



# Auchenblae Messenger

Founded in 1999 by Donald B. Rennie

*Spring Edition*

VOLUME 17, ISSUE 1

March 2015

## From The Editor

How nice it is to feel that the seasons are on the turn. As usual the snow-drops are showing all over the village and crocuses are also beginning to appear. As you will see in this edition of The Messenger there is a lot happening in Auchenblae. Do give your support to as many events as you can.

Many thanks to all contributors. I will be collecting again for the June issue on **May 15th**. It seems a long time ahead but will be with us very soon. Please send to

[barpollybar@gmail.com](mailto:barpollybar@gmail.com)

Barbara

## Memo Date

The Next Memo is scheduled for April 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 March 2015

**HELP NEEDED!** - I have found your Auchenblae Messenger on the web.

My 3 X great grandfather James Bridgeford married of Galloquine in 1793. He was a corn Miller from Kincardine O'Neil. I visited in 1998 and found that the Millstone was still in the grounds of the former Inn but unfortunately the occupants of the Miller's Cottage were not at home.

I am coming to Dundee on 26th May for a week and wonder if it would be possible to visit the cottage.

The family moved to different mills in Arbirlot, Fordon and surrounding areas and later generations moved to Dundee where my grandfather was loftsman on the Discovery ship. My father served in WW1 and was in the jute industry. I live in Devon and have spent many happy years researching this family. I hope that it will be possible to arrange something on probably my last visit to your area. Thank you,

Sheila Jelley (ms Bradford) that it what the surname gradually became through different spellings!! [sheila@sheilajelley.co.uk](mailto:sheila@sheilajelley.co.uk)

### Inside this issue:

Community Assoc. 2

Brownies, Rainbows, Guides 4

Golf Course 3

Storm Aftermath 6

Guild 10

Parent Council 10

Tennis Club 11

## Auchenblae Community Association

The Auchenblae & District Community Association is preparing for a new season for 2015 starting with the Curry Night scheduled for Saturday 21st March. Keep an eye out for more information nearer the time.

The committee raises funds throughout the year to maintain the fabric of the hall and we have costs associated with providing this community facility. The Community Association meets the first Tuesday of every month and always welcomes new volunteers and visitors whether it's for the season, a particular event or special interest. Meetings are held in the committee room at 19.30 if anyone is interested in attending.

We have some exciting plans this year, both for the hall and the schedule of events. More information will be coming out in the next few months

## West Mearns Parish Church

### West Mearns Parish Easter Services

**Thursday 2nd April Maundy Thursday Holy Communion**

**Auchenblae 7.30pm**

**Friday 3rd April Good Friday Service at Laurencekirk  
7.30pm**

**Sunday 5th April Easter Day Fettercairn 9.30am  
Glenbervie 11.00am**

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## A Big Thank you

Mary Craig, formerly of Donardo, Auchenblae, now at Burnside Care Home, Laurencekirk, has asked that her grateful thanks should be expressed to all in the village for their friendship over many years. Especially she thanks the Minister and congregation at Fordoun Kirk where she worshipped every Sunday, the Auchenblae Church Guild and the Auchenblae Church Friendship Group.

Thanks also to all who have sent cards and who visit her at Burnside, much appreciated.

As one who visits, I can truly say that despite her 104 years, Mary still enjoys a good laugh and recites her poetry.

**Ann Rennie**

Brownies continues to be really popular with girls aged 7-10 in the village (and beyond).

We meet every week at the school hall and so far this year the girls have been working towards their agility and circus skills badges. It is really good to keep active even in the winter months.



We are going to enjoy our annual Thinking Day event on 22<sup>nd</sup> February. Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and the Senior Section from Mearns district will meet at Luthermuir Village Hall to enjoy celebrating this worldwide guiding event. We have a fun day of crafts and activities planned.

We are always looking for volunteers to help support youngsters through their guiding journey so if you are interested in helping, whether regularly or occasionally or you want to find out more then get in touch.

