



The

Auchenblae Messenger

Volume 6 Issue 4

September 2004



Editor's Comments

FROM THIS MONTH'S EDITOR

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Welcome to the 35th. edition of The Auchenblae Messenger and once again, thankyou for your continued support.

Well, here we are again with the September edition of The Messenger -- a sure sign of the passing Summer, and herald of Autumn to come. Isn't Autumn a quite beautiful time of year? (And those of us with an interest in photography shall certainly be out and about).

As Autumn progresses and the evenings draw in, so the various Community Groups and Societies reawaken, with their many activities for the coming Season. Many of the Groups hold their Annual General Meeting at this time of year. Often poorly attended. So please make your effort to be there in support. Even with only your views and ideas.

May I use this column, to let you know that The Auchenblae Messenger Team will be holding their AGM in the Church Hall at 7.30 pm on Thursday 23rd. September 2004. We hope that you'll come along, as we really are in urgent need of fresh faces and ideas for your magazine team.

Someone said to me the other day that one of the main reasons for not living in the Village, or indeed for leaving it, is that there is nothing to do. -- Excuse me! We've had this conversation before. Nothing to do?! Now, I realise that not everybody's tastes are as sophisticated as their neighbour's. But please just get up from your TV chair, and get yourself a new life. Auchenblae is teeming with activities; virtually all year round, and catering for all ages and tastes. We really are so fortunate to live here. And then there's the multitude of evening classes going on in Laurencekirk and Stonehaven. Nothing to do ??

On a less welcome note (see article on 'The Auchenblae Scout Group') once again the Scouts / Beavers / Cubs are struggling for survival; mainly due to lack of adult support and leadership. This usually very active and socially important Group really does need someone's help. Are you that very person? Think about it.

Special points of interest:

- Charity Ceilidh - P 3
- Parks Committee P6
- The Jam Story P7
- Guides P 8
- Community Assoc P 10
- Monthly Memo— P12

On a very encouraging theme, it is really good to hear from The Parks Committee that the level of vandalism in the Village, and in The Den in particular, has been very minimal during the past year. Whilst there are probably several reasons for this, it is none-the-less a very positive move forwards in our Community life.

And finally, thankyou Bob for your interesting and entertaining article on the OAP Jam, (Page 7). And our thanks to Margaret and the ladies for all their hard work on behalf of the Old Age Pensioners in Auchenblae over the years.

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

Ross Muiry

SCOUTS SOS
See Page 5

AUCHENBLAE GUILD

West Mearns Parish Church

Can Summer be nearly over already? It seems no time since I was penning the article for the last *Messenger* and wishing everyone a happy, restful summer with lots of sunshine! I hope the first two came true, but what happened to the sun? Never mind, we can look forward to our new and interesting session in the Guild.

The Committee have planned a varied syllabus which starts with **the opening meeting on Wednesday, September 15th at 7.30pm in the newly decorated Church Hall** when we will share a pot luck supper and learn a bit about the activities of the Church of Scotland Guild in general. We hope to welcome back all our members and new ones too - men are also invited as the Guild is 'unisex' - who says the Guild is a just bunch of old fuddy duddies? Auchenblae Guild challenge anyone to prove we're nothing but a bunch of gossipy old women!

This year our theme is "Dare to Care with Compassion" and the discussion topic is "Include Me In". As well as theme meetings we will be learning more about Guide Dogs for the Blind, spinning, the work of the Police Force (or some of it), confectionery, and of course we will share in worship with other Guilds during the World Day of Prayer (and doesn't the world need it, especially these days !) And enjoy Fellowship with our sister Guilds at Fettercairn and Glenbervie and in the words of that annoying phrase - 'much, much more!' Come along and find out for yourselves!

LIGHT HOUSE

Light House will start again on Sunday, September 12th at 12 noon with a barbecue at Mayfield.

From September 19th, we'll be back with the usual format of games, songs, stories, fun and refreshments from 11 o'clock to 12 noon at The Willows.

Light House is a non-denominational outreach to children from 5 to 12 years who would not normally attend an established church Sunday School. Newcomers will be given a warm welcome! Helpers would also be appreciated.

