

The

# Auchenblae Messenger

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May 2008



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## *The Messenger Loses it's Founder!*

The Messenger team are very sad to announce Donald Rennie that well known figure in the village and beyond, lost a long and hard fight with ill health in early April.

While much has been said and written about Donald, I for one would not attempt to chronicle his achievements as they are just too many to mention and we all have our own memories of him.

Donald as you may be aware started the Messenger virtually single handed in January 1999 to help improve the community spirit in the village and in our discussions always said, keep it simple but publish the newsletter regularly.

While colour printing from time to time improves presentation and our Internet site does bring in contributions and allows people living away from the village to keep in contact. I hope we can keep up Donald's good work by still publishing the Messenger and Memo on a regular basis.

I think it was a tribute to his life long work that it was standing room only in the Church for his funeral with attendees from far and wide.

We have reprinted the first edition of the Messenger in this issue as an insert to celebrate the life and vitality that were Donald's trademarks.

Donald, you will be missed by your family and friends wherever they are.

Eddie Cairns

## West Mearns Parish Church & Auchenblae Guild

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



**9.30 a.m.** Every Sunday at Fettercairn  
**11.00 a.m.** First Sunday of the month Glenberrie  
**11.00 a.m.** Every other Sunday in the month  
 Service at Auchenblae Church

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

**VISITORS ESPECIALLY WELCOME AT ALL SERVICES**

### AUCHENBLAE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

**Gala – Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> – Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> May**

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> – 2pm – Football Pitch.** Kite Flying. Children's Races. Football. Welly Throwing. Refreshments.

**Monday 26<sup>th</sup> – 6pm. Village Hall.** Family Walking Treasure Hunt. Entry 50p. Refreshments.

**Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> – 7pm for 7.30pm. Village Hall.** Quiz Night. Entry: £10 per table of 4. Bar. Raffle.

**Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> – Village Hall - 6.30 – 7pm.** Car Treasure Hunt. £2.50 pp. Teas & Sandwiches.

**Friday 30<sup>th</sup> – Village Hall - Children's Parties** with Puppet shows by PuppetDen

5-6pm – Pre-School – Entry: £1.00

6.15 – 7.30pm – 5 – 7 years – Entry: £1.50

7.45 – 9pm – 8 – 12 years - Entry: £1.50

**Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> – 1pm - Gala Day in the Den**

Bowling, Teas, Pavilion Takeaway, Barbecue, Tombola, Duck Race, Raffle, Whisky Trail, Plant Stall, Bottle Stall, Bric-a-Brac, Bouncy Castle, Children's Items. \*Scarecrow Display. \*Scarecrow Competition as previously advertised by posters etc.

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**Art Show: Friday 5<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> 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: [alicemorgan@btinternet.com](mailto:alicemorgan@btinternet.com)

**Diary Date: Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> September – Fashion Show**

### **BROADBAND PROBLEMS**

If you are having speed problems with your broadband or you have been told that your line will not support broadband there may be a simple fix for that.

Up until quite recently if you have any sort of phone extension whether a properly wired extension to a wall box or just a handy plug in extension lead more wires that are actually required are connected.

This creates an aerial effect from those extra wires which slows down or makes your line too problematical to get broadband.

While BT will be producing an I-plate via Internet Service Providers later in the year to reduce the problem by some 90%.

It is possible to remove the problem by disconnecting the bell wire in your internal wiring. It is quite straightforward for anyone who is handy at DIY.

For more information check out this web page.  
<http://www.dslzoneuk.net/socket.php>

In my case our line speed has improved from 1.5 Meg to 3 Meg by disconnecting the bell wire.

Eddie Cairns  
320494

### **ARCHIE FUNDRAISING**

**Children's Toys & Clothes  
Nearly New Sale**

Village Hall

Saturday 3rd May

9.00 am to Noon

Admission £1

### **AUCHENBLAE SURGERY**

The surgery will be closed on Monday 5th May

It will reopen on Tuesday 6th May at 8.00 am

### **THE COMET**

The community centre in Laurencekirk has obtained Scottish Government grant funding and had delivered a van equipped with laptops and a satellite internet link to allow the van to be used at remote locations in the Mearns.

This vehicle is available to community groups at little cost and enquiries should be made to the Community Centre to obtain the use of the facility.



