

The

Auchenblae Messenger

Volume 9 Issue 2

April 2007



Inside this issue:

West Mearns Parish Church 2

Auchenblae Guild 3

Mearns Community Council 4

Senior Citizens Fund 4

Pre School Group 5

Guides & Brownies 5

Christian Aid 6

Editors Welcome 8

Drama Group 9

Messenger Production 10

School Nursery 10

Mearns Transport 11

SWRI 11

Racquet Club 11

Memo 12

Auchenblae Community Association

Gala – Sunday 20th – Saturday 26th May

A provisional Gala programme has been drawn up:

Sunday 20th – Kids and Kites, Races, Target Golf etc.

Monday 21st – Family Walking Treasure Hunt

Tuesday 22nd – Gala Bingo

Wednesday 23rd – Car Treasure Hunt

Friday 25th – Children's Parties

Saturday 26th – Gala Day in the Den – Bowling, Cake & Candy, Bottle Stall, Barbecue, Plant Stall, Duck Races, Tombola, Teas & Home Baking, Raffle etc.

Art Show: Friday 7th – Sunday 9th September

We will be sending entry forms to all our regular artists. However, if you are a local artist, but have not previously taken part in the Art Show and wish to exhibit, please contact the secretary Alice Morgan – 01561 320081 or e-mail: alice.morgan@btinternet.com

Auchenblae Christmas Card: Entries for the 2007 Christmas Card will be displayed at the Art Show.

Accounts:

A member of the village has requested a copy of the Community Association's accounts. In this instance, and to provide this information to all the community, the balance sheet is at to read at

<http://www.mearns.org/auchenblae>.

As a reminder, however, please note that copies are available at each Annual General Meeting where the accounts are presented for approval and any queries answered. All members of the community are welcome to attend the AGM where a general overview of the previous financial year is presented.

Auchenblae Friendship Group

The Auchenblae Friendship Group is just that. A group of people who meet together one morning a week for friendship and to be entertained. Originally it was for pensioners but we have now opened up the membership, so that anyone who may be retired, but not necessarily a pensioner, who is at a loose end on a Wednesday morning, can come along to the Church Hall at 10.15am and join us.

Our thanks to all who responded when we asked for suggestions for our programmes. We have started to use some of the ideas and I think you will agree that we have had some very entertaining mornings.

We will finish with a musical session on 28th March and after a two week break for Easter will start again on 18th April.

Barbara Strouts

West Mearns Parish Church & Auchenblae Guild



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 service.

Diary of Services and Special Events

WEST MEARNS HOLY WEEK AND EASTER 2007

Palm Sunday – 1st April. 9.30a.m. Service at Fettercairn : 11a.m. Service at Glenbervie.

Healing Service - Wed. 4th April 7.30p.m. Service at Glenbervie Church An informal act of worship which includes prayers for those whose names are submitted, and the ministry of healing touch.

Maundy Thursday 5th April 7.30p.m. at Auchenblae Church

This act of worship includes a celebration of the Lord's Supper to which everyone is most welcome.

Good Friday 6th April 7.30p.m. UNITED SERVICE IN LAURENCEKIRK PARISH

A joint act of worship with our brothers and sisters in Christ of West Mearns, Aberluthnott Linked with Laurencekirk And the Scottish Episcopal Church reflecting on events of Good Friday. The Service is followed by hot cross buns and refreshments. All are welcome.

Easter Day – Sunday 8th April 9.30 Fettercairn : 11a.m. Auchenblae

Each of these Family Services will be followed by a short informal celebration of Communion for those who wish to stay. All are welcome.

Sunday after Easter 15th April 9.30 Fettercairn : 11a.m. Auchenblae.

Easter Songs of Praise, sponsored by the Guild, and followed by Refreshments. All are welcome *with or without Easter Bonnets!*

Digital Projector

Just a reminder that the digital projector is available for use by contacting Eddie Cairns on 01561 320494.



