

The

Auchenblae Messenger

Volume 8 Issue 2

May 2006



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This post-card taken circa 1927 shows something quite unfamiliar to more recent residents of the Village. It is hard to believe that not so long ago, Auchenblae had a thriving industry born in the very heart of Scottish tradition; the production of whisky. The six large buildings shown on the east bank of the river are bonded warehouses where old sherry casks full of Auchenblae Highland Whisky lay maturing for anything up to eight years. The distillery itself can be seen to the rear.

Some of the older buildings on the west bank had previously housed a mill for the manufacture of linen thread from locally grown flax. A mill had been operating on this site since 1795. A cash injection in 1841 allowed the installation of the latest equipment which saw production peak and the work force increased to 643.

The factory ceased production in 1890, leaving only a skeleton staff until the business was sold. Just as one door closed, another opened. In 1896, the Auchenblae Distillery Company Ltd was floated, and many of the £1 shares were bought by local people. Conversion of the mill buildings was to prove costly. The task fell to designer Charles Bell whose trademark pagoda-style chimneys are familiar throughout Scotland. The dam upstream, originally built to power the flax mill, was used to generate electricity for the distillery and the manager's house. Village men, previously employed as mill workers, turned their hands to new trades, such as mash-men, tun-room men and still-men.

Whisky distilled in Auchenblae was mainly exported to the American market. When the U.S. government imposed the prohibition order after WW1, the Auchenblae Distillery Company Ltd was forced into liquidation. However, production continued for a further nine years under new ownership, until the remaining barrels were removed from the bonds and the buildings sold to a demolition agent.

Jenny Thomson

The Messenger requires a new Co-Editor in September.

See Page 10 for the Job Description.

AUCHENBLAE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

GALA WEEK EVENTS

Gala – Sunday 28th May – Saturday 3rd June

Sunday 28th May – 2pm – Kids and Kites – Kites, Races, Target Golf etc

Monday 29th May – 6pm – Family Walking Treasure Hunt

Tuesday 30th May – 7 for 7.30pm Gala Bingo. Junior Bingo

Thursday 1st June – Car Treasure Hunt 6:30p.m. to 7.00 p.m.

Friday 2nd June – Children's Parties, time to be advised

Saturday 3rd June – Gala Day in the Den. Bowling. Cake & Candy. Bottle Stall. Tombola. Bric-a-Brac. Plant Stall. Barbecue. Duck Race. Teas & Home Baking, Raffle etc 1.00 p.m.

Saturday 3rd June - 8 'til late – Disco in Village Hall



ART SHOW

Friday 1st – Sunday 3rd September

We shall of course be making contact with all the artists who have previously exhibited at the Art Show but would welcome new entries from artists residing locally. For an entry form contact: Alice Morgan, Secretary Tel. 01561 320081 or e-mail:

alicemorgan@btinternet.com



As part of the Art Show we plan to organise a display of old photographs, a look at Auchenblae, its people and village history. Contributions of photographs for the display would be most welcome.

AUCHENBLAE GUILD (West Mearns Parish Church)

On Wednesday, March 22nd, several car loads of Ury Players along with all their equipment, made their way, despite heavy snow showers to Auchenblae Village Hall where they entertained a very enthusiastic and appreciative, if rather smaller than anticipated, audience with a colourful non-stop revue of song and dance. As a fund raiser, the evening was perhaps not the world's greatest success (about £250 was raised for the Church and the Guild project) but as a happy social evening it was second to none. Everyone enjoyed the energy, enthusiasm and talent of the ladies from the Players and the hope that it will not be long before they make a return visit — in more clement weather!

Future events for Guild members are :

The annual Council rally at Ardoe House on Wednesday May 3rd.

The combined West Mearns Church Guild's Buffet Supper at the Clattern' Brig tearoom on Wed 17th May.

The visit of our Guild Link friends from Ferryhill Church (Aberdeen) will take place on Wednesday June 14th when we will entertain them to lunch and afternoon tea in the Church Hall plus a walk in the Den if the weather is fine.