# Auchenblae Drama Group



**Auchenblae Children's Theatre Proudly Presents**

" The Pomegranate Seeds " By Sebastian Hayes.

3.pm. Sunny Sunday June 22nd - In The Den - A Date For Your Diary.

The play is closely based on the Greek myth of Persephone's descent into the Underworld.

Demeter, the Goddess of the Harvest, has a beautiful daughter, Persephone, who at 16 is kidnapped by Hades, God of the Underworld. In despair Demeter neglects her duties, the plants and trees stop growing and humanity is in danger of starvation. Can Zeus persuade Hades to let Persephone return to Earth ?. Can a compromise be reached ?.

The imaginative play deals with themes that are still relevant today -

Will spring ever return ? Can we learn to compromise ?

Play to be followed by a Greek Festival ( More details later )

Looking forward to Seeing you in June.

From all the children in A.C.T.

and Natasha, Tracey, Judith.

For more information contact. Gillian 320360

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## **Auchenblae Friendship Group**

We would like to invite anyone who is at a loose end on Wednesday mornings to join us in the Church Hall at 10.15am.



We offer different activities, but most of all friendship.





## WIND FARMS

An open letter to all residents of Glenbervie and District.  
Dear fellow residents,

At the beginning of 2007, the Glenbervie and District Community Association sent an open letter via the local press to make residents aware of the proliferation of wind farms in the vicinity of Drumlithie, Glenbervie and Auchenblae area.

Since that time there have been further developments, with more wind farms being put forward for approval to the local authority and the Scottish Government.

The Community Association are anxious to ensure that local people who live in the North Mearns area (in particular those in the vicinity of Drumlithie and Glenbervie district) are updated on the status of the various potential wind farm developments in their locality.

It is not the intention of the Community Association to voice an opinion either for or against wind farms but simply to make local people aware of the potential scale of these potential developments and to solicit their opinions.

Most locals will be aware that some wind farm development is earmarked for the North Mearns area, but as public presentations by developers have been somewhat patchy, many people won't be aware of the potential full scale of these proposals. If all wind farm applications are approved in full, there could be as many as 81 wind turbines built in the north Mearns area around Drumlithie and Auchenblae.

Most of them, with the exception of St John's Hill, lie in a line that runs to the north and approximately parallel to the A90, starting at a point almost due north of the village of Auchenblae, running past Drumlithie and stopping someway short of Stonehaven.

The distance of these developments from Auchenblae and Drumlithie is about the same as the villages are from the A90 (which in the case of Drumlithie is a mere 2Km).

Since the last issue of this open letter in January 2007, a number of significant events have taken place associated with the various planning application:-

1. St John's Hill application approved (9 turbines)
  2. Herscha Hill application approved (1 turbine)
  3. Mid Hill - Natural Power is preparing an extension of the Mid Hill (A further 8 to 15 turbines, in addition to the 25 already approved.)
  4. Clochnahill - The main objection to the application has been withdrawn (4 turbines).
  5. Jacksbank Hill - FM Developments have confirmed that they do intend to develop (12 turbines).
- Applications concerning the following windfarms are still pending:-
6. East Auquhire – Application submitted (3 Turbines)
  7. Droop Hill – Application submitted (3 Turbines)

Details of the location can be found in the local notice boards in Drumlithie, or by contacting the undersigned. Natural Power will be setting up an exhibition of the proposed extension to the Midhill Windfarm in approximately one to two months' time.

The date and venue will be announced in the local press.

Natural Power has been the only potential developer to date to have presented their proposals direct to the

local people.

This they did, in Drumlithie Village Hall, prior to their phase 1 development (which is now approved).

It is worth noting that while every individual wind farm development is or will be assessed either by the local authority or by the Scottish Executive (for developments greater than 50 MW), there are no policies or guidance rules set by the Scottish Government or any other body concerning the number of such developments that a locality can sensibly bear.

If you live in the North Mearns area and in particular within Drumlithie or the Glenbervie District we are keen to hear your opinion.

Please submit your views to the Glenbervie & District Community Association via one of the following addressees:

Mr J Stevenson,  
Secretary,  
Wester Cotbank Moorlands,  
Drumlithie,  
AB39 3YL.

Dr J M Lovell,  
Chairman,  
High Street,  
Drumlithie,  
Kincardineshire,  
AB39 3YZ.

