



Auchenblae Messenger

Founded in 1999 by Donald B. Rennie

SUMMER EDITION

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JUNE 2013

From The Editor

I sincerely hope that this latest issue of The Messenger will help to herald the start of summer. It is certainly full of lots of activities. I don't think it is possible to be bored in Auchenblae. Thankfully the usual summer activities have begun again in The Den. A happy holiday season to all our readers.

Many thanks again to all our contributors, to Kevin and to all the distributors. Without them there would be no Messenger. The next issue will be in September so if you have anything to be included please send it to me at barpollybar@gmail.com by August 15th.

Barbara

The Messenger Memo

For many years now I have produced the Memo to keep Auchenblae informed about coming events and to express thanks for, and to give information about the results of previous events. For about the last year I have not regularly been given enough copy to make it worth while printing it and have the distributors go round their districts, so the Memo has appeared only spasmodically. It seems perhaps that it has by now outlived its' usefulness.

I would like to thank all who have contributed in the past and offer apologies to all who appreciated the Memo form.

Perhaps someone would like to take over. If so please contact Barbara at the MESSENGER.

Ann Rennie

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Messenger and Memo Distribution

It is thanks to Ann Anderson and her team that the Messenger and the Memo are delivered to your door. We certainly owe them our gratitude. At times some members of the team may not be able to deliver for various reasons. Ann would be grateful if a few of you would volunteer to act as relief members. The rounds are short and should not take more than about 30 minutes a month. If you feel that you can help please phone **Ann on 320524.**



As parents most of us would love to somehow 'drug proof' our children: to empower them to make wise, healthy choices as they encounter the many temptations laid before them.

How to Drug Proof Your Kids was created in response to the needs of parents, as they deal with the very real and complex issues of alcohol and other drugs.

Research shows that the most influential ways to steer children and young people away from harmful alcohol and drug use is a healthy family environment.

Can I 'drug proof' my kids?

If you mean,

"Can I stop my child from trying tobacco, alcohol or illegal drugs?", the answer is NO.

But if you mean,

**"Is there any way I can influence
the choices my child makes?"**

the answer is YES.



Two "How to Drug Proof your Kids" courses will run in the local area, by trained facilitators, in the next academic year.



9.30-11.30am starting 29th August in Inverbervie School.

Wednesday evenings starting 26th February in Mearns Community Centre

Contact Trish MacEachern 01561 321263

Auchenblae Community Association

Auchenblae Gala Week

Auchenblae is the first of the Mearns villages to hold its Annual Gala and the week long event offers a variety of activities starting on Sunday 19th with "Kids, Kites & Races" held at the football pitch. This is unique to Auchenblae and has been a tradition now for more than a decade. Ideally we need a bit of a breeze to fly our kites, but if not, we have fun anyway. There will be a few kites for sale, but bring along your favourite.

Then we move on to the kiddies races where no child goes unrewarded, and finally a friendly football match for anyone who wants to take part: teenagers; men; women and schoolchildren! Refreshments will be available.

On Monday, a Family Walking Treasure Hunt starts at 6 pm from the Village Hall. This event sees around 70 children (and parents for the little ones) search the village for clues. Simple, but much enjoyed it seems.

Tuesday is Quiz Night and Kevin, our quizmaster, sets a really good quiz with a variety of subjects to test the brain. This event is licensed and entry costs £3 per person including savoury nibbles. Teams should consist of 4ish members. Visiting teams welcome.

On Wednesday the committee members have a day off to do some preparation for Saturday and to recharge the batteries!!

Thursday sees the much anticipated Car Treasure Hunt leave the village hall at 6.30 pm. Cost is £3 per adult and includes sandwiches and tea on return.

Friday night is dedicated to the children of the village and surrounding area. Starting at 5pm we look forward to the pre school kiddies joining us for a Teddy Bear's Picnic. Please bring your teddy. Then from 6.30 to 8.30pm there will be a party and disco for school age youngsters with a tuck shop available.

The finale to the week is held down the Den on Saturday 25th, starting at 1 pm. and carries on throughout the afternoon. Once again we welcome "The Trybe" who provide much enjoyed live music. The ever popular Duck Races will take place as well as an Open 'seven ends' Bowling Competition. Teas and home-baking are served from the Victorian pavilion while the B.B.Q. on the opposite side of burn, accessed by stepping stones, has a constant queue of customers.

Other events taking place in the Den will be a Tombola, Bottle Stall; Raffle, Take-Away and a variety of Family Fun Stalls run by local community groups as a means of raising funds for their own causes. This year, as a first, we also welcome the Balloon Mannie who will mingle through the crowds from 2.30 pm onwards.