There are leads in the case to run it from a DVD player, a VCR or a Notebook Computer. It can also be used to show Powerpoint slides and pictures from a USB stick without the need for a PC.

Auchenblae Guild (West Mearns Parish Church)

Now the Guild is well into the second half of the year's programme, having already enjoyed a Scottish Lunch, a musical evening with Brian Cartwright and a visit to the Herb Garden at Beannachar in Aberdeen.

We are now looking forward to the AGM and Theme meeting in April, also our Annual Presbyterian Council Rally at Ardoe House in May, followed by a visit to our Guildlink friends at Ferryhill Church, Aberdeen in June. In addition there will be our yearly supper party with Fettercairn and Glenbervie Guilds.

LIGHT HOUSE.

Light House continues to flourish even as we prepare (with dragging feet) to leave The Willows and look for a bungalow somewhere in the area. Family circumstances have hastened our move before Charles' retirement, but it will be many months yet before we have to say farewell to the Light House children. First we have to sell the house, and it's not the usual run-of-the-mill property so it won't be easy.

We felt it best to spell out our plans in The Messenger to stop any uncertainty over Light House when the Estate Agent's board goes up. It's very unlikely we'll be moving very quickly - we have nowhere to go as yet! But meanwhile, we want to carry on enjoying Sunday morning fun with the children and will still be happy to see new faces.



We wish you all a very happy Easter break and pray that we'll all experience in greater measure the wonderful love of Jesus the Saviour, whose resurrection we celebrate this Easter time.

Every blessing,

Charles and Bren Gordon

MEARNS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The general purpose of a Community Council is to ascertain, to co-ordinate and express to the local authorities the views of the community which it represents....and to take such action in the interests of the community as appears to it to be expedient and practicable.

Mearns Community Council has representatives from Auchenblae, Drumlithie, Fettercairn (including Edzell Woods) Fordoun, Laurencekirk, Luthermuir and Marykirk. It meets monthly and deals with any correspondence (usually about 20 letters per month), planning applications, and each settlement has the opportunity to raise issues pertinent to them. There is usually a presentation made to the Community Council, and this may be a Council Official with a specific responsibility - roads, education, planning etc., or an individual or group who have an issue they wish to speak about, which may be for or against a particular issue.

Community Councils as the elected body closest to local people can play a major role in ensuring decision making remains as close to those concerned as is practicable.

The main purpose however, is for Community Councillors to represent the views of their communities. These might not be their own personal views but preference must be given to the view of the community.

Community Councillors can also represent the Council on various committees or take responsibility for a particular topic such as planning or health.

Auchenblae Community Councillors are asked to raise issues by many members of the community - not all are reported in the local press, but everything is acted upon by the Community Council. Local Councillors attend meetings and can often take specific issues on board and deal with them very quickly.

The Auchenblae Community Councillors are :

Donald Rennie , Mernis Howe, Tel. 320622

Susie Brown, Lutherbank House, Tel. 320796

Sue Hodgson, Roselea, Tel. 320207

Article submitted by Susie Brown.

Auchenblae Senior Citizen Fund

Auchenblae Senior Citizens Fund has started the year with our coffee mornings. February saw Wendy being hostess , while March 17th was held at Jean's. The next event will be at Tracey's on 14th April.

We're planning on doing a sponsored walk in May. If you are interested in taking part, sponsorship forms will be available at Tracey's coffee morning.

Guest coffee mornings will take place in June and July, more details to follow.

September will see us back at Edzell Vintage Weekend and before you know it, Christmas will be upon us.

Anyone interested in helping with the fund please contact Tracey on 320596.

Auchenblae Pre-School Group



You may have recently witnessed the curious sight of a group of Pre-School Group children progressing through the village in crocodile-like fashion attached to a brightly coloured contraption and ushered by adults wearing equally garish fluorescent jackets. The contraption in question is called a 'walk-a-dile' and is designed to keep young children safe when out and about. Up to six children can clip on to a unit and progress along together, thus making it much easier for the adults to keep an eye on them and to prevent a child straying out into the road.



