours**. I cooked a ½ shoulder (about 5 kg in weight) this way over **12 hours**. (*N.B. – A note about pork crackling. The best way I know to ensure crisp crackling is a) keep the meat dry/uncovered in fridge, score deeply and close together through fat with a clean Stanley knife, rub with salt and/or oil immediately before cooking*) Prepare as just stated, but you can make a rub of any flavours you like to coat the pork. Try: 2–3 cloves garlic, 1 seeded & chopped red chilli, some olive oil, sherry, and grated fresh ginger blended together into a paste and rubbed all over, through the scoring.

Place in roasting tin in oven at hottest it will go skin side up. For 30 minutes. Turn over (use tongs, meat forks or oven gloves!) baste with more of the mix of juices/spices and return to the oven, **NOW** turned right down to 120 °C and leave for 10 – 12 hours. Turn back to high and turn right way up for last 30 – 40 minutes before you want to eat. The meat will be tender and sweet and can be carved or shredded. Serve with.....

Gratin Dauphinoise

3 – 4 lb potatoes sliced very thinly (use a mouli or food processor if possible). Do not rinse. Place in large saucepan with salt, 3 crushed cloves of garlic and ¾ pint each double cream and milk. Stir over medium heat until almost boiling. Do not let them stick. Turn to lowest heat on hob and prepare a dish big enough for them to fit in, by rubbing well with butter. Then tumble all potatoes/cream into dish, smooth around and place in the low oven for up to three hours. Loosely cover with foil to avoid over browning and uncover at end. (These can also be made the day before and re heated.) along with Braised Red Cabbage. Lots of recipes for this one around.

New Year Resolutions??? – A Good Start

The beginning of a new year is often a time we make resolutions about better health. Research shows that people who eat a good breakfast are less likely to have a mid morning energy dip and reach for cakes and biscuits and are often more alert and attentive.

A small (4 fl oz) glass of fresh fruit juice (diluted for younger children), a quality whole grain wheat or oats based cereal (wheat biscuits/porridge/Meusli) is good, semi skimmed milk (full fat for children) some fruit (tinned grapefruit/prunes on cereal or a banana or small orange) and perhaps a boiled egg or slice or two of cheese with toast will keep you going until lunch.

Try Something New Challenge: Oysters. Just as they are, opened carefully, splashed with lemon (chew first – then swallow) and followed by a chilled glass of bubbly for Valentine Day. **Pigeon Breasts** – small but delicious, mild gamey option - quickly pan fried less than 2 minutes each side, sliced into a warm salad. The Auchinblae Butcher may still have some frozen vacuum packs in stock.

Spring Celebrations

The early part of the year has numerous opportunities for food inspiration and celebration.

Valentines Day – 14th February. A great opportunity to make simple but delicious dinner for your loved ones (parents and children count!) Easy starter of melon, or avocado prawn or pate, steak or your favourite fish followed by something chocolatey (naughty but nice).

Chinese New Year – 18th Feb. An excuse for a fabulous banquet style meal. It will be the year of the Pig.

Pancake Day – 20th Feb – need I say more. But don't forget to 'give something up for lent the next day!

Mothers Day – 18th March. A chance to spoil someone. Breakfast or brunch is always good..

Easter 6th – 9th April. Traditional start of the Spring Lamb season. Although not perhaps so in Scotland in years when Easter is early. More about lamb next time. And of course, Chocolate is a must.

And watch this space.....

CANCER RESEARCH CHARITY HEALTHY BRUNCH

In March I am hoping to run a 'Sunday Brunch' style Breakfast for Health event in support of Cancer Research. More details soon.

Carol Shea



Auchinblae Racquet Group



The Indoor season has been going well this year and we are already looking forward to the New Outdoor season, hopefully for the beginning of May. Watch notice boards for more information.

For anyone new to the area, or interested for the first time, we run junior and advanced junior classes under the tutelage of a professional LTA coach (Wendy Byres) outdoors at the Tennis courts in summer and for smaller groups indoors in the village hall during the winter.

Also, during the summer, coached and social sessions are organised for interested adults. If you would like more information, or are interested in joining a session, please contact **Gina Easter (320269)** or **Carol Shea (320748)** for details.



**THE AUCHENBLAE MESSENGER
THE NEWSLETTER
FOR THE
AUCHENBLAE COMMUNITY**



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Copies of the Messenger can be collected from the local shops and the Drumlithie Hotel

Auchenblae Messenger Supplement—MONTHLY MEMO

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>TIME</u>
Tues 27th Feb	Parks Committee AGM	Village Hall	7.30 p.m.
Sat. 24th Feb	Soup & Sweet Lunch	Village Hall	11.30-2p.m.
Mon 5th March	Heritage Society AGM	Church Hall	7.20 p.m.
Sun 20th—Sat 26th May	Gala	Village	
8th—10th June	Auchenfest	TBA	
Fri 7th – Sun 9th Sep	Art Show	Village Hall	TBA

ALL INFORMATION FOR INCLUSION IN THE MARCH MEMO

SHOULD BE GIVEN TO ANN RENNIE, 'MERNIS HOWE' Tel. 01561 320622 By 13TH February 2007

KICK START ART FOR ADULTS.

Will meet at Bridgend Studio on Fri 2nd Feb at 7pm.—Cost is £10 for the evening.

THEME; "EXPLORING SKIES"

A RELAXED EVENING OF DEMONSTRATIONS AND EXPERIMENTING WITH ART TECHNIQUES.

Anyone interested please contact Jenny Watt Colbeck on tel no. **01561 320998.**

March meeting "exploring Trees" date to be decided].

KIDS ART CLASSES ARE UP AND RUNNING so if your child is interested contact Jenny for details.

Please note that the next edition of 'The Messenger' will be published during April 2007. The closing date for inclusion in this edition will be 15th March 2007.

If you have access to e-mail please send to: **themessenger@mearns.org**
Otherwise, hand to Craig Sandeman, Drumbeg . 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>