The week's events are run by Auchenblae Community Association and are well supported by both villagers and visitors.

"...friendship, a cuppie and a chat.



Auchenblae Friendship Group

At last the wintry weather has relented and we are back to weekly meetings again. Between Christmas and Easter we were only able to meet four times. It is very encouraging to see that we are attracting new members so we must be getting it right. We continue to meet in the Church Hall every Wednesday morning from 10.00am to 11.45am. Although we are mainly pensioners anyone is welcome to join us. We offer a varied programme of activities but our main reason for meeting is friendship, a cuppie and a chat. if you want further information contact **Barbara at 320911**.

Auchenblae Guild

The Guild has now come to the end of the session for 2012/2013. We have heard some very interesting speakers but we have also had to miss some meetings due to the weather. At times it has seemed as though we are in permanent winter. We have recently enjoyed our Guild supper at the Clatterin; Brig when we were joined by friends from Fettercairn. As usual we all had a lovely time with excellent food and a real feeling of fellowship.

We will be running the Bottle Stall as usual on Gala Day. On 12th June some of us will be going to Ferryhill in Aberdeen for our annual meeting for lunch with our good friends in the Guild there. A pleasant time will be enjoyed by all.

This year is the Guild 125th Anniversary. On Sunday 11th August at 11am there will be a joint Songs of Praise service at Fettercairn Church, followed by Picnic in the Park, and on Saturday 7th September some of us will be travelling to the Caird Hall in Dundee for the Annual Meeting, a very inspiring occasion.

Good wishes to you all for a happy holiday.

Calling All Knitters

Are you a knitter? Would you be willing to knit squares to be made into blankets? You wouldn't have to sew them together. All it needs is double knitting wool and 4m (old size10) knitting needles. It's not a complicated pattern. If you can help please get in touch with **Hazel Wiseman on 320358**.

Hazel would also be grateful for any spare double knitting wool you might have and also for spare needles. It's all in a good cause so please help.

Opening of the Maggie Law Maritime Museum

On Friday 12th April Dame Anne Begg MP officially opened the refurbished Museum in Gourdon, and unveiled a plaque and gave the keynote speech to an invited audience in Gourdon Village Hall.

Willie Munro, Kincardine and Mearns Area Manager of Aberdeenshire Council also unveiled a plaque dedicated to the history of the Museum. The Area Regeneration Team have been the main sponsors of the refurbishment, supported by over 200 individuals, local businesses and community groups.

The Museum has been redesigned to be disability friendly, and Dame Anne Begg has been the specialist advisor to the Project, as well as being Honorary President of the Maggie Law Maritime Museum Committee.

The Maggie Law lifeboat was built in 1890, and paid for by the fishermen of Gourdon. In 40 years of service, she saved 36 lives from the Gourdon coastline. The Museum is a dedication to the brave crews of six fishermen who rowed the boat in the worst of weathers.

Two mobility scooters have been purchased, to enable people to make the most of their Museum visit by including the harbour and a revamped Heritage Trail through the village and the coastal path, and a range of other adaptations have been made to assist people with sensory disabilities.

The Museum will also have an education centre where school pupils can experience a range of educational maritime heritage activities.

Lathallan School have raised over £1,000 in sponsored events to assist with the refurbishment of the museum, and also designed educational activities for the Museum, as well as involving the local community in the process.

Primary 5 pupils of Gourdon school, have designed and tested a range of games and activities for the Museum, and their work was on display in the Village Hall for the opening ceremony.

Both schools have received a letter of acknowledgement from First Minister Alex Salmond, for their tremendous contribution to the Museum and the community of Gourdon.

Dave Ramsay, Project Director of the Howe o' the Mearns Heritage Association who has been managing the refurbishment programme said "We have had tremendous support from Aberdeenshire Council, and the local community support has exceeded my expectations, with sponsors, businesses, community groups all providing goods or services or their time as volunteers. The Howe o' the Mearns Team, with their blend of skills and experience have undoubtedly made a great community contribution, and we have had the benefit of the experience of the local fishermen, and older residents of the community"

Friday also saw the launch of the Maggie Law website www.maggielaw.co.uk designed by George McGillivray of the Stonehaven Business Association.

The Museum is open from 1.00 – 4.30 each day except Tuesday, and admission is by donation.

Dave Ramsay

01569 – 750730

Transition Mearns (TraM)

TraM is a passionate group of individuals concerned about the impacts of our actions and aims to rebuild resilience of the Mearns community with exciting local projects to make a positive difference to our world and quality of life. It allows us to take matters into our own hands and have fun in the process.