Phone Charles or Bren on 320371 for more details.



The club meets at the Mackie Academy Pool. There are two sessions

Lifesaving Club Starts 25th August , Wednesday, 8.00 — 10.00 pm, 13 years to Adult, £2.00 per week

Junior Swimming Club Starts 28 August , Saturday 4.00 — 5.30 pm, 6 years to 13 years, £2.00 per week

Contact Gareth Mc Clure 01561 320093 or Jean Houghton 01569 763171

**A CHARITY CEILIDH BALL
TO RAISE FUNDS FOR RESEARCH INTO EATING DISORDERS**

As some of you will have heard I am planning to do a Charity cycle in Madagascar next September, in order to raise funds for research into eating disorders.

As part of my fundraising I am organising a Ceilidh ball in the Village Hall on Saturday 18th September 2004. Ball gowns and black ties/kilts are required. Tickets are £10 each and are available in the village shop or from myself. **BE WARNED THEY ARE SELLING FAST.**



Catherine Walker and her ceilidh band will be performing , as well as female musicians "A Kist of Quines". Stovies and puddings will be on the menu.(Contributions for raffle prizes would be hugely appreciated.)

Thank you to all those who so very kindly sponsored Hamish and I on our 100 mile cycle, which we completed on the 15th August. At the latest count we've raised approx. £500. All monies will be sent to REID (Research in to Eating Disorders).

Judith Houghton
Cathkin
Glenfarquhar Rd
Auchenblae

Tel. 01561 320 222

REMEMBER YOUR WINTER FLU VACCINATION

Those in at risk groups should enquire at the Surgery in September with about their winter flu vaccination either in person or by phoning 01561 320202.



THANKYOU

Margaret & Jack Davidson would like to thank family, friends and neighbours for all their kindness, visits, cards, gifts and lifts during Jack's recent stay in hospital.

Auchenblae Over Sixties Friendship Group

I am sure that I speak for all of us when I say how saddened I was to hear of the death of John Auld. He was always a very good friend of the group, especially so in it's earliest days. I know he gave invaluable help with his car, and with helping to prepare the hall. He will be very much missed by us all. I extend our deepest sympathy to Sheena and their family.



When you read this we will be under way again. We hope that you will all be returning for our new year of operations. Our thanks to all of you who have supported us so well in the past. We hope to have your continued support in the future.

If you are not a member and are over sixty do give us a try, in the Church Hall, Wednesday mornings, 10.15. We hope to have our usual varied programme with which to amuse you.

Barbara Strouts

AUCHENBLAE SCHOOL PTA



As we embark on a new school year, we welcome a new probationer teacher – Miss Jayne Nicoll, she replaces Moira Reith who left at the end of last term. We wish both teachers well in their careers.

Swimming club will re-start in the first few weeks of term – letters will be sent out to all parents.

Football will also resume, under the expert guidance of Mark & Paul, again parents will be informed by letter.

Our next PTA meeting is on Thursday 16th September at 7.30 pm. All parents are invited to attend these meetings and will be made very welcome. The PTA is always keen to embrace new ideas.

Our AGM will be held on Tuesday 28th September at 7.30 pm, where we find out (after parental voting) how our 2004/2005 committee will be made up.

Dates for your Diary

16th September – PTA Meeting

28th September – PTA AGM.

S.O.S. Save our Scouts



Auchenblae Scout Group is in danger of closing due mainly to a lack of adult support.

Please come to an **open meeting** to be held in **Auchenblae Village Hall** on **Monday 13th September 2004** if you are interested in any way, however small in helping to keep this tradition alive in our community.

Scouting in all its sections still offers our children the most rounded, versatile, balanced and adventurous set of activities on their own doorstep supported by a world wide network of leaders. Our new recently announced Chief Scout, only the 8th since Lord Baden Powell started Scouting in 1907 (note the upcoming centenary, which will be worth being part of) is the former **Blue Peter Presenter** and Action Man, **Peter Duncan**. He has vowed to bring even more excitement and up to date methods into the movement as we approach the Centenary.