Jane Wharry – 01561 320 233

The Rainbows have been working hard on the Seasons badge, they have planted Crocus and Daffodil bulbs in the planters near the church Hall door, no sign of anything yet but we do hope to have a nice display. We are very lucky to have a new Leader in training, Katrina Fotheringham, she was a Brownie in Fettercairn and is really enjoying helping with Rainbows.



Thank you to everyone who used our Christmas card delivery service, we made £89 for Guide funds. During winter we decided our Challenge was to be to learn 100 life skills, sewing on buttons progressed to using an electric sewing machine to make a camp dish bag.



On 22<sup>nd</sup> February all Guiding units will celebrate Thinking Day, Lord and Lady Baden-Powell shared this birthday and we think of Guiding all over the world. Mearns District are holding a fun day for all units in Luthermuir.

### **Snippets from Guiding archives..**

Just a few days after the war broke out in 1914, Guides started to think about how they could help, they collected waste paper, grew food, knitted for soldiers and helped in hospitals and soup kitchens.

Odd fact Guides were employed by MI5 during WW1 to carry messages in their building, the initial plan was to use Boy Scouts but they proved to be noisy and feckless, the girls were much more reliable.

Each patrol was awarded points and at the end of each month the patrol with the most points were awarded a picture to keep for the following month. I think today's girls would be looking for treats or chocolate.

If anyone is interested in joining Guiding, adult or girl please visit web site

[www.girlguiding.org.uk](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk)

Evelyn Richardson

## Auchenblae Golf Course



Set in the beautiful surroundings of the Mearns countryside, Auchenblae Golf Course offers 9 holes of enjoyment for all levels of player.

Applications are now being accepted for membership for the 2015 season.

Membership rates are as follows:

Full	£165
Senior (65 & over)	£145
Junior 1 (8-15 years old)	£35
Junior 2 (16-17 years old)	£70

If you are interested in becoming a member, please email:

[auchenblaegolf@gmail.com](mailto:auchenblaegolf@gmail.com) and an application form will be sent out by return.



Auchenblae Parks Committee (SC002248)

# AUCHENBLAE NEARLY NEW SALE

## Auchenblae Village Hall 9-11am AWAITING CONFIRMATION OF DATE

**Cash Only Please -  
No Cheques**

**Entrance £2**

**Refreshments  
also Available**

WE SELL ALL  
CLOTHES  
TOYS,  
GAMES,  
CRAFTS, CD'S,  
DVD'S, SPORTS  
EQUIPMENT,  
OUTDOOR  
TOYS, MUSICAL  
INSTRUMENTS  
FOR CHILDREN  
AGED 0-16 AS  
WELL AS ALL  
NURSERY  
EQUIPMENT

**Come  
along and  
find some  
genuine  
bargains!**

Why not purchase a seller number for £3 and let us sell your goods for you at our next sale. All you need to do is label up your goods with your seller number and price and then drop them off the night before the sale - we will do the rest! We take 25% commission, which goes to Charity and you get back 75% of the value of your sold goods

To be added to distribution list  
please contact  
Isabelle 01561 320507  
[isabelle.riddoch@btinternet.com](mailto:isabelle.riddoch@btinternet.com)  
Gillian 01561 320685  
[gillianmilne129@btinternet.com](mailto:gillianmilne129@btinternet.com)

Please park considerately and use overspill parking at Auchenblae Primary School if required. All proceeds from the sale going to local charities and good causes.

## Victims of the storm

### Adam and Eve

The gales that swept across Scotland at the start of the year, left in their wake a trail of destruction in many communities; with Auchenblae no exception. Well not exactly destruction, but enough damage to get us on the front page of the Observer. The Kincardineshire Observer that is.

Early morning commuters on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January were the first to discover that one of the familiar twin trees between the Mains of Fordoun and Fisherford Crossroads had succumbed to the weekend blast. And Facebook was soon full of it. Shock and horror! And the inevitable question: was it Adam, or was it Eve? I can't honestly answer that question, but I can share a little bit of historical info.