We will be running our first Skill Share event on Saturday 8 June, 10am to 3pm at Fettercairn Community Allotment and Public Hall. Please come along for a family-friendly day of story-telling and gardening - hands-on participation for all ages! Get the basics on how to grow fruit and vegetables in any small garden space; and learn how to adapt and personalise stories using creative thinking, physical objects, drawing and improvisation. Workshops for each skill will run 10.30-11.30am and 2-3pm, and they're free (donations welcomed)! Book your attendance by e-mail (**TRAnSitionMearns@gmail.com**), and please bring a dish for the Big Lunch.

Here's a nifty idea for greening up your life... Why not sign up to the Mearns-Freegle Yahoo! Group, to start sharing treasures within the local area. It's a simple principle: *Don't throw it away - give it away!* You might not need your old sofa or wheelbarrow any more - but there could be someone just around the corner who does. Or if there's something you'd like, someone nearby might be throwing away just the thing if they don't know what else to do with it.

TraM monthly meetings are open to everyone, and take place on the second Tuesday of the month at the Murie Coffee Shop in Laurencekirk (enter via the Western Inn). Upcoming dates: Tuesday 11 June and 9 July, 7.30pm. We would really welcome some new members!

Check the website (**www.tram.btck.co.uk**) for more updates about our projects, and find us on Facebook: 'Transition Mearns (TraM)' and 'Benholm Bikes'.

Bag2school Collection

The parent forum of Auchenblae school would like to thank the community of Auchenblae for there support in the latest collection around the village. Historically there's a collection in the spring and another in the autumn. The funds received enables the school to purchase valuable resources to further the education of the children. For more information on what is accepted in the collection or details of the next collection please contact **Isabelle 01561 320759**

Auchenblae Heritage Society



There was not the usual full hall for the 4th March meeting - perhaps having the very short AGM prior to the presentation kept people away - who knows? After a two years break, Gillian Siddons was happy to return to the committee and, once again, her lively and creative contributions will be welcomed.

The talk was to be given by Silvia Kucerova on the history and success behind the local firm, Macphie of Glenbervie. Unfortunately this was cancelled only days before the proposed presentation, so, many thanks go to **Bob Jamieson** for stepping into the void at such short notice, and his topic could not have been more relevant and dramatic if it had been programmed in.

The first talk of this season was called, "The Dam in The Den" and showed the fantastic amount of work the village put into rethinking and restructuring this and other areas of The Den. That was 15 years ago - and on the night of 22nd December 2012, that all changed! Bob Jamieson was there the following morning to capture, on video, the devastation caused by the flood and these fearful images and their after effects were the subject of his presentation. An important visual record of an Auchenblae disaster. While the audience entered the hall, and during the AGM, images of the sunny and happy opening of The Den in 2011 were shown, which made the "before and after" contrast even more dramatic, particularly with the only commentary being the scary and frightening noise of rushing water. Earlier at the AGM, it was agreed to donate £100 towards the repair of The Den.

As a kind of redress for her cancelled talk, Silvia Kucerova organised a visit to Macphie of Glenbervie, which took place on 7th March. Twelve attended, kitted out in white coats, blue over-shoes, red hair and beard nets. After a fascinating tour, the group was treated to tea/coffee and a selection of delicious Macphie's goodies.



Wanted! Your Memories.....

On the 18th of August 2013, the Auchenblae community & District Association will host a 1940's themed Tea Dance. As a secret aficionado of this era, (although not so secret anymore!), I am asking the community for information, photos and stories about the Kincardineshire and Mearns area during the Second World War and early 1950's.



Although the communities endured very trying times during the war, there also seemed to be such a sense of community spirit and togetherness during these hard times. In order for the Tea Dance to have a more local and historical feel, I would like to arrange a display of photos including people and places in the Kincardineshire and Mearns district during this time. Did anyone in your family work at the Aerodrome at Fordoun? Do you have a grandmother who worked the land? Our local history is so important and many of us know so little about where we live.

I would be happy to arrange to meet with you to collect your story or arrange for copies of photos, maps and anything else that you think would add to our local historical knowledge. Information can also be send to my email: jacqakkr@hotmail.com or phone 01651 320539.

Remember to save the date: **18th of August 2013** to join us at the Auchenblae Village hall to boogie woogie to the big band sound!

