

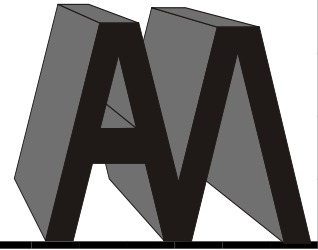


The

# Auchenblae Messenger

Volume 7 Issue 3

July 2005



## Inside this issue:

West Mearns Parish Church	2
Racquet Group	3
Community Assoc	4
Parks Committee	5
Over 60s Group	7
OAP Fund	7

## Special points of interest:

- Edinburgh Marathon Page 3
- Recycling Point—Page 4
- Christian Aid Week - Page — 6
- Light House Page 7

## Editorial

Welcome to the 39th. edition of 'The Auchenblae Messenger', and as always, thank you for your continued support. And an especial thank you to all, who by their personal contribution, make the Magazine 'happen'.

Here we are again, in mid-summer -- the 'Summer Solstice'. In our prevailing climate nowadays, I sometimes wonder whether indeed the long balmy summer days that were filled with sunshine, birdsong and the exotic scents of evening, that I seem to remember of yesterday, have forgotten to visit Auchenblae in more recent years. Perhaps of course, much that I remember of these golden days gone-bye, might have about it, a special blend of romanticism, that might not necessarily stand up to careful scrutiny. Memories ..... ! However, today, as I write, the warming sun is shining, the sky is blue and indeed, all in the garden is beautiful. Let us then give thanks for each day, as it may come.

Traditionally, at this time of year, there tends to be less material for reportage in 'The Messenger'. However, this edition would be incomplete, without acknowledgement, especially, of the quite splendid fund-raising effort that Margo has made; by her preparation and participation in the Edinburgh Marathon. 'Sair feet' or otherwise, very well done!

You will also note we have inserted a colour plan of the village produced by Sue Hodgson, we thank her for her hard work in producing the map and with the many revisions that entails and also to thank David Galbraith Consulting Ltd for printing the plan.

Meanwhile, the Production Team wishes you a good Summer, and hopes that you will enjoy reading your copy of 'The Auchenblae Messenger'.

Ross Muiry

## Glenbervie House

The Glenbervie Gardens will be open for Scotland's Garden Scheme on Sunday 7 August from 2 until 5; there will be a Plant Stall and Teas are available. 40 per cent of the proceeds will be given to West Mearns Parish Church.



## Friends of ANCHOR

Thank you to all the cyclists, sponsors, those who helped on Sunday, bought raffles and gave donations for our Sponsored Cycle race on the 5th of June.

£1,400 was raised for the ANCHOR unit A.R.I.. Your continued support is much appreciated.

Pat, Family and Friends



## *West Mearns Parish Church*

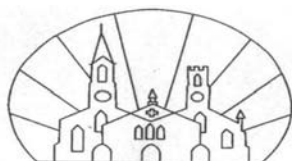
Minister: Rev. Catherine Hepburn  
The Manse, Fettercairn  
Tel 01561 340203

### Sunday Service

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

Visitors especially welcome at all services, and a particular welcome to all summer visitors.

During the summer months there will be Summer Sunday School for the younger children  
Children of visitors will be most welcome.



**The logo of West Mearns Church** is made up with representations of the three church buildings at Fettercairn, Glenbervie and Auchenblae. The churches in these communities were united in 1995.

### **A NOTE ABOUT AUCHENBLAE CHURCH**

VISITORS to the church at Auchenblae sometimes ask about the history of the church building, and which stands in the middle of the graveyard at what used to be called the *Kirkton of Fordoun*. The present church was erected in 1829 and replaced a building that was on the same site.

There has been a religious settlement on this same site since the sixth or seventh century. When the previous church building was dismantled, it was discovered that the pulpit was built over the pictish stone which has been mounted on the wall of the church vestibule. It depicts a hunting scene, but also clearly shows the Celtic inter-lacing pattern – a sure sign of the presence of a Church, which frequently used elements of existing culture in the proclamation of the Gospel rather than seeking to eliminate it.



The pictish Stone  
In the church

Also in the graveyard, to the right of the Church (looking from the roadway) are the ruins of what is known as St. Paladius Chapel. Paladius was a contemporary (and possibly a disciple) of St. Columba of Iona. It is believed that this was possibly a funeral chapel, rather than a place of regular worship.

On a circular column to the left of the main church gate is a memorial to George Wishart, the first Protestant Martyr in Scotland, whose family came from Pitarrow a few miles west of Auchenblae.

## Edinburgh Marathon

### I did it!!!

After 9 months of training, preparation and the occasional injury I finally ran the Edinburgh Marathon on Sunday 12th June.