The recently overhauled programme has already taken account of changes in lifestyles and activities and includes badge work for computing skills among others.

Life is changing. We are all very busy, often away from our homes and families and it is difficult to commit to taking on extra work. I will not pretend that a successful group is easy to run. It takes commitment and effort but if we can spread the work load around, we can run a successful and exciting group here that our community can be proud of and benefit from.

So **PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE.....**I think you get the picture, **DON'T LET OUR BEAVERS, CUBS AND SCOUTS DOWN.**

Come along and lend your voice and if possible your support.

Refreshments will be on offer and I hope to secure some Area Support as well as some video backup.

WE NEED YOU.

If in the meantime you would like to offer your support directly, or have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Carol Shea (Group Scout Leader (Acting) 01561 320748

Country Fare

WANTED

Items for

The White Elephant Stall

Bric-a-Brac, Small Items of Furniture, Toys, Books, CDs, and Videos. We already have several interesting items, but need lots more! Contributions can be left inside the village hall at any time, but best to avoid mornings when Pre School Groups are in session. A key is available from the Village Shop or contact Pat Mennie for further details.

AUCHENBLAE PARKS COMMITTEE

The Den

No doubt you've been wondering what has been going on down the Den this year. First of all, the small roundabout was removed from the play area, then major works started at the carousel roundabout, but worst of all the boat disappeared! Despite assurances that it would return, many feared this much-loved piece of equipment was gone forever! But, true to our word, the boat is now back in place with a new coat of paint befitting of a sea-faring vessel.



The reason for all the upheaval? Insurance! At present we pay £3,000 per year for insurance cover and in order to retain it at this level, we had to meet rigorous new safety standards. After an inspection by a Risk Assessor, the small roundabout was deemed just too dangerous to remain, the carousel was given a high risk rating because, he said, a child could become entrapped under it, and the boat was more or less condemned to the tip.

However, the boat has been given a reprieve, thanks to Bill Barry who has rebuilt it from scratch and now, with its mechanism overhauled as well, it is working better than ever. The Adventure Playground did not escape the inspection, and safety improvements will take place over the next few months. Bear with us.

We are delighted this year to report, that apart from a pane of glass at the pavilion being smashed, there has been very little vandalism in the area. This must reflect on the youngsters who use the Den and on their parents who have taught them to respect public property. Thanks kids, good to see you enjoying the Den, that's what it's there for.

The Golf Course and its Junior Members

An amazing number of local children have taken up the sport since our article in the last Messenger. Kenny and the Attendants are helping to make them feel at home. Here again, their behaviour has been good and it is great to see them taking advantage of this excellent facility.

AUCHENBLAE JAM MAKING FOR OAP FUNDRAISING



The Story So Far

I think it is about time that the story of the making of the O A P jam was told. The strawberries are donated free of charge by Murray Mitchell Castleton farm. Margaret Jamieson and a few volunteers dress them, weigh them and then they are boiled and made into jam.

When she gets more than she can boil at a time they go into the deep freeze for later. After the berry season is past they are taken out and made into jam all year round. It is then sold to the public and the proceeds go into the O A P Christmas fund. She also makes Marmalade, Rhubarb and Ginger, Raspberry and Blackcurrant. When in season she and her volunteers go to the berry field and pick them.

We are still collecting Bric- a- brac for the stall at The Vintage Show on Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th September at R A F Edzell.

These are the rough facts of the jam story and I think that it is time that the team was recognized for the work they do.

Bob Jamieson
Allenbank



IST AUCHENBLAE BROWNIES AND GUIDES.

The Brownies had a BBQ and fun night in The Den to finish before Summer holidays. As the pictures show the rain did not spoil the fun.



Guides decided to have their last night treat at the outdoor pool in Stonehaven and guess what ? Yes it rained; well more lashed down and a force 8 gale. However, the water was warm and fun was had by all.

GUIDES AND BROWNIES WILL START BACK BEGINNING OF SEPTEMBER. ANY QUERIES CALL EVELYN ON 01561 320362.

AUCHENBLAE & DISTRICT HERITAGE SOCIETY

The Heritage Society had an interesting walk in June, following the route of the old East and West drives between Monboddo House and Village.