The playleaders can now direct their energies to pointing out things of interest to the children, rather than constantly reminding them to keep together.

The Pre-School Group has purchased the 'walk-a-diles' with funding kindly donated by Kirkwood Homes, Acergy UK and Park Brown International.

The Group is holding an Easter Raffle to be drawn on 30th March in Metelski's Shop. Prizes, amongst many others, include a flight in a 4-seater plane, a microlight flight, a case of wine and a round of golf for four. Tickets are available from the Shop and Post Office.

The Pre-School Group caters for pre-school children from birth to the age of four. Anyone interested should contact Sue Barrie, Group Chairperson on 01561 340673



AUCHENBLAE'S BROWNIES & GUIDES

Celebrating thinking day, the Brownies tasted exotic fruit from around the world. The guides made Pizzas. New girls always welcome. Call Evelyn on 360362 for information if any new girl wants to join us.



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

13 - 19 MAY 2007

The Ball is now rolling for our annual drive in West Mearns to show - as we have done for the past ten years - that this is one part of the world where we really do care about what's happening in some of the poorer parts of the planet.

But one of the problems we face in this neck of the woods is partly of our own making. We have done so well in the past that we are now expected to keep on building on the foundation we have been laying these past ten years! And, incredibly, some of us who have been with Christian Aid right from when we started this fund-raising activity are actually getting older!

What keeps us going is the knowledge that there are agencies on the ground who really know the score when it comes to stark human need and who depend on the kind of financial assistance that helps them enable people to stand on their own feet - and that's what we're about. Of course Christian Aid is there -and has always been there for the past fifty years and more when it comes to the big disasters that make the headlines, but in over 60 different countries there are men, women and children who are being lifted out of poverty in ways that make them no longer dependent on aid from the wealthy nations. **And one of the most significant things about Christian Aid is that it comes with no strings - religious, political or other, attached.** It isn't reserved for people of any religious persuasion, and it's only called "*Christian*" aid because *that is the quality of the aid that's on offer.*

We can always use new hands when it comes to the second week in May, and if there's anyone out there would like to know more about it or offer to help, get in touch with Donald Rennie (01561 320622).



Quiz Night



Which long reigning monarch ruled Britain and the British Empire when the twentieth century began?

The first issue of Playboy came out in 1953. Who was on the cover?

Which boxer had a hit with Eye of the Tiger?

Know the answer to these and more?

Then come along to the Auchenblae Drama Group Quiz Night.

Prizes awarded (and not just for first prize!)

Entrance fee £5 per team (max 5 in a team)

all entrance fees go to the prizes

Quiz Master – Kevin Newstead

Sunday 22nd April 2007

7.30pm

Drumtochty Arms Hotel





The Den of Burnie from the Drumsleed Road

WELCOME TO ALL OUR NEW RESIDENTS.

Although most of the denizens of the new housing in what is sign-posted as “The Den of Burnie” have been in place for some time now, a word of welcome to those who are new to Auchenblae might not be out of place, and we do indeed welcome you to our community and hope that you will feel at home among us and contribute to the life and well-being of the village.

Sometimes places like Auchenblae get the reputation of being divided between the “originals”, the “Incomers” and the “bed and breakfast brigade” (the folk that we rarely see because they have to commute elsewhere for their work life.) - but it isn’t easy, when you have to travel a considerable distance to work to play a full part in the life of the village.

Some of us are still puzzled, if not, amused by the notice that points to the “Den of Burnie” especially as a *den* is usually in a low lying place, and there can be few dens that are to be found on higher locations than this one! But as far as the folk of Auchenblae are concerned, the name, we hope, may soon be forgotten, and what matters - the fact that our new residents are a real part of the village community of Auchenblae - will be remembered. And we trust that the many talents and gifts which our newest residents bring into our community will through time be seen to enhance the quality of life we share in this part of the world, and one of the functions of this local newsletter is to keep us all informed of what’s going on and what is being planned for Auchenblae.