# Auchenblae Tennis



AUCHENBLAE  
TENNIS CLUB

## Summer Season 2008

In the build up to the outdoor season, we are delighted to invite you to join **Auchenblae Tennis Club**. We will be down the 'Den' from Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> April, and would love to welcome you along.

There will be coaching sessions on two days – Tuesdays for the nursery and primary groups and Wednesdays for the older primary groups and onwards, finishing with a coached Adult session. We are also delighted to say that we expect to start implementing the full LTA national Mini Tennis programme for the red, orange & green groups from the beginning of the new season.

<u>Day</u>	<u>Group</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Tuesdays	Red 1	4.15pm	4.45pm
	Red 2	4.45pm	5.15pm
	Orange 1	5.00pm	5.45pm
	Orange 2/3	5.30pm	6.15pm
Wednesdays	Green	4.45pm	5.45pm
	Youth	5.30pm	6.30pm
	Adults	6.30pm	7.30pm

Please contact us if you would like to join in – all ages (from approx 4½ years) and abilities are most welcome.



If you fancy a 'hit about' a few days earlier, we will be running small taster sessions at the Den Opening on Saturday the 26<sup>th</sup> of April. Here are rough times and age groups:

Age 4 – 6	11.30am – noon	Age 7 – 9	Noon – 12.30pm
Age 10-12	12.30pm – 1pm	Teens/Adults	1pm – 1.30pm

The Tennis Club will also be in action during Gala Week at the main event held in the 'Den' on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> May. We will be organising small matches for club members followed by an 'open play' session for anybody interested in joining in (suitable footwear required).



For any details or further information please contact:  
Gina Easter (320269), Carol Shea (320748) or Margo Titmuss(320808)



## A LETTER FROM AMERICA



*Auchenblae Amateur Dramatic Society 1936-60  
Celebrating 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Production  
at Drumbochtie Arms Hotel - 30<sup>th</sup> March 1960.*

My name is Catherine Held (nee Wilson). My niece, Patricia McKeachern, sent me the picture of the Auchenblae Dram Group from 1960. I am sitting on the floor at the feet of the minister, Rev. Angus McLeod. I can't name everybody in the picture, although I know all the faces.....

Back row: Sandy Reid, Leslie Begg, ?, ?, a guy from the forestry, Colin White, Alec Lamb, Ian Barclay, Bertie White.

Next row: ? Mrs McLeod, Mrs White, ?, ? Sandy Broom, Ann Thomson, Mrs Reid.

Next row: Angus McLeod, Mrs Gove, Mrs Welsh, Willie McLennan. In the front are Catherine Wilson, ?, Sandra Reid.



In the other picture, which was some kind of 'who-dun-it', Mr Kellas holds the plaster cast, Mrs Gove, Sandy Brown and I, Mary (nee Simpson) and Colin White.

Alec Lamb is the policeman, and I can't remember the one in hand-cuffs. Bob Morgan (I think) Mary's husband sits to the right.

Best wishes from Catherine Held, Qualicum Beach, Vancouver Island, Canada

e-mail: cathall@telus.net



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



**PRODUCTION TEAM**

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"Keeping you informed"

The Publisher & Editor 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**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>EVENT</b>	<b>PLACE</b>	<b>TIME</b>
Sat 3rd May	Archie Fundraising	Village Hall	9 to Noon
Sun. 25th—Sat 31st May	Gala Week	Auchenblae	TBA
Sat & Sun. 7th & 8th Jun	One Act play evenings	Village Hall	TBA
Sun. 22nd June	Children's Theatre	The Den	3.00 pm

**ALL INFORMATION FOR INCLUSION IN THE June MEMO**

**SEE NOTICE OUTSIDE THE POST OFFICE**

**Remember you can have a free loan of our Digital Projector for any Village Based function. Call Eddie Cairns on 320494**

**Please note that the next edition of 'The Messenger' will be published during July 2008. The closing date for inclusion in this edition will be 15th June 2008.**

If you have e-mail please send to: [themessenger@mearns.org](mailto:themessenger@mearns.org)

Otherwise, hand to Craig Sandeman, Drumbeg . If you have access to a word processor, the Messenger will supply a memory stick to transport your article or pictures if required phone Eddie on 320494. **Thanks from all the team!**

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