On a map dated 1825, two small trees, in exactly the same position, are seen at either side of the drive leading to Fordoun House. Fordoun House was built for the brother of the 5<sup>th</sup> Viscount of Arbutnott and dates back to 1685. The drive leading to this house has long since disappeared, but the large four storey building remains in use to this day as the farmhouse and family home of the Innes family who, since the 1920s have owned Mains of Fordoun.

Back to the trees, despite this particular specimen having shown signs of stress in recent years and the likely outcome inevitable, there can't be many passers-by who don't feel a little sad to see the majestic pair now separated. So, was it Adam, or was it Eve? Although born and bred nearby, I have never known. However, someone felt compelled enough to pen these immortal words:

***R.I.P. Adam. Forever in my heart. Gone but not forgotten. Eve.  
Anon.***

All good things come to an end, but we can take comfort in the fact that their offspring 'Cain and Abel', whilst still mere youngsters, are being given peace and space to grow tall and strong, undisturbed and unpolluted by passing traffic, in an adjacent field.

### The Church Clock

In the days before every man carried a watch in his waistcoat pocket, people relied on the Kirk clock to tell them the time of day. With faces on three sides the clock was visible from the South, the West and the North. The massive bell in the tower rang out the hours, letting workers know when it was time for risin' and time for lousin'.

These days are long gone, but it may be surprising to know just how many of us glance upwards, probably unwittingly, to the church clock. It may not even register that we do it, but as soon as the clock has stopped - - - - then we notice! A recent example of this 'upward glance' led Auchenblae

born and bred, Doris Crabb, to alert us that something was amiss at the church.

Something was indeed amiss for the clock face next to the school was gone! Yes, another victim of the gales. It hit the ground with such force that a significant indent could be seen where it landed. I can tell you that these clocks are much bigger (and heavier) when at ground level.

The following morning, a community action group swung into place with many people giving freely of their time to check that the remaining two faces were secure. As a precaution a "NO ENTRY, DANGEROUS BUILDING" sign was posted on the gates.

Inspection from inside the tower revealed that the south face was showing signs of movement and in the interest of safety should be removed immediately. After some discussion, it was agreed that while the cherry picker was on site, the third clock-face, directly above the entrance, should be taken down too, so that all three could be refurbished. This was last done in 1966, so it is little wonder that the numbers were starting to fade.

So, it's an ill wind.... etc. and I'm sure we can all look forward to 'brighter times' in Auchenblae.



**Silent Auction**

To fund the refurbishment of the clocks, a Silent Auction and White Elephant Extravaganza is to be held in the village hall on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May. We hope this will attract lots of local support and if you have any items for the auction, white elephant stall (bric-a-brac) or raffle, please let us know and we can collect, or phone 320245 to discuss.

This is a fun way of making a bit of money as everyone enjoys a good rummage! Morning coffees and Soup and Pudding lunches will also be on offer.

**The Man Behind the Clock**

During his lifetime, Bob Jamieson has been given a variety of broken clocks to see if he can repair them, and thanks to his patience and skill most have gone on to serve many more years of faithful service. However, this affection for all mechanical time pieces was taken to a much grander scale when a job at the church became vacant.

Unknown to many Auchenblae residents, for almost thirty years, Bob has been responsible for winding the clock in the church tower. Every Wednesday night, summer and winter, 52 weeks a year, Bob has made the journey from the top of the village to the church where he climbed the 55 steps to keep his date with the clock.

The clock itself is a masterpiece of mechanical engineering and marvelled by all who see it .....



.....Two massive weights, one that operates the clock, and the other the bell, need 70 cranks each to lift them thirty feet back up to the level of the clock gallery!

Bob knows the workings of this clock inside out, and has kept it in perfect working condition throughout these years. This has been nothing short of a labour of love. After winding the clock he then sits and waits for 7 o'clock to strike and checks it against his own watch. According to him - "*It disna metter about Greenwich mean time, this is Auchenblae time and that's a' that matters*".