A huge thankyou to everyone who has sponsored and supported me during this personal endeavour. Thanks to you, I have raised £6,000 for the Lady Hoare Trust; a charity which provides support to children with arthritis.

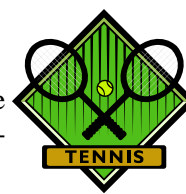


Margo Titmus

## Auchenblae Racquet Group

### Outdoor Season - 2005

We have been so thrilled with the amazing turn-out for the outdoor tennis season. There have been so many willing and able youngsters that we have had to press additional parents in as helpers. Thanks to them.



Our **Advanced Juniors'** group is running with 15 players, although currently minus Andrew Shea due to injury. We may also move one or two more up from the juniors' group as we approach the summer holiday. The **Juniors** numbers swell to 25 or more, which is heart warming as well as exhausting, but very rewarding to see so many young people and often their parents, enjoying the lovely facility we are blessed with here in Auchenblae.

### Midsummer Madness

By the time you read this, we will have enjoyed (weather permitting) the first All **Auchen-Blaize Tennis Championships**. A Midsummer Night's dream was in prospect, with fun tournaments and team games, refreshments, home bakes, raffle and a BBQ going on as long into the evening as stamina allowed.

### Summer Holiday Plans

We shall be contacting all players and parents to ascertain their desires to continue their tennis in some format over the summer holidays. It seems such a shame to lose the best part of the outdoor season, so we are offering a choice of: a week-long Summer Tennis Camp in Auchenblae, run by Wendy, in addition to those at Fettercairn, Laurencekirk and Fordoun or continuing the Tuesday evening groups; Both or nothing.

All options will be dependent on a minimum number committed to attending to cover costs and make it worthwhile for us giving up our holiday time.

If you are new and interested in playing, especially if you are adult, please contact Gina (01561 320269) or Carol (01561 320748) or just come along on Tuesdays at 6:30 and join in!

We are a mixed group of mixed ability and would welcome any newcomers of any level to join us. We do not bite (although the midges might, so come prepared!)

Gina & Carol

## Auchenblae & District Community Association

### AUCHENBLAE GALA

The **Gala Week** was a major success with activities to suit all ages and a particular emphasis on sport and fun for the children. The weather dictated a change of venue to the Village Hall for Saturday's Gala Day but this did not detract from the attendance at the various stalls, teas and entertainment. Thanks to all who supported events throughout the week and contributed to a most successful Gala.

### ART SHOW 2nd – 4th SEPTEMBER

**Auchenblae Art Show** is now a regular feature in the calendar of events of the Mearns and attracts participants from the village and surrounding area. We have contacted our current list of Artists, but would welcome further exhibits from local artists. To receive an entry form please contact Alice Morgan (01561) 320081 or email: [alice.morgan@btclick.com](mailto:alice.morgan@btclick.com) Local photographs also welcome for display. The choice of photograph for our Christmas Card for 2006 will also be made at the Art Show.

### DRUMTOCHTY GAMES 25 JUNE

The **Community Association** will again be organising the catering at the Games providing soup and sandwiches, pies and sausage rolls - from the local butcher, teas and home baking. In addition to the variety of home made cakes there are muffins and cakes kindly donated by Macphie of Glenbervie. As in previous years the Community Association is most appreciative of all donations of baking etc.

**KNOW YOUR VILLAGE — Village Map** — Familiarise yourself with the house and street names, walks, paths and leisure amenities of your village illustrated on the enclosed map — keeping in mind consideration for the properties adjacent to the paths. The map was drawn and researched by Sue Hodgson and printed by David Galbraith Consulting Ltd.

### Auchenblae Recycling Point

The recycling point at Auchenblae will be removed from its current site at the former Auchenblae Garage, at the beginning of July. Mr & Mrs Thomson have been very generous in granting Aberdeenshire Council use of their land for this recycling point in recent years. The land is now, however, earmarked for development.

Please would local residents take their recycling materials to alternative recycling points. The local recycling points to Auchenblae are at the Redhall Arms, Fordoun and the Drumlithie Hotel.

Laurencekirk will also soon have a Household Waste and Recycling Centre due for opening - further details of opening will follow in future press advertisements.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Wasteline on 0845 600 3 900 or email [recycling@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:recycling@aberdeenshire.gov.uk) if you require any further information.

### Cancer Research Big Breakfast Brunch

A belated thankyou to everyone who made the **Cancer Research 'Big Breakfast' Brunch** back in March such a success.

We raised well in excess of £500 and are certain to do it again.