Ann Rennie

EDITORIAL COMMENTS -- AUCHENBLAE MESSENGER MAY 2006

Welcome to the 43rd edition of 'The Auchenblae Messenger', and many thanks to all who have made their personal contribution towards ensuring that your magazine 'happens'.

I would particularly wish to express our thanks to **Jenny Thomson**, for providing us with the Historical Photographs and beautifully written commentaries, which we have used to grace our front page, both in this edition and that of December 2005.

Gina and Carol have once again given of their time to 'proof read' the 'draft' copies, in the final stages of the production process. And quite certainly, their work has substantially improved the literary presentation and readability of the magazine.

We also welcome the contribution from the newly formed Drama Group, and wish them every success with this new Community venture.

As I intimated at the AGM of 'The Auchenblae Messenger Group' held in September 2005, it is my intention to stand down as Chairperson and Co-editor of 'The Auchenblae Messenger' at the time of our next AGM in September 2006. We are therefore appealing for someone from our Community to step forward and meet the challenge of joining The Messenger Group, and assisting with the future production of your magazine. An approach to Ross (320225), Donald (320622) or Eddie (320494) would be warmly welcomed.

Meanwhile, we hope that you will enjoy reading your copy of 'The Auchenblae Messenger'.

Ross Muiry.



"For Home and Country"
SCOTTISH WOMEN'S
RURAL INSTITUTE

AUCHENBLAE BRANCH

4th May 2006 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

"4 Corners" – Various Handicrafts

Competition: Small Vase of Flowers

Novelty: Funny Birthday Card

Duty Committee Member: Margaret Pitt

LIGHT HOUSE

Light House is taking an Easter break and will start again on Sunday April 30th, meeting at the usual time of 11 a.m. until 12 noon.



We have had a lot of fun this past term and learnt a lot of new Bible stories and some great action songs.

Numbers are healthy and fairly steady, but there's always a warm welcome for new faces - any child between the ages of 4 and 12 - plus any teenagers who would be keen to help with the music and the games.

The latter would get an especially warm welcome, as would any energetic adult for that matter, as our own energy levels can be stretched to the limits! Thank goodness the children keep us on our toes.....

There is no charge for Light House but we encourage the children to bring "piggy money" which is sent away in early summer to a Christian orphanage in India.

Please phone Charles or Bren Gordon on 320371 for further information.

Auchenblae & District Heritage Society

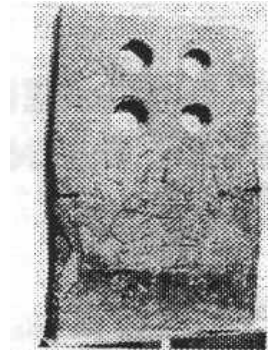
We are busy working on the Auchenblae Heritage Trail Leaflet.

We need some pictures of Auchenblae to illustrate it. We would like a mixture of contemporary photos and old prints/photos/postcards which would be returned.

There will be prizes for pictures appearing in the leaflet.

For more information about the Heritage Society or the photo competition phone

Gillian (Secretary) 01561 320360.



Next event—Walk to the source of the Luther. June 10th 2006

DRAMA CLUB



“We are the new drama club
We meet on Wednesdays in the pub
Entertainment is our game
Our hearts are set on local fame

You don't have to read the Bard
Or even have an equity card
We just need you to come along
And make our company strong

You can write on the page
Or perform on the stage
Sell tickets for us
Or sing in the chorus

From joiners to selling ice creams
Set designers to sewing seams
We need all from young to old
To help with every ticket sold”

Craig Sandeman

We meet Wednesday evenings in the pub at
7.30 – check out the Post Office notice
board for exact dates.

First Show 1st and 2nd September.

For more info call Gillian 320360

All Welcome – our next meeting will be on
the 3rd May at 7.30 p.m.