We hope you (and everyone else) will enjoy reading it and will find your way to take part in the groups and events you’ll read about in its pages.

We welcome you all most warmly

Donald Rennie,
Messenger Editor for April 2007



Auchenblae Drama

On the 24th of February Auchenblae Drama Group took part in the S.C.D.A (Scottish Community Drama Association) 75th Anniversary Festival of Drama at Aberdeen Arts Centre.

We performed the short play 'Frankenstein's Guests' by Martin Downing. Although we didn't win we were very well received by the audience and the adjudicator Mr Brian Marjoribanks.

After the performance we were given very positive feedback and felt competing on a full size stage and against 9 experienced groups we had done amazingly well for a group that's only been together for less than a year.

Our next performance will be at 'Auchenfest', a festival for performing arts in the Mearns. The event will take place from June 8th - 10th. Any filmmakers, thespians, or performers wishing to take part can call Gillian Siddons on 01561 320 360 or go to www.auchenblaedramagroup.co.uk

Auchenfest

On the 8th – 10th June Auchenblae will host the inaugural Auchenfest. Showcasing local dramatic arts Auchenblae Drama Group present a weekend of entertainment.

Our festival coordinator, Gillian Siddons, would be delighted to provide more information or take enquiries from local talent willing to participate.

Friday 8th June 7.30pm

On Unofficial Business

The Donahue Sisters (tbc)

Performance from Loirston Players (tbc)

Venue: In Hall with licensed bar.



Saturday 9th June

2:00 till 4:00 p.m. A family mask workshop and set / costume workshop in the Den*.

Emotion masks with Gayna Sandeman will encourage expression through an emotive mask.

The day of events will culminate in the Family Masked Ceilidh in the Village Hall 7:00 p.m. with Beannachar Ceilidh Band. Bring your own refreshments!

Sunday 10th June

Shakespeare in the Den. The youth group will present Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night" in the Den.

The Den will be turned into a Medieval Extravaganza for the day.

HOW THE *MESSENGER* REACHES YOU

Submitted on behalf of the many hands that ensure *The Messenger keeps going.*

1. **Contributors**, any person or group in the village, write their articles and get them to the Editor for the month. The Editor's name is intimated in the *Memo* the previous month and by a notice at the Post Office by the 15th of the month before publication e.g. articles for June should be turned in by May 15th. The editors are busy people who haven't the time to phone round all the people who might have something to say, so it's up to everyone to remember that date. They prefer to be given information in electronic format, but will accept typed or written articles from those who are not computer buffs.
2. The Editor does the editing, which takes many hours.
3. The edited articles are passed to one of the Publishers to do the layout - which takes more time.
4. The layout proof is corrected and returned to the Publisher who completes the final copy of the finished *Messenger*.
5. This copy is then passed on to the printer who produces 375 collated *Messengers*.
6. The finished copies are then delivered to the person who splits them up into districts and takes them to the Distributors (13 in all) and to the Post Office and shops for collection there.
7. The distributors drop their copies in the letter boxes when they find the time to do it.

The Aim is that the *Messengers* will all be delivered before the end of the month prior to that for which the information is relevant. It can be done so long as there are no hiccups along the way!

AUCHENBLAE SCHOOL NURSERY

The Messenger can advise that Parents of the children attending the nursery and the Education Authorities are having a dialogue on the way forward for the nursery. It is hoped that arrangements can be put in place that best suit all concerned.

S.W.R.I

The 79th Birthday Party of the Auchenblae Branch of the S.W.,R.I. was held in the Village Hall on Thursday March 1st. Members enjoyed a buffet meal and a very interesting talk by Marian Robson.