Thank you everyone for your support, especially to Sallyann, Doreann, Kath, Sheena, Jenny, Margo and all who gave so much time and energy.

It was hard work but I hope everyone would agree a great success and great fun too.

My heartfelt thanks to you all and all unnamed supporters for making it a success. An idea is just that, an idea, without lots of effort by many.

## Auchenblae Parks Committee

### Childrens' Play Area

Readers of the Messenger, may remember a report last year on the re-furbishment of the rocking boat situated in the childrens' area at the Den.

It was felt that the addition of a name would add a final touch. Auchenblae Primary School was consulted and the unanimous choice was to name the boat JOLLY ROGER .

DOT HAIN kindly volunteered to paint the name with the appropriate addition of the skull & cross-bones.

It is hoped that the younger children will continue to enjoy 'sailing' the boat, but watch-out for CAPTAIN HOOK ??



### The Den

#### The Adventure Playground

Have you seen the new addition? Designed primarily for 'school children' the Fort is being used by all ages, it can even accommodate an adult we have heard! Parents are reminded that the top platform of the fort is not secure for young children. Its durability has been well and truly tested by our village based "quality control" and we hope that now, they will share with us the responsibility of its care.

The works carried out in the last few months have cost in excess of £3,500 and it is good to see it being appreciated so much. The committee would like at this point to thank Bernie Melsom, for the help he so willingly gave towards the preparation of the area and the construction of the fort itself.

#### Dog Exclusion Zones

We have found it necessary to extend the dog exclusion zone to include the Adventure Playground area. It is apparently very difficult to clean up properly after your pet amongst the bark – no pun intended. Can we mention once again that dogs should not be walked along the path between the swings and the burn, as this area is solely designated for children.

Dogs are of course welcome in all other areas of the Den with its multitude of 'little roadies', including the riverside path running adjacent to the barked area, the path beside the tennis courts and bowling green and also 'the lade' (the path leading from the Car Park to the old dam) - provided the usual courtesies are observed.

Auchenblae Parks Committee

## Auchenblae Pre School Group

The Auchenblae Pre~School Group had its Annual General Meeting on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2005 in the Mutual Hall, where the new Committee was elected and plans started for the forthcoming new term after the summer holidays.

The Committee is very grateful to the Playleaders for their dedicated commitment and parents and friends in the local community for their continued support, which is very much appreciated.

The children of the Pre~School Group enjoyed a summer outing to Brechin Steam Heritage and a Teddy Toddle at Brechin Castle Centre on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> June where everyone could run around and let off some steam!

**The Toddlers, 2's Group and Playgroup restart with an enrolment day on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> August 2005**, when all parents are welcome to come along to the Mutual Hall to have a chat and enrol their children for any of the sessions.

**Any parent who is unable to join us at the enrolment day** and would like their child to have a place at Toddlers, 2's Group or Playgroup, please **contact Denise Bird on 01561 320887 for details.**



THANKS TO EVERYONE -  
COLLECTORS, HELPERS, GIVERS  
IN AUCHENBLAE, FETTERCAIRN,  
DRUMLITHIE, GLENBERVIE, FORDOUN  
AND EDZELL WOODS  
OUR CHRISTIAN AID WEEK TOTAL  
HAS BEEN THE HIGHEST SINCE  
WE STARTED IN 1998.

THE TOTALS HAVE BEEN

1998 - £ 779  
1999 - £1180  
2000 - £1267  
2001 - £1337  
2002 - £1524  
2003 - £2077  
2004 - £2082  
2005 - £2407

ON BEHALF OF CHRISTIAN AID  
AND SOME OF THE POOREST IN THE WORLD  
THANK YOU.

## Auchenblae OAP Fund

Auchenblae O.A.P fund has been running now for 28 years . Its aim is to provide everyone over 60 , living within the village , with a Christmas gift.

Margaret , Bob and Karen have worked tirelessly and have managed to raise the money every year , loosing their spare room and kitchen to bric-a-brac and jam ! While Margaret will still be making her wonderful jam (berries and jars allowing ) the family will be taking a well earned rest.

**The new faces of the fund will be Jean Guthrie , Wendy Reid and Tracey Harrison-Lewis .**

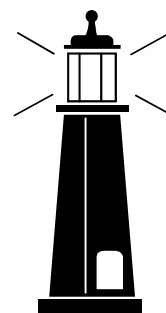
They will be doing the regular stall at the Mearns Vintage Weekend at Arnhall Farm , Edzell (3rd and 4th of September. ) The stall consists of bric-a-brac , jam , tombola and lots more.

They will also be holding a 'Novelty Race Night ' on the 30th of September , hosted by Grampian TV's Chris Harvey - more details to follow.