AUCHENBLAE RACQUET GROUP - SUMMER SEASON – 2006

By the time you are reading this, we hope that summer or at least spring, will be in evidence. Despite the rather poor start to the year, the eagle eyed among you may have noticed that our courts have received a new and much needed layer of blaise. This has been laid, spread, rolled and other maintenance carried out by a team from the Parks Committee and other willing volunteers. Huge thanks to them for the effort and the funds made available for this work.

We are therefore quite excited at the prospect of the coming outdoor season. Having managed to continue with two groups of youngsters playing indoors all through the winter we have a good starting point for the season, which will continue (and we hope grow) as indicated. All outdoor activities take place at the Den Tennis Courts under the tutelage of our local LTA qualified coach, Wendy Byres.

We are offering a block of 9 weeks up to the Summer holidays for all coached groups. These should be pre-paid on the first week of the session. Cheques should be made payable to **Auchenblae Racquet Group**. Refunds will only be made in the event of club cancelled or rained off events.

New members wishing to try out may pay weekly for up to 3 weeks in order to gauge youngsters interest, subject to availability of places in required group. Weekly costs are: £1.25, Juniors/45 mins; £1.75 Advanced juniors and £2.50 adults – both 1 hr sessions.

Last year numbers in the juniors group were very high and we split this into newcomers/beginners and an improvers group across two courts. We may have to operate a waiting list this year so do be sure to get your names down or come along to the first week to guarantee a place.

We do watch our young players developing and endeavour to keep them moving through and progressing as quickly as possible. Our **Beginners** group is just that. Youngsters of any age who are holding a racquet perhaps for the first time and getting to grips with basic co-ordination skills and finding that tennis is fun. Our **Improvers** group is aimed at those showing good basic ball techniques and hand/eye coordination. Once a member can manage a few rallies across the net we will move them into our **Advanced Juniors** group. Occasionally a player is competent to join this group but not quite there in maturity, so the in between groups can be a good stepping stone.

GROUP	DAY	TIME	DATES	COST
Advanced Juniors (able players)	Tuesday	4:30 – 5:30	May 2 nd – June 27 th	£15.75
Juniors (Beginners/Improvers)	Tuesday	5:30 – 6:15	May 2 nd – June 27 th	£11.25
Adults – coached	Tuesday	6:15 – 7:15	May 2 nd – June 27 th	£22.50
Adult Social	Wednesday	6:00 – 7:30	May 3 rd – June 28 th	£1 each session

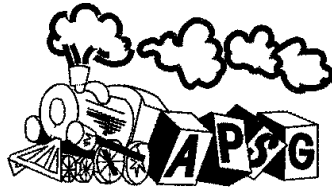
Den ‘Opening Day’

We would be delighted to see as many friends, old and new, on Den Opening Day, **Saturday 29th April**. You can sign up there for the season and come and chat with organisers and our coach, Wendy. We would also be delighted to have some Advanced Juniors and Adults ‘play’ to demonstrate our facilities. Younger juniors wishing to practice their skills with Wendy would also be very welcome. This event runs from **12:00 – 2:00 pm**. A soup and sandwich lunch will be available.

Please ensure suitable footwear is worn by anyone intending to go on court.

Open Event. The 1st week of all groups will be run as an ‘Open’ event and newcomers will be welcome to join us. There will be, as usual juice and biscuits for youngsters and for the adults, some cheese and crackers will be available and you are invited to BYO liquid refreshments and stay on for a chat and social on Tuesday and Wednesday.

If you are interested in any of the above sessions but are unavailable on the days/times shown, please contact Gina (01561 320269) or Carol (01561 320748) to find out about any alternatives.



Auchenblae Pre~School Group

The Playgroup has had some wonderful themes throughout the past term, chosen by the children themselves. Some favourite moments for them included: investigating a gooey, muddy swamp when learning about Dinosaurs and Reptiles; and being entertained by two budding 'Stars in their Eyes', Denise and Jenny on the recorder and guitar, when the children were looking at different types of Musical Instruments.

In March they looked at space and for the next term will be looking at spring and Easter.

