

The

# Auchenblae Messenger



Volume 9 Issue 5

October 2007

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## SPECIAL ISSUE FOR CHRISTMAS

The next issue of The Messenger will be the Christmas Special which we were looking for submissions for. We want to include photographs, short stories and poems from the local area. We had said that these would be judged and depending on the amount that we receive they will be. If the amount does not merit judging then all the submissions will be printed.

If judging is necessary then it will be done anonymously. Submissions can be emailed through to [themessenger@mearns.org](mailto:themessenger@mearns.org) or handed in to Craig Sandeman at Drumbeg, High Street. The submissions will be collated in their age categories and to ensure an unbiased approach the names will be removed before judging.

We look forward to receiving more of your photos, poems and short stories.

We would also encourage the local businesses to come forward with articles / submissions for the Christmas Special if you have any messages.

Craig Sandeman

## AUCHENBLAE SENIOR CITIZENS FUND

Auchenblae senior citizens fund would like to say a big thank you to all who helped and supported us over the Edzell vintage weekend .

We raised £650.00 and luckily had great weather. Our next Saturday coffee morning will be on the 20th October at Wendy's house .

Look out for posters nearer the time.

## **West Mearns Parish Church & Auchinblae 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 Glenbervie

**11.00 a.m.** Every other Sunday in the month

Service at Auchinblae Church

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

**VISITORS ESPECIALLY WELCOME AT ALL SERVICES**

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### **Auchinblae Friendship Group**

We are now well into the swing of things again. It's nice to see so many old friends back with us. We still look forward to greeting new ones.

We meet on Wednesday mornings in the Church Hall at 10.15am. The school bus will pick up anyone who does not have transport.

We will not be meeting on October 17th and October 24th due to the tattie holiday.

Barbara Strouts



### **Auchinblae Guild**

The Auchinblae Guild is now meeting on a regular basis, for the new season. We meet on the third Wednesday of the month, in the Church Hall at 2.30pm.

We are open to all, male and female. We are now The Guild, not The Women's Guild. We cover a varied selection of topics at our meeting, but over all we are there to supply fellowship to all.

Do give us a chance and come along to our next meeting.

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# Auchenblae Drama Group

Bah Humbug!.....



Following the success of Auchenfest we have embarked upon our next project. In keeping with the festive period we have decided to undertake Charles Dickens "A Christmas Carol". We have benefited greatly from Auchenfest with excellent feedback from the audience and a few new members.



"A Christmas Carol" is the first full length play we have undertaken. There is a massive undertaking going on on-stage and behind the scenes to ensure that this production achieves the same high quality that we have achieved so far.

Kevin Newstead as Scrooge will lead our regular cast of Judith Houghton, Gayna Sandeman, Simon Leigh, Kris Newstead, Gillian Siddons, April Pressley, Natasha Kerr, Roy Vobes, and Tracey Harrison-Lewis will be joined by new cast members Robin Johnson, Marianne Robson and Nick Targonsiddis. There will be a number of the Youth Drama Group helping out with the younger roles also.

Backstage Craig Sandeman shall be directing with Sandy Noble on lights, Bernie Melsom on sound and Arne Hansen as stage manager. If we can convince her to pick up the sewing needles again for us Liz Leigh will be keeping us right with period costumes.

So save the date, mark them in your calendar right now, this is the festive play not to be missed. **"A Christmas Carol" will be performed in the Village Hall on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> December 2007.** Tickets will be on sale from the usual outlets soon.

Craig Sandeman

## CHILDREN'S ART COMPETITION 2007

Along with the talented artist/designer, Elaine Gowans, I was delighted to assist in judging the 30 entries for the Children's Art Competition, which was so efficiently organised by Jenny Watt-Colbeck. Jenny wrote all the competition details and briefs, found sponsors for the prizes and presented the work so professionally. It all made our job so much easier, and very pleasant it was too.

There were 8 age groups, from Primary 2 up to Secondary 2. Two winners from each section were decided on, but on two occasions, three were chosen as it seemed impossible to separate them. Everyone who entered received a little art package.

When the 16 winners were announced at the Art Show on Saturday 8 September, a short description of each of the successful works was related to the audience, as the judges felt this helped explain their choices in making clear the qualities, skills and inventiveness they'd seen in the work of the young artists. This approach seemed to be appreciated and even adult artists can always learn a lot from the enthusiasm, energy, imagination and risk-taking of these talented youngsters.

Let's hope this children's competition becomes a feature of future art shows, and perhaps the adults could have something similar?

Malcolm McCoig

## AUCHENBLAE PRE-SCHOOL GROUP



The Pre-School