He had hoped to complete the full thirty years in the job, but a recent health issue has unfortunately forced him to take 'early retirement'. So, and this is our dilemma, we desperately need someone to take over!

Bob is more than happy to pass on his knowledge, so it is hoped that a successor can be found who will be willing to continue this important role in the community, with commitment and pride.

If you are interested in carrying on this tradition, which can be done any day and time that suits you, then please contact Bob in the first instance, on **320383**.

**Jenny Thomson**

## Coffee Morning and Fashion Show

To be held in the Village Hall on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March from 10am till 12 noon.

Outfits from Encore Dress Agency will be modelled by local ladies you will, most likely know! Very brave of them wouldn't you say?

This is not a stuffy Guild event by any means, and we do hope to attract and welcome a wider age group. So please come along and give your support to our own Carrie Murdoch and her team of amateur models.

Teas and coffees will be served throughout the morning along with a selection of beautiful home baked items.

Stalls will include: Savoury Take- Away, Preserves and Produce as well as a recently replenished Book Stall.

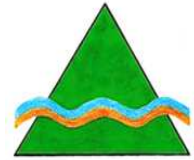
There will be a raffle of course (!) for which items will be gratefully received, in advance if possible.

Entry to this most enjoyable morning event is just £3.50 with Primary Children £1.50

All funds raised will be used for various Guild related projects, both at home and abroad.



# Annual Work Day in the Den



**Saturday 4th April—10.00 a.m.**

**Once again we need your help to tidy up after winter**

If you and your family, enjoy and make use of our beautiful Den, in any shape or form, then please spare a few hours to come along and help the members of Auchenblae Parks Committee get the area ready for the summer months ahead.

Lots of jobs to do, energetic or otherwise:

Bark to spread in the Adventure Playground; Leaves and branches to rake and remove; Paths to tidy; Brambles and more brambles ; Play equipment and Den signs to wash; Debris to remove from the burn; Rubber matting to power wash; Tennis Courts to prepare; Bamboo to remove in the Dam; Roses to trim, etc. etc.,

In other words, there are jobs suitable for all ages and abilities.

As always we will welcome our energetic and capable youths who can help with some of the more physical tasks. Those now less able, but who have done their bit in the past, are especially invited to come along and join us for refreshments. The kettle is always on.

We treat our workers to an informal soup and sandwich lunch as well as coffee and tea beaks whenever the need arises - and that's usually quite regularly!

Please remember to bring your own tools if possible, barrows are definitely needed, lawn rakes, forks, wellies, rubber gloves, spades and secateurs, depending on the kind of work you choose to do.

Thank you in anticipation of a good turnout. If the weather is just too bad we'll try again next day.

## Auchenblae Guild

We meet once a month on a Wednesday afternoon for a stimulating afternoon, but most of all for Fellowship. At our February meeting Jenny Thomson gave a talk on Old Auchenblae and Mrs Margaret Muiry will be our speaker on Wednesday 18th March and will speak on "A Life in Nursing."

Auchenblae is hosting the World Day of Prayer service at 2.00pm on Friday 6th March in the Church. This service is open to all, no matter which church you belong to, and is celebrated on the same day Worldwide. Come and join us.

Our Spring coffee morning is on Saturday 21st March in the Village Hall. See the separate poster elsewhere in The Messenger for details.

You will be warmly welcomed at our meetings, men and women, 2.00pm in the Church Hall, always on the third Wednesday of the month.

## Auchenblae Parent Council

Auchenblae Parent Council would like to express a huge thank you to the Parks Committee for allowing us to use the fantastic pavilion as a Santa's Grotto over the festive season. Elves 1, 2 and 3 worked hard with Santa and his lovely wife to bring a little bit of magic.

We would like to thank everyone for supporting the Christmas Tree event, helping to raise much needed money for Aberdeenshire families in need of support over the festive period. Christmas presents and food parcels have been purchased with the money raised.