The playleaders would like to thank all of the parents, carers and grandparents, who lend items for the interest table, and donate their time and skills to enhance the experiences for the children.

The Playgroup, during the Easter break, sadly said goodbye to Kate Steer who is undertaking new adventures. Kate has been involved with the Playgroup for a number of years and was always a friendly and smiling face to greet the children and parents throughout her time there. We all would like to wish Kate, and her family, very best wishes for the future.

Monday 17th April 2006 marks the start of the summer term, and what will be the last term for a number of committee members.

Often parents are unsure who actually is involved in the running of the Playgroup, apart from the playleaders who they see on a daily basis. It is run by a group of parents that make up a committee, which is elected annually at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). This year's AGM will be held on Wednesday 7th June at 7.30pm in The Mutual Hall. The committee runs in the background and offers as much help and support to the playleaders as is required, in line with guidelines set down by outside agencies.

Please come along to the AGM and find out what has been going on in the Playgroup this past year, and what the plans are for the year ahead. Ask any of the existing committee members about their role, and please give some thought to joining the committee to take the group into the future.

In closing, the committee would like to thank the playleaders, Karen, Kate, Kay and Nicola for their outstanding devotion and commitment to the Playgroup. This is reflected in the high esteem in which the Playgroup is held and is very much appreciated by all.

The playleaders and committee, in turn, would like to thank all of the mums and dads, grandparents, carers and the local businesses, without whose help and support, the Playgroup would not be able to function.



**THIS IS THE NEW
LOGO OF
CHRISTIAN AID
WHICH WILL
SOON BE IN
MILLIONS OF
HOMES IN
BRITAIN
IN CHRISTIAN
AID WEEK**

WHICH IS MAY 14 - 20

THREE THINGS TO PONDER.

- 1. Many people are now realising that **Christian Aid is a fact of life that is not going to go away.****
- 2. More and more people in West Mearns have grasped what it's about and as a result **the amount we have given has steadily increased.****
- 3. Few, if any, ever respond to a call to help in a newsletter. So **you may be asked to help by someone who is already involved.****

AND WHEN YOU'VE STOPPED PONDERING.....

Think of the bland statements that issued from the G8 Summit that was held in the most expensive, most exclusive, ritziest hotel in Scotland, in luxury that most of us will never aspire to. Think of the fine- sounding words about ending poverty and cancelling debts and going for fairer trading so that the poorest will benefit.

THEN ASK YOURSELF WHAT THERE HAS BEEN TO SHOW FOR IT?

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK IS A TIME TO SPEAK WITH ACTIONS THAT ARE LOUDER THAN WORDS. FOR WHAT WE ARE, AND WHAT WE DO **SHOUTS SO LOUD NO ONE CAN HEAR WHAT WE'RE SAYING.**



West Mearns Parish Church

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

SUNDAY SERVICES :

9.30a.m... Every Sunday at Fettercairn

11.00a.m. First Sunday of the Month :
at Glenbervie

11.00a.m. every other Sunday in the month
Service at Auchenblae Church.

Visitors especially welcome at all services,

Every Sunday a crèche is available for the very young
during the time of the morning service at Auchenblae and
Glenbervie churches

West Mearns Parish Church – Focus on Fettercairn.

Prior to 1970, in the area which is now known as West Mearns Parish, there used to be three churches and three ministers. Since 1994 they have been united as one single parish with one minister. In the *Auchenblae Messenger* we naturally tend to be more concerned with the affairs of the church in Auchenblae, forgetting that the churches in Glenbervie and Fettercairn are now one congregation, and this year the part of our congregation who meet at Fettercairn are celebrating the bicentenary of the church building there.



It has been suggested that before there was a church at Fettercairn it was originally part of the settlement at the village of Kincardine a few miles further east. But as most folk hereabouts know, of the village of Kincardine, there is now not a trace – with the exception of the tiny graveyard called St.Catherine's in the middle of a field near to where Kincardine castle used to stand. The mercat cross at Fettercairn was resited from the extinct village in the 17th century. The church building at Fettercairn dates from 1803 but was completely remodelled in 1926.

