



The

Auchenblae Messenger

Volume 7 Issue 2

May 2005



Editorial

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How did the old song go that Flanders and Swann used to sing?

“April brings the sweet spring showers....
On and on for hours and hours”

Even “Scotland the What?” had their version of the same thing –

“April showers.....cut the patter
Every day it rains hail-watter!”

We welcome everyone to the May edition of *The Messenger* and while this Editorial is being written, the rain is sloshing down outside the window as if it has forgotten how to stop! But it *will* stop.... and the sun will shine on Auchenblae. Sure it will. And when the gardens have recovered from the monsoon-like days, the flowers will still be there (some of them slightly flattened by the watery onslaught) and the depression that seems to go with the prolonged bad weather will lift, and spring will give way to summer once more. And to encourage us on our way, *The Messenger* drops through the letter-box. What more could we ask!

Oh yes, there is one more thing we could ask. Please read it. In fact, get out your red pencil – not to correct the typing errors (use a blue pencil for that!) but to mark the things that really interest you, and make a point of taking part or lending your support wherever you can.

May promises to be quite a month, for apart from the General Election on May 5th – and let’s not get too cynical about the politicians – if you don’t get out and vote you end up getting the government you deserve – so the issue is in our hands! And if this is how we determine what kind of country we want for ourselves, a couple of weeks later in Christian Aid Week, we’re making a statement about the kind of world we want for *everyone* – especially for the poorest and most marginalized.

Finally at the end of the month and into the month of June we have the Auchenblae Gala which is a celebration of the good things in our own community.

Although this issue of *The Messenger* may be smaller, quantity-wise, than some of our previous editions, we believe it contains important information that we want to get into every home in the village and round about. And that, this editor would aver, is the most important reason why there’s a *Messenger* at all.

We wish all our readers well.

Donald Rennie. (Editor for May 2005)

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West Mearns Parish Church, Auchenblae

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

Sunday Service

**Every Sunday *except the first Sunday of the month*
Service at Auchenblae Church 11.00 a.m.**

**First Sunday of the Month
Service at Glenbervie Church 11.00 a.m.**

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

AUCHENBLAE GUILD (West Mearns Parish Church)

At the time of writing, we are heading for the last meeting of the Guild for this season, (already!) – the annual AGM followed by a DIY programme on the topic ‘Count me in’. To take us right up to the summer we have the Annual Presbyterial Council Supper Party and AGM at Ardoe House on May 4th along with a meal and music from the children’s choir from Kampala, Uganda. The speaker will be the National Guild Secretary, Alison Twaddle, from Edinburgh.

On Wednesday 25th May all three Guilds (Auchenblae, Fettercairn and Glenbervie) will meet together at the Clatterin’ Brig Tearoom, while on Wednesday June 22nd Auchenblae depart for Ferryhill Church, Aberdeen, to meet with our Guild Link friends for lunch, and a visit to the Duthie Park and / or Winter Gardens before returning to Ferryhill for afternoon tea.

The recent Encore Fashion Show was enjoyed by a small but enthusiastic audience (some from Ban-chory) when the sum of £260 was raised for the Sunflower Project (a garden for children of AIDS victim) and our own funds. Thanks are due to all our lovely models and all who helped before and after the evening.

And so comes the end of another year in the life of Auchenblae Guild!

Please Note. After each Sunday Service in Auchenblae Church there’s an opportunity to meet with friends over tea and coffee and some Fair Traded goods are always on sale as well.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

**WILL TAKE PLACE
FROM 15TH - 21ST MAY 2005**

**This year, Christian Aid is celebrating
Its 60th Birthday!**

Here in West Mearns we have only been holding Christian Aid Week for the past eight years. But each year, as more and more people have grasped the importance of this cause, and what we can do about the poverty of two thirds of the world, the amount we have given has steadily increased.

This year, through Christian Aid, we have already contributed over six hundred pounds (to the Tsunami appeal) – but other areas of desperate human need still demand that we take action.

Please give as generously as you are able when the Christian Aid Collector calls at your door.

**If you would like to help in any way
contact Donald Rennie Tel.01561 320622**

AND LET'S MAKE POVERTY HISTORY!

Open Letter from Margo Titmuss—London Marathon

Dear Friends,

Firstly, I would like to thank everyone who has sponsored me so far to run in the London Marathon in aid of the Lady Hoare Trust. I have been astounded at the generosity of so many, and I am delighted to say that I have already raised over £4,500.



As some of you will know, unfortunately, due to a fall 4 weeks before the big day, I wasn't able to participate in the Marathon on April 17th. Whilst helping out at a Cancer Research fundraiser in the Village Hall, I slipped and injured both my hip and knee. I have been attending physio regularly since the fall, and initially hoped still to take part. However, after attempting a longer run, which I managed comfortably prior to the fall, it became clear that it would be foolish to chance long term damage. As I am sure you can imagine, after months of training, I was devastated to have to make this decision.