Commentaries on places of interest that we passed were given by Jenny Thomson and Ian Bell. It was most interesting, and thanks to all who attended and made it such an enjoyable afternoon.

We will meet again at the Church Hall on 6th September at 7.30 p.m, when the speaker will be Christine Kydd who will tell local stories gathered during the "Persephone Project" which collected together folk and other local stories from all over the North East of Scotland.

Admission is £1.50 for non-members or £1 for the un-waged, but school and college students are welcome to attend at no charge... Come on and try it!



Raising Funds to Preserve one of Auchenblae's Historic Buildings

Country Fare

Saturday 9th October

Soup and Sweet Lunches

in the Village Hall 11am - 3pm

'Browse and buy' amongst the following stalls;

Country Produce & Savouries

Auchenblae Home-baking and Toffee

!!! White Elephant !!!

CDs, Books, Bottle and Raffle!

Tucked in the corner of the Churchyard, this unassuming building has been known to successive generations of residents. It now serves as a very convenient Church Hall, but has in the past been used as; the Cub Hut; the School Canteen; the Soup Kitchen (the Soupie) and the Parish School. Today it is used by the Church, the Sunday School, the Guild, the 'Over 60s Friendship Group' and various Youth Organisations.

The Church itself has paid for the internal decoration, carried out during the Summer break, by Neil McIntosh, (you'll be amazed at the difference!) but further improvements are necessary. Can we please rely on your help?

Lunch Tickets will cost £3 (we guarantee you won't be disappointed!) and will be available soon! There will be no charge for pre-school children and a concession will be made for families. We just want you to turn up!

Community Association

Annual General Meeting

On Tuesday 7th September 2004

at 7.30 pm in The Mutual Hall

COME ALONG - YOUR PARTICIPATION CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The Association is run by a committee elected each year to effectively organise fund raising for the management and day to day running of the Village Hall and to appraise village concerns. The hall provides a well maintained and well used focal point for all Village activities and a fitting venue for private functions.

The main fundraising is from the Gala Week, the annual Art Show and catering for Drumtochty Games and every effort is made to provide a varied programme throughout the year to suit all ages.

Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month to discuss issues which affect the community and to initiate any action necessary.

There is a sense of achievement in working for the community and - just as important - it can be hard work but fun!!

The Committee wish to thank everyone who has assisted and contributed in any way to the various events over the past year.

Art Show



We look forward to seeing you at our annual Art Show, Friday 3rd - Sunday 5th September. Friday evening - Cheese & Wine, Saturday & Sunday afternoons - Teas and Home Baking. Excellent entry of local talent together with exhibits from Auchenblae Primary School.

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

I shall again be taking part in **Macmillan Cancer Relief's 'World's Biggest Coffee Morning'** in **Auchenblae Village Hall on Friday 24th September** between **10:00 am and 12:00 Noon**.



There will be delicious home baking, cake and produce stall, raffle, some competitions and possibly other added extras and of course our list of attendees that count towards the annual record attempt.

Please come and support this very worthwhile charity if you can and catch up with friends old and new over some refreshments.

All welcome. All donations and offers of help also warmly accepted.

It would be wonderful to exceed last year's remarkable total of **£471**. So please tell your friends and family. I can provide posters for work places or schools etc. if required.

Please contact me, Carol Shea on 01561 320748 if you are offering help or donations.

I look forward to seeing you on Friday 24th September.

Auchenblae Pre-School Group

Chairperson's Report

Auchenblae Pre School Group activities restart week commencing 23rd August 2004. Any parent who was 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.



The Pre School Group will have a vacancy for a Senior Playleader/Manager from October this year. The job involves working at 4 group sessions per week plus preparation time. SVQ Level 3 preferred. If you are interested in this position, please contact Tom Lawson on 01561 320626 for an information pack.

MEARNS CAMERA CLUB

Mearns Camera Club meets in the Community Education centre in Bath Street, Stonehaven. All are welcome if you want to come along for some tips on Photography or you want to enter into competitions. The writer has been a member for a year and has not entered into any competitions. There is no pressure.