By the time this edition of *The Messenger* is published, a number of events will have taken place, but plans are in the making for a summer Flower Festival incorporating a Wedding Dress and Christening Robe Exhibition. It is also intended to hold a final celebration in the month of October with a “Harvest of the Church” and a Ceilidh.

We in Auchenblae wish our neighbours well at Fettercairn as they recognise this particular milestone in their history. And if anyone in Auchenblae is wondering when it will be our turn to do the same, we would have to ask you to exercise patience. Our bicentenary of the church at Auchenblae doesn't come along until the year 2030 – by which time some of us may no longer be interested!

MEARNS COMMUNITY CENTRE

There is a variety of Adult Education classes being offered at Mearns Community Centre in the Spring term:-

Art and Drawing Class on Tuesday afternoons from 1.00pm - 3.00pm and Wednesday afternoons from 1.00pm - 4.00pm at Mearns Community Centre.

Pilates Class on Wednesdays from 9.30am - 10.30am at Mearns Community Centre.

At present there are no spaces at **Yoga classes** in Mearns Community Centre/Mearns Academy/St Cyrus but there are a few at Introduction to Yoga in Mearns Academy on a Thursday evening from 6.15pm - 7.15pm.

Beginners Golf may run if numbers permit on a Thursday evening in Mearns Academy.

There will also be some new adult learning classes offered in April and May in partnership with Angus College. These include **Upward Bound** - an introduction to hill walking/navigation and **introduction to guitar**—participants must be 14+ and have a guitar.

Some **one-off workshops** are also planned and the details of these will be available soon.

For more information on any of these classes contact Susan Robson, Adult Education Co-ordinator, Mearns Community Centre, 148 High Street, Laurencekirk Tel. 01561 378298

Classes being offered in partnership with Mearns Healthy Living Network:-

Men's Group - fortnightly in the Venue on Monday from 10.00am - 12.00 noon.

Gentle Exercise class in Mearns Community Centre on a Monday from 1.00pm -2.00pm

Gentle Exercise in St Cyrus Village Hall on a Thursday from 10.30am - 11.30am

Drop in Computing on a Thursday afternoon

Gentle Exercise in Drumlithie Village Hall on a Wednesday afternoon from 1.00pm - 2.00pm

For more information on these classes contact Ed Garrett, Mearns Community Centre, 148 High Street, Laurencekirk Tel. 01561 378130

A LETTER FROM AUSTRALIA

In a spare moment I was browsing the Net and 'googled' Auchenblae. Imagine how delighted I was to find your most recent publication and read the entire 16 pages while I ate lunch.

I grew up in Auchenblae and attended the primary school from 1970-1977 before going onto Mearns Academy from 1977-1982 and have many happy memories of the village and the local area.

Keep up the good work. I hope to be able to continue to read of the goings-on locally. I particularly enjoyed the beautiful images of the surrounding area and was delighted to see that 'the Den' had hardly changed at all.

Best wishes on your efforts.

Nancy,

Assoc. Prof. Nancy Cromar
Dept of Environmental Health
Flinders University, GPO Box 2100 Adelaide, SA 5001, Australia,

nancy.cromar@flinders.edu.au



A GUIDE TO THE MESSENGER PRODUCTION PROCESS

The Editor calls regular contributors and reminds them of copy dates/ Advertisements.

The editor marks up the material with changes.

The Desk Top Publisher puts the information into the magazine and adds photos, clip art or info from the WEB.

Electronic submission is wonderful !

The Editor reads the draft issue and makes changes.

The Desk Top Publisher updates the magazine. We use Microsoft Publisher.

The Proof Readers make their corrections.

The Desktop Publisher makes final changes.

The printer prints 375 copies and prepares the magazine for the Web and uploads it to the mearns website. <http://www.mearns.org>

The Distribution Team, co-ordinated by Anne Anderson, put it through the doors.