Also look out for the 'Catch up' coffee mornings that are already running . The one at Jean's on the 11th of June was a great success and managed to raise £65 for the fund . Many thanks to all who made it such a lovely morning . Details of the next event will be posted soon. If you could assist with either donations or a helping hand please contact Jean 320 428 or Tracey 320 596. Please support the Auchenblae O.A.P fund. Thank you.

## Light House News

Charles and Brenda want to thank all the Light House kids and their families for making the Spring term so enjoyable. With good attendance and growing numbers, we have had a lot of fun and encouragement and we look forward to the Autumn term with fresh energy and inspiration!



Our piggy collection has been slow to get going again this year. However, we have raised the sum of £34.45 which is being donated to one of the old Light House charities, Christian Missions Charitable Trust in India. This charity is very hard working and supports orphans and widows as well as running schools. There is also a Tsunami help programme in force at present. Many thanks for all the "piggy money" and keep it coming! Mr. Piggy seems to get hungrier and hungrier as the years go by.....

Light House will be shining again in September, hopefully kicking off with a BBQ down at Mayfield, weather permitting - more details later. Meanwhile, we hope you'll have a summer filled with love, joy, peace and SUNSHINE!

Charles and Brenda Gordon

## Auchenblae Over Sixties Friendship Group

It is hard to believe that we are almost at the end of another year. Our last meeting this session will be on June 29<sup>th</sup>. We then have a break of about six weeks.

We have had a varied programme once again this year. There have been many old favourites and some very interesting new activities. We have also had some very enjoyable outings, and promise more of the same for next year.



I'm sure you all join me in thanking Jean for driving the school bus for us. We certainly could not function without her. I would also like to thank all the people who help out with cars for ferrying people around. We really do appreciate your help. My thanks also to Shirley for putting the tables up for us on a Wednesday morning. It saves my poor back.

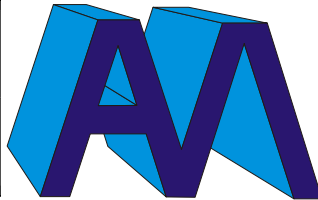
If there are any new pensioners in the village, who feel that they would like to join us when the new session starts, do come along. The Church Hall, Wednesday morning, 10.15 to 12.15. If you would have difficulty getting up the hills just let one of us know and we will see that the bus picks you up.

Watch the notice board in mid August for the date of the next session. I hope that you all have a lovely holiday.

Barbara Strouts



THE AUCHENBLAE MESSENGER  
THE NEWSLETTER  
FOR THE  
AUCHENBLAE COMMUNITY



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Anne Anderson, Viewmount  
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Colette Hogmascall, Drumelzie Cottage

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**"Keeping you informed"**

**The Publisher of this issue was  
Eddie Cairns**

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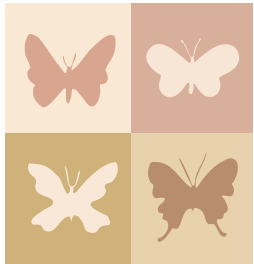
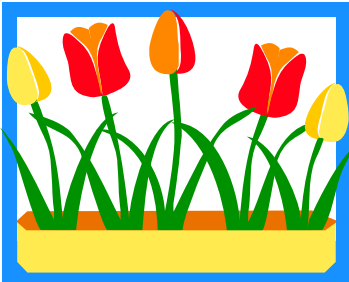
Anne Anderson, Sheena Auld, Carol Nelson, Anne Caird, Sheree Caird, Therese Hendry, Colette Hogmascall, Ann Rennie, Trish MacEachern, Margaret Muiry, Barbara Strouts, Lois McCormack and Moira Hutchison.

**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>
Sunday 7th August	Glenbervie gardens Open Day	Glenbervie	2 to 5 pm
Tuesday 16th August	Enrol for Pre School Group	Village Hall	
Fri Sat Sun 2 to 4th Sep	Art Show	Village Hall	See Posters
Sat Sun 3 to 4th Sep	Vintage Vehicle Weekend	Arnhall Farm	
Thur 30th Sep	Novelty Race Night	TBA	TBA

**ALL INFORMATION FOR INCLUSION IN THE AUGUST MEMO (assuming sufficient content) SHOULD BE GIVEN TO ANN RENNIE, 'MERNIS HOWE' Tel. 01561 320622 BY 15<sup>TH</sup> July 2005**



**Please note that the next edition of 'The Messenger' will be published during September 2005. The closing date for inclusion in this edition will be Monday 15th August 2005.**

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

Otherwise, hand to Donald Rennie - Mernie Howe. 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>**