Education Enterprise was also busy and really well supported. With the help of lots of children and parents we created driftwood trees and Christmas decorations. These have been purchased via the Tea Shop, face book, Pre-School Christmas Market and by word of mouth. Word even spread as far as Australia. So again another HUGE THANK YOU. The children have been busy thinking of ways to spend the money raised.

Parent Council have heard a whisper that there will be an Easter Competition run over the Easter Break! How true this is I don't know but will be talking to the Easter Bunny very soon. Please keep an eye on the notice boards for updates.

The clothing bank has been open in the school car park since December. So far it's been emptied twice, raising money for our fantastic school. This clothing bank is open all the year round and we welcome everyone to use it. Items accepted are clothing, towels, bedding, bags, ties, belts and tied shoes.

## Previously Loved Adult Clothing sale

Late last year I began considering holding a 'nearly new' sale for adult (mostly ladies I must admit) new clothing/accessories etc. on a similar basis to the very successful babies and children's event that has run several times a year. In effect, you bring along priced items of clothing good enough to sell on, and if sold you get 50% of the sale price back.

After costs of event any excess of the other 50% will go to a selected local charity or need.

I received a generally positive response on facebook and am now considering booking a date in the village hall, probably a Friday night or Saturday morning and probably shortly after the Easter Holidays.

There would be a need for a small team of helpers, mostly setting up, on the day etc. And of course people ready and willing to trawl their wardrobes for suitable items.

Please let me know if you are interested in

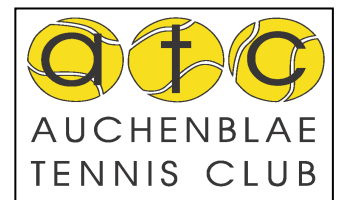
- a) Selling clothes/accessories at such an event
- b) Helping out

Please email me on [shea.carol@btopenworld.com](mailto:shea.carol@btopenworld.com) or contact me via my Facebook page if you can help, or would be interested in supporting such an event.

**Carol Shea**



## Auchenblae Tennis Club



This year we hope to encourage a few more adults to enjoy the facilities. A chance to take up a new challenge, dust off some rusty skills or warm up for major tournaments.

The courts should be open, hopefully from 28<sup>th</sup> April or 5<sup>th</sup> May. We have racquets and balls if needed and a great coach in Jules Anderson.

So, as a first off, I am looking to ascertain how many adults may be interested in organised social play and/or coaching. Days, times and other variables can be discussed later, though a weekend daytime may be best for social play, and Tue/Wed afternoon/evening for coaching.

So, if you are interested, please drop me an email ([shea.carol@btopenworld.com](mailto:shea.carol@btopenworld.com)) or make contact on the Auchenblae Tennis Club Facebook page. Let me know if you:-

- a) have played before or
- b) a complete beginner

and if you are interested in

- c) coaching and/or
- d) social play.

I look forward to hearing from you and seeing some on the courts in a month or two.

**Carol Shea**

## Dates for your diary

Silent Auction	Village Hall	2nd May
Coffee Morning & Fashion Show	Village Hall	21st March
Annual Work Day	Den	4th April
Guild Coffee Morning	Village Hall	21st March
Nearly New Sale	Village Hall	TBA

## Auchenblae Community Profile

Primary seven pupils from Auchenblae Primary School worked with their Teacher and Community Learning and Development staff to research and compile a Community Profile about Auchenblae.

The pupils first thought about what they liked about Auchenblae and what could be improved. They then designed, distributed and collated questionnaires to ask the community for their opinions. The pupils also provided descriptions of the community facilities and resources as well as photographs of particular points of interest. They also acted as 'estate agents' describing Auchenblae as a place people may want to live.

Auchenblae Community Profiles will be available to collect from the local shop and the GP Surgery, we hope you will enjoy reading the findings.

Elaine Strachan

Community Learning and Development Worker

Mearns Community Campus, Aberdeen Road, Laurencekirk AB301ZJ

**01561 378298 - Elaine.Strachan@aberdeenshire.gov.uk**

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**Memo Production**— Lindsay Cochrane

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