Ann Rennie collects the material and produces 5 Memos per year, on alternate months.

Donald Rennie and Ross Muiry share the work, 5 issues per year. So one does two issues and the other does three issues in one year alternating the next year. **We need a new person here to replace Ross.**

Eddie Cairns and Kevin Newstead share the work, 5 issues per year. So one does two issues and the other does three issue in one year alternating the next year.

Gina Easter and Carol Shea share the work.

Eddie Cairns Looks after this task. We use Laser Printers, funded by "Awards for All".

The Distribution team distribute 5 Messengers and 5 Memos per year.

No computer skills are required for the Co-Editor's job. Requirement is only two or three times a year. You will be made most welcome.

BRICKBATS (CAMPAIGN CORNER)



Litter, chewing gum and dog dirt
We have a lovely village with most people doing much to keep it that way, yet it is sometimes blighted by unseemly litter, dog dirt and discarded chewing gum.

There are bins and facilities for all of these items so there is no need for careless mess. Come on folks. Let's be proud of our 'Field of Flowers'. Bag it or bin it or take it home. PLEASE.

BOUQUETS

I would like to send a virtual bouquet to all of the people who work tirelessly as volunteers making things happen and keeping things going in this community.



To name them would take the whole magazine but I would especially note the Parks Committee and the Community Association plus all those who organise and run activities and events for the rest of us.

You know who you are.

Food for Thought - Season's Eatings!

SEASONAL BEST

Asparagus, New Potatoes, Baby Spinach, Spring Greens, Lamb, Skate, Wild Salmon, Monkfish, Crab, Lobster, Gooseberries, Rhubarb,

It does seem odd writing about summer food when it has snowed several times in the past week, but better late than never. Summer is on its way, so let's look forward to a summer of lighter food and fresher flavours.

Asparagus and Shallot Tart

Start with your usual *shortcrust pastry base* or a shop bought one. Slightly soften about 4 shallots (sliced) in a knob of butter and tspn olive oil for about 5 minutes. Steam 12 - 14 asparagus spears for 3 - 4 minutes. Drain. Spread shallots in bottom of pastry case then lay asparagus spears creatively on top. Beat together 2 - 3 large eggs and $\frac{3}{4}$ pint single cream (or mix of cream and low fat cr me fraiche). Season lightly with salt, black pepper and freshly grated nutmeg. Pour over mixture and bake in moderate oven (350F/180C) for 15 - 20 minutes. Serve warm or cold with new potatoes and salad.

FOOD FACT.

DID YOU KNOW ... To find the right place to 'cut' the stem of Asparagus, bend individual sticks gently and they will 'snap off' at the right place.

Mish Mish aya (spelling uncertain) ??

(A sort of lamb pilaff based on a Persian dish a friend cooked for me many years ago. Not a recipe really, just a guideline for a one pot dish that can be varied to suit.)

Ingredients to serve 4. 1 - 1 ½ lb minced or cubed lamb (ask at the butchers), chopped onion and garlic, basmati rice - 100g dry per person, dried apricots (good handful, chopped - more if liked), cumin powder (teaspoon) lamb or vegetable stock (1 pt) pine nuts (toasted), fresh coriander - chopped.

Method. Brown mince and drain off any unwanted fat/juices (you need a bit). Add onion and garlic and soften for about 5 minutes. Mix together then push to one side of pan. Add a drizzle of olive oil then rice to pan. Stir rice to coat a bit then mix with meat mixture, add cumin and salt/pepper to taste, chopped apricots and stock. Bring slowly to near boiling then turn down and simmer for about 20 minutes until rice is tender.

Serving. At this point you can serve with chopped coriander and toasted pine nuts as garnish, or risk leaving pan on low heat and the mixture will begin to caramelize and form a rather delicious crunchy layer. (This was discovered by accident when guests were late to arrive for dinner!)

Accompany with a grated carrot salad to which you have added some sultanas, a drop of olive oil and perhaps more pine nuts and coriander leaves to garnish.