However, still determined to meet the challenge, I decided that I had to run a marathon this summer. Although entries for the Edinburgh Marathon closed last December, I was able to persuade the organisers to give me a place. So, I am pleased to say that I will run 26.2 miles on Sunday 12th June around the well-known sights of Edinburgh.

Due to my fall, training was put on hold for three weeks, but I am now hitting the roads again. Over the next eight weeks I will be running six days out of seven and will cover up to 50 miles a week.

Again, thank you for your support and generosity,

Margo Titmuss.

Auchenblae Community Association

Friday 22nd April - Village Hall 8 till late - Nostalgia Time - Dig out the Flares! - 60s/70s Disco. Admission £4.00 (includes snacks). Bar.

Gala - Sunday 22nd - Saturday 28th May

Sunday: Kids and Kites. Races. Beat the Goalie. Football Fun. Target Golf.

Monday: Family Walking Treasure Hunt

Tuesday: Bingo. Children's Bingo.

Thursday: Car Treasure Hunt

Friday: Children's Parties

Saturday: Gala Day: Barbecue. Teas & Home Baking. Cake & Candy, Bottle Stall, Plant Stall, Bric-a-Brac, Tombola, Duck Race - '500 Derby' 1st Prize £100, Whisky Trail, Target Golf, Raffle. Bowling.

See Gala Posters for full details.

JOHN JOLLY WATSON

— A Tribute —



On Sunday 10th April 2005 John Watson died peacefully at Burnside Home in Laurencekirk after a long struggle with Parkinson's Disease borne with characteristic courage and fortitude. A Large congregation gathered in the church at Auchenblae on Friday 15th April to pay their respects to this much-loved relative and friend.

I would be the first to acknowledge that I only knew John in what turned out to be the last phase of his life, when the debilitating disease had slowly begun to take its toll. Yet in spite of his disability – even to the very last, sparks of the real John Watson still shone through. He might not remember what he had for his lunch, but his memory of events from his boyhood years in Auchenblae could be as sharp as ever. And we are fortunate that we have, in his own words, many of these recollections captured on a video-taped interview* with Charles Gordon, shot just before John and May flitted from their house in Drumtochty Glen to their home in Hillview Road.

We shall miss this straight and forthright man for all that he was in himself. Unquestionably John Watson was a Christian, but he wasn't one who was forever trumpeting his faith. And that, because he didn't have to. His life was stamped with integrity and a transparency that allowed what he believed to shine through what he was and what he did. We shall miss him for the innumerable acts of kindness and service in former days. How many times did he give folk lifts in that car of his? No one will ever know, for he never kept a log! We shall miss his friendship and his keen sense of humour, his inimitable rendering of "Holy Willie's Prayer", replete, as I'm told, with nightshirt and candle! We shall certainly miss him in the Church where he was elder and Session Clerk and which he attended faithfully right up to the week when he went into care in Laurencekirk. Ah, John Watson, when will we see your likes again?

The sympathy of all of us who knew him goes out unreservedly to May and Moira and Margaret and all who were close to John through the ties of kinship and friendship.

Donald Rennie.

*Edited copies of this interview (either on videotape or DVD) are currently being prepared and can be obtained, priced £7.50 by contacting Donald Rennie (Tel 01561 320622).

Auchenblae Over Sixties Friendship Group

If you are over sixty and enjoy a wide range of activities, do come and join us on Wednesday mornings in the Church Hall at 10.15 a.m. If you have difficulty getting there, the school bus will pick you up.



We offer a wide range of activities including occasional outings and we never forget your birthday.

We will be busy with an interesting programme until the end of June with plenty of old favourites and one or two new offers.

I would like to thank everyone for their kindness and understanding over the last few months; It has been very much appreciated.

Barbara Strouts

Kincardine and Mearns Partnership

The Partnership is open to all community groups and organisations. It exists to involve public agencies, voluntary agencies and local communities in identifying and tackling issues locally.

There is no commitment to attend every meeting – you will be kept informed of what's going on in the area. We will from time to time hold forums for discussion, networking and information sharing. The partnership will respond to requests for support rather than imposing their services. The first issue we have been asked to look at is the new Public Entertainment Licence which comes into effect in January 1st 2006. We intend to hold an open meeting in June to look in depth at how this might affect the halls in the area.