Winners of the Bulb Competition were :

Bowl of Daffodils : 1st - Lorna Bey, 2nd - Adelaide Murray

Bowl of Tulips: 1st - Margaret Kemp, 2nd Adelaide Murray

Hyacinth in Water: 1st, Lorna Bey

Amaryllis : 1st, Cath Riddoch, 2nd Adelaide Murray

Shield for the most points : Adelaide Murray and Lorna Bey

Thomson Cup (Lady's Corsage in Silk Flowers) Julie Benstead

Competition (A Knitted Toy) 1st: Joan Nicoll, 2nd, Lorna Bey 3rd, Isabelle Riddoch.

MEARNS COMMUNITY TRANSPORT SCHEME

The Mearns Area Partnership applied for funding in 2005 and was granted a three year award which paid for a new minibus, a transport co-ordinator and admin. assistant. The bus arrived last year and has already been well used by local groups and by Mearns Academy. The bus seats 15 plus driver and is available to all groups in the area. At present most provide their own driver who must have passed the Aberdeenshire Council driving test. There is a pool of volunteer drivers who are willing to drive for groups. A part time driver will be appointed next year. Anyone wishing to know more about the bus should contact **Mark Graham**, transport co-ordinator ,on **01561 377000**.

AUCHENBLAE



RACQUET GROUP

Don't wait until Wimbledon is upon us to get out the 'rusty' racquets.

With recently refurbished courts AND professional coaching available, this is the summer either to take up a new sport or re-acquaint yourself with an old one.

Many of our juniors have benefited from an 'indoor' season now drawing to a close, but only so that we can adjourn to the great outdoors. (Two blaise courts in the Den, for those of you new to the area)

Lessons for juniors, under the tutelage of our LTA coach, Wendy Byres, will commence in May (watch notice board for dates) and we would be delighted to welcome youngsters from age 5, new and old, to our groups on Tuesday evenings.

Adults wishing to play, either socially, competitively or to access lessons and coaching are also welcome to join our small but enthusiastic throng.

For more details, or to note your interest, please contact

Gina Easter (01561 320269) or Carol Shea (01561 30748)





THE AUCHENBLAE MESSENGER

THE NEWSLETTER

FOR THE



PRODUCTION TEAM

Donald Rennie
Craig Sandeman
Ann Rennie
Eddie Cairns
Kevin Newstead
Anne Anderson
Barbara Strouts
Colette Hoggmascall

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

The Publisher of this issue was
Eddie Cairns

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

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

Auchenblae Messenger Supplement—MONTHLY MEMO

DATE	EVENT	PLACE	TIME
Sat 14th April	Senior Citizens Fund Coffee Morning	Tracey's House	Morning
Wed 18th April	Friendship Group Restarts	Church Hall	10.15
Sun 22nd April	Drama Group Quiz Night	Drumtochty Arms	19:30
May 13th 19th	Christian Aid Week		
May TBA	Racquet Group	The Den	TBA.
Sun 20th—Sat 26th May	Gala	Village	
8th—10th June	Auchenfest	See Page 9	See Page 9
Fri 7th – Sun 9th Sep	Art Show	Village Hall	See posters

ALL INFORMATION FOR INCLUSION IN THE MAY MEMO

SHOULD BE GIVEN TO ANN RENNIE, MERNIS HOWE Tel. 01561 320622 By 15TH April 2007

SEARCHING FOR THE GRIGOR FAMILY

My grandfather was born at North Lodge and attended the local school. I understand that he left Auchenblae when he was 12 years old (around 1938) and went to London.

I am trying to contact any relatives that may still be in the local area. My relatives would be Edward & Eveyln Grigor and their children (also called) Edward and Evelyn Grigor. Edward Grigor was my grandfathers cousin. Any relatives of Duffus Imly Grigor (son of Elsie Grigor) please get in touch.

My contact details are: Julie Barnes Email jules-72@tiscali.co.uk Tel. 01793 725261

Please note that the next edition of 'The Messenger' will be published during June 2007. The closing date for inclusion in this edition will be 15th May 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) or CDR would be appreciated. **Thanks from all the team!**

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