Eton Mess.

Another great 'no recipe required' pudding for the summer. Strawberries will be in soon. This apparently came about and was named after the containers with ingredients for a Pavlova were rather badly packed on an outing for Eton College many years ago.

You need: Some meringues - (shop bought are fine, any shape you'll see why); some double cream; some strawberries then if possible, some raspberries and icing sugar and suitable liqueur like cassis. **Method:** Roughly crush meringues, roughly chop strawberries and whip cream until stiff. Mix. Add pureed raspberries (sweetened with a little icing sugar and/or liqueur of your choice.) Enjoy.....

Try something new challenge.

BBQ season is coming so why not be adventurous. Try lamb burgers from the butcher for a change, or even Bison Burgers, locally sourced from Drumtochty Castle. Bison is like a very rich beef, not at all gamy. Also available as steaks, minute steaks (try these flash fried on toasted garlic ciabatta with rocket leaves, thick slices of beef tomato and shavings of parmesan.

Skate is in season now too. Fish is the original fast food, tasty, easy and good for you. Buy very fresh (if it smells at all of ammonia leave it alone) wipe dry, coat in seasoned flour and fry in butter/oil for about 3 minutes a side. You can add capers and other flavours or keep it simple and serve with some baby spinach, watercress and potatoes if desired.

Auchenblae School PTA

Hello from the PTA, here are the goings on within the school, past and present.

This year, due to the proposed extension and nursery being built, the School is not going to run its usual **Summer Fair** as a fundraiser. Instead it has been decided that we will have a **“Silent Auction”**. This will take place at the school on Friday 9th June 7-9pm. There will be stalls selling: plants, cakes and books, . Donations for the Silent Auction or the raffle would be greatly appreciated and can be handed in to Jackie Roberts or the school. There will be a raffle and lucky dip and teas and coffees will be served.

Thank you to everyone who has been collecting **aluminium cans**, 8 bags have so far been collected. This fundraiser is still on going, so carry on collecting please.

The BAGS 2 SCHOOL fund raiser was once again strongly supported. Thank you very much for taking the time to put out your bags.

The Tesco “Computers For School” Vouchers started on the **6th March until the 14th May**, so if you shop in Tesco it would be a great help if you could save the vouchers and they can be put in the box in the post office or handed into school.

Since the beginning of term.....

A music tutor from the Kodaly Music Academy has visited the school to run an experimental programme designed to improve the children’s rhythm and pitch. The British Kodaly Academy is a registered charity dedicated to working for the improvement of British music through courses, workshops and demonstrations relating the philosophy and practice of the Hungarian composer and educator Zoltan Kodaly to British musical heritage.

Aberdeen Football club have begun a 4 session programme to help improve the children’s ball skills.

The children have also benefited from a talk given by an expert on **Health Education**, encouraging healthy eating.

As shown in the Observer, some of the children took part in the **Annual recitation of Scots verses**; this was kindly judged by Mrs Sheena Auld.

The P5 children entertained 27 members of the **Auchenblae Friendship Group** with recitations, singing, dancing and drama, all with a Scottish theme.

An order for all sorts of playground play equipment has arrived and the children are already benefiting with lots of fun at break times!

On Monday 27th February a member from the **H.M Coastguards** visited the school to give a talk on safety by the sea.

Ian Halkett visited the school to demonstrate his puppets and give a puppet show to the children on the 30th March.

The school football team are training hard every Wednesday evening, Saturdays and Sundays for future games. They recently played Redmyre and had a close but well fought game, only losing by 1 goal, 3-4. Continued thanks to Mark and Paul for their generosity in giving up their time to train the team.

The Annual Laurencekirk Rotary Club Primary 7 School Quiz was won by Auchenblae with 97 points! Well done to the team consisting of: Ross Milne, Jack Millington, Euan Wood, Luke McCormick and Neil Murdoch. They go on to the next round to be held in Dundee.