Many thanks,

Jacqueline Humphrey

Auchenblae School & Nursery Parent Council

On behalf of Auchenblae School and Nursery Parent Council, thank you to everyone who came along to, and supported, our Spring Fair. The addition of the baking competitions this year was a great success. Congratulations to all the children and adults who took part. A very enjoyable morning was had by all and we raised £1,4699.99 for the school which is fantastic. Thanks very much for your continued support of our annual fundraising event. We look forward to seeing you there next year.

Barbara, I trust that you find this in order, but if you have any queries please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Thanks and regards, Lindsay



1940's Tea Dance

Dust off the dancing shoes and Waltz, Jitterbug and Boogie to that wonderful big band music and get those feet moving.

Sunday the 18th of August
Auchenblae Village Hall
from 16:00 until 19:00.
Everyone is welcome.



Tickets will be available
nearer the time Adults £4.00
and Children £2.00
including refreshments.

Auchenblae Parks Committee

As you know, Auchenblae, like so many other communities in the north east, suffered considerable damage on the night of 23rd December last year. Flood water from the burn engulfed the western side of the Den completely destroying paths in the dam, gouging out deep gulleys in the lade before forging its way back into the burn downstream. Thanks must go to John Nicoll who, after the water subsided sufficiently, made emergency repairs by filling the deepest holes so as to make the area safe.

The Adventure Playground was particularly badly damaged along with the banks to the burn itself, which were severely eroded. Over the next few days, the members of the Parks Committee viewed the damage with despair to say the least! It was obvious that to reinstate the area, would cost many thousands of pounds.

The Den, along with the golf course and football pitch is managed solely by the committee, with no assistance from Aberdeenshire Council. Revenue from the golf course subsidises the work required to keep the Den in such good order, but two poor summers has meant visitor numbers at the course have been down, so the added burden of flood damage has left us in a rather precarious position. We are trying to source funding, but until then, we will have to budget very carefully.

It was therefore very heartening to see around 80 people of all ages, turn up to the Annual Den Work Day. And my goodness they worked and a true community spirit was evident. Thank you to the youngsters, the teenagers, Mums and Dads even Grannies and Grandads too!!

On the run up to the day, we were grateful for the use of machinery, and the men to operate them, which allowed necessary preparation to take place. Vital to the whole plan was the reinstatement of the old mill lade which in fact, now looks better than ever. So thank you gentlemen, you all know who you are.

At this point we must also thank the individuals and groups, both local and from further afield, who have kindly donated, in any shape or form, to the Den Repair Fund.

As a result of this year's exceptional circumstances, it was decided to abandon the normal Den Opening Day at the end of April, but every effort is being made to have the Den up and running for the Community Association's Gala Day in the Den on Saturday 25th.



Moon Walk Challenge – Team Small, Medium and Large !!

Overnight, from midnight on Saturday 8 June in to the wee small hours of Sunday 9 June, we will be walking 26.2 miles around the streets of Edinburgh. For those of you who have not heard of this event, it is called the Moonwalk and is run by the charity Walk the Walk which supports breast cancer charities in the UK. Most of the money raised in Scotland stays in Scotland. We will be joining thousands of other walkers, mostly women, who will do the walk, dressed in specially decorated bras (along with their other clothing of course!) Bizarre as it may sound, the MoonWalk Edinburgh, has raised over £15.5 million in just eight years with the help of over 65,000 walkers.

We have been in training now for eight weeks and have become accustomed to setting off at 0630am on a Saturday to walk the many and winding roads around The Mearns. Last Saturday, we walked 16 miles and our next two weekend walks will be 16 miles and 20 miles respectively. These walks are in addition to our midweek blasts. We are now really looking forward to the challenge which is only a matter of weeks away.

We are hoping that you would be willing to support us in our fundraising efforts by making a donation through our online fundraising page: <http://www.walkthewalkfundraising.org/smallmediumandlarge>. For those of you who like to do things the more traditional way, we all have sponsor forms which we would very happily complete if you would like to sponsor us. Any donation you wish to make would be gratefully received. We have set ourselves a modest target of £500, but of course would be delighted if we managed to exceed that.

We will post another article in the next edition of the Messenger, to update you on how we get on.

Thank you in anticipation. - Isabelle, Gilly and Margo

Dates for your diary

Auchenblae Gala

The Den

19-25th May

1940's Tea Dance

Village Hall

18th August

DEN CLEAR UP 2013



Messenger Distribution Team—Anne Anderson, Sheena Auld, Sue Barrie, Anne Caird, Sheree Caird, Therese Hendry, Janette Hoedl, Ann Howe, Carol Nelson, Barbara Strouts.

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Memo Production—Ann Rennie

The publisher for this issue was **Kevin Newstead**