We have a fully equipped Digital Darkroom with high quality Scanners a very fast Computer and a high quality A3 Inkjet Printer all chosen by and setup with expert help from the Auchenblae Messenger Production Team. We also have a digital SLR camera available for loan to club members for their use with 1 Gig Memory Cards.

The cost of joining the club is £3 per night or £46 for the whole year with reductions for children and senior citizens. The first meeting is on September, Monday 6th September and we go through until late April.

Phone Eddie Cairns on 01561 320494 if interested.

DRUMLITHIE VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

Concert

by
Perth Strathspey and Reel Society
in Village Hall, Drumlithie

on Saturday
25th September, 2004
at 7.30pm

Tickets: £4.00

A stylized illustration of a violin, shown in profile, with its body and f-hole clearly visible.

Contact For Tickets

Andy Mackenzie 01569 740291

Or

Helen Doig 01569 740337

Or At Door

In Aid Of Hall Funds

Auchenblae Friends of Anchor

Stovie Dance

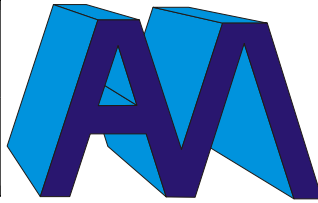
Saturday 16th
October 2004

From 8.30 pm to 1 am
Auchenblae Village Hall
Tickets £5.00
Music by Ian Isaac
Bar and Raffle

A stylized illustration of a man in a dark suit and a woman in a blue dress dancing together. The man is holding the woman, and they are both in a classic dance pose.



THE AUCHENBLAE MESSENGER
THE NEWSLETTER
FOR THE
AUCHENBLAE COMMUNITY



Messenger Distributors

Anne Anderson, Sheena Auld, Carol Nelson, Anne Caird, Sheree Caird, Ann Rennie, Therese Hendry, Patricia MacEachern, Margaret Muiry and Moira Hutchison, Barbara Strouts.

Copies of the Messenger can be collected from the local shops, Drumlithie Post Office.

PRODUCTION TEAM

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Kevin Newstead, Auchter House
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Barbara Strouts, Holly Cottage

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

The Publisher of this issue was
Eddie Cairns

Auchenblae Messenger Supplement
MONTHLY MEMO

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Friday 3rd – Sunday 5th September | | ART SHOW | Village Hall |
| Saturday 4th to 5th September | | Vintage Show | RAF Edzell |
| Monday 6th September | 7:30 pm | Heritage Society | Church Hall |
| Tuesday 7th September | 7:30 pm | Community Assoc AGM | Mutual Hall |
| Sunday 12th September | 12 noon | Light House Barbecue | Mayfield |
| Wednesday 15th June | 7.30 pm. | Auchenblae Guild | Church Hall |
| Sunday 12th September | 11 am | Light House | The Willows |
| Monday 13th September | 7.30p.m | Scouts SOS | Village Hall |
| Thursday 16th September | 7.30p.m. | PTA Meeting | Auchenblae School |
| Saturday 18th September | | Charity Ceilidh | Village Hall |
| Thursday 23rd September | 7.30p.m. | Messenger AGM | Church Hall |
| Friday 24th September | 10—12 | Macmillan Coffee Morning | Village Hall |
| Saturday 25th September | 7.30p.m | Perth Strathspey & Reel | Drumlithie Village Hall |
| Tuesday 28th September | 7.30p.m. | PTA AGM | Auchenblae School |
| Saturday 9th October | 11 am 3.00 pm | Country Fair | Village Hall |
| Saturday 16th October | 8:30 pm | ANCHOR Stovie Dance | Village Hall |
| Friday 3rd December | | Christmas Concert | |

ALL INFORMATION FOR INCLUSION IN THE OCTOBER *MEMO*
SHOULD BE GIVEN TO ANN RENNIE, 'MERNIS HOWE' Tel. 01561 320622

Please note that the **next edition** of 'The Messenger' will be published during **November 2004**. The closing date for inclusion in this edition will be **Monday 15th November 2004**.

If you have access to e-mail please send to: themessenger@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.

Thanks from all the team!

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