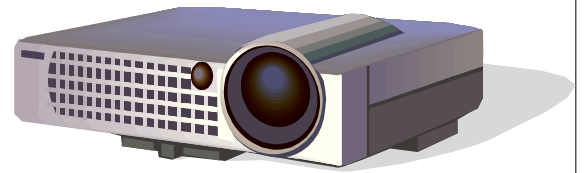
Abernethy will be the destination for the **Primary 6 and 7’s** in May for their outdoor activity week. Let’s hope the weather improves for them.

The School sports day will be held on **22nd June** on the school sports field.

The next committee meeting will be on Thursday 27th April 2006 at 7.00pm at the school. All committee members and parents are encouraged to come along and you will be most welcome!

Auchenblae Messenger—Digital Projector

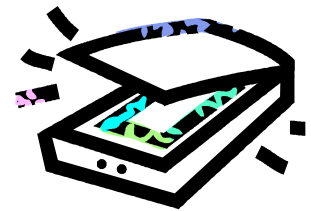
The Auchenblae Messenger has purchased, via the recent Awards for All grant, a digital projector. It is available free of charge to use by any responsible person in the village. Please take it at least three or four days before you require it to familiarise yourself with some the more advanced features that make it easier to use at a presentation.



We also have a light weight projector stand and a 2 meter by 2 meter projector screen and stand, for use with the projector.

In addition there is an Epson 4990 scanner that can scan pictures, transparencies and negatives. Again this is available free of charge to any responsible person in the village.

In the first instance contact **Eddie Cairns on 01561 320494** if you require a loan of the equipment.



AUCHENBLAE FRIENDSHIP GROUP

We are often asked “What is the Friendship Group?” We are a group of people who are over sixty, or who have retired, who meet together on a Wednesday morning for friendship, and to be entertained. We are a non-profit making group. We ask that the people who come along pay £1 a week towards expenses for the use of the Church Hall and the school bus to ferry people around, and for various outings during the year.



We try to put on a varied programme with something to suit everyone. We have games, quizzes, people to entertain us and outings for a meal or to garden centres.

If you would like to learn more, come along to the Church hall on a Wednesday morning from 10.15 to 12.15. If you cannot get there under your own steam Jean Guthrie will pick you up with the school bus, and deliver you there, and home again afterwards. We meet every Wednesday, apart from during the school holidays.

Barbara Strouts



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



PRODUCTION TEAM

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"Keeping you informed"

The Publisher of this issue was

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

Auchenblae Messenger Supplement

MONTHLY MEMO

DATE	EVENT	PLACE	TIME
Thu 27 April	Auchenblae Primary PTA	School Hall	7.00 p.m.
Sat 29 April	Den "Open Day"	The Den	12:00 p.m.
Sun 30 April	Light House Restarts	Light House	11.00 a.m.
Wed, 3 May	Auchenblae Drama Group	Drumtochty Arms	7.30 p.m.
Thur, 4 May	W.R.I. AGM	Village Hall	7.30 p.m.
May to June (Tuesday)	Racquet Group	The Den	4:30 to 7:30
14 to 20 May	Christian Aid Week		
28 May to 3 June	Gala Week	Village	Various
Wed 7 June	Pre School AGM	Mutual Hall	7.30 p.m.
Fri 9 June	PTA Silent Auction	School Hall	7:00 to 9:00
Sat 10 June	Heritage Society	Walk	TBA.
Thur 22 June	School Sports	School Playing Field	
Fri 1 -3 Sun Sept	Art Show	Village Hall	
Fri 1 -2 Sat Sept	Drama Group Show	TBA	TBA

ALL INFORMATION FOR INCLUSION IN THE June MEMO

SHOULD BE GIVEN TO ANN RENNIE, 'MERNIS HOWE' Tel. 01561 320622

By 15th May 2006

Please note that the next edition of 'The Messenger' will be published during **July 2006**. The closing date for inclusion in this edition will be **15th June 2006**.

If you have access to e-mail please send to: messenger@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. Label it clearly and it will be returned to you

Thanks from all the team!

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