For further information and an application form please contact the Secretary:

Mrs. S. Brown, Lutherbank House, Auchenblae, Laurencekirk AB30 1XP

Tel. 01561 320796. email : kandmap@btopenworld.com

VANDALISM TO BEEHIVE

One of my bee hives has been vandalised by someone during the 2nd and 3rd week of March. The upper part of the hive had been taken apart and consequently all the bees were killed.

This is extremely upsetting as the bees had survived the rigours of winter and had just made a start on this year's season of work. The replacement of these bees will incur a high cost and consequently **this malicious act has been reported to the police.**

Any information leading to the identity of the person/s responsible would be much appreciated.

Nicola Hendry, Mayfield, Tel. 01561 320865

A MESSAGE FROM JIM AND SHEILA YULE AND FAMILY

Jim and Sheila and Family would like to thank everyone for their kind phone calls during Sheila's stay in Ward 32, Aberdeen Royal Infirmary. Also for the lovely cards and flowers. Sheila is now home and doing well.

Auchenblae W.R.I

The Annual General Meeting of the Auchenblae 'Rural' will take place on **May 5th 2005**, as intimated in the syllabus, ***but there is an important change.*** Thanks to the General Election, the Village Hall will be required as a Polling Place, and the Rural meeting will take place **in Auchenblae Church Hall.**

Sandra Monks will be giving a talk to the meeting about "D.C.Thomson – Publishers".

The competition for the evening is an Article in Origami, The Novelty is A Funny Headline from a Newspaper and the Duty Committee Member is Margaret Pitt.



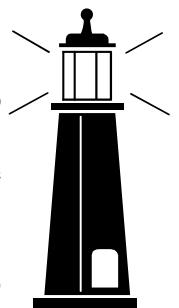
Light House

Light House will break up at the end of May for the summer break. As we're not able to have an early June barbecue because of other commitments, we intend to start the September term with a barbecue down at Mayfield again by kind permission of Nicola and Jamie Hendry. So, watch this space for the date!

We have really enjoyed our time with Light House so far this year, and look forward to having some fun with the children in the autumn. Meanwhile, we hope you'll all have a wonderful summer with weather to match.

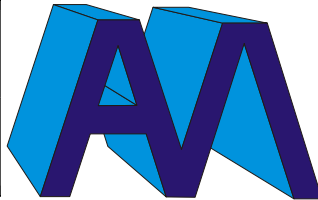
God bless you all!

Charles and Brenda Gordon





THE AUCHENBLAE MESSENGER
THE NEWSLETTER
FOR THE
AUCHENBLAE COMMUNITY



PRODUCTION TEAM

Ross Muiry, Marybank House
Anne Anderson, Viewmount
Eddie Cairns, Glenside, Drumtochty
Kevin Newstead, Auchter House
Donald Rennie, Mernis Howe
Barbara Strouts, Holly Cottage
Colette Hogmascall, Drumelzie Cottage

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

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

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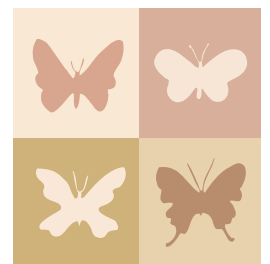
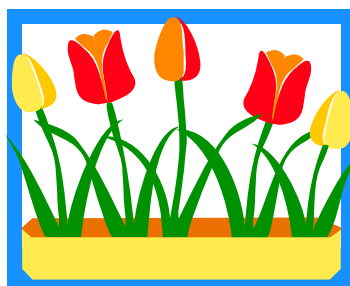
Anne Anderson, Sheena Auld, Carol Nelson, Anne Caird, Sheree Caird, Therese Hendry, Colette Hogmascall, Ann Rennie, Trish MacEachern, Margaret Muiry, Barbara Strouts, Lois McCormack and Moira Hutchison.

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>
Wednesday May 4 th	Annual Presbyterial Council Supper Party	Ardoe House	
Thursday May 5 th	WRI	Auchenblae Church Hall	7.30 p.m.
Thursday May 5 th	GENERAL ELECTION – (Remember to vote in the Village Hall!)		
Thursday May 5 th	PTA Meeting	Auchenblae School,	7.00 p.m.
Sunday May 15 th – 21 st	CHRISTIAN AID WEEK		
Sunday May 22 nd – 28 th	GALA WEEK	AUCHENBLAE (See Gala Posters for details).	
Sunday June 12 th -	Margo Titmuss runs in Edinburgh Marathon!		

**ALL INFORMATION FOR INCLUSION IN THE JUNE MEMO
SHOULD BE GIVEN TO ANN RENNIE, 'MERNIS HOWE' Tel. 01561 320622
BY 15TH May 2005**



Please note that the next edition of 'The Messenger' will be published during July 2005. The closing date for inclusion in this edition will be Thursday 15th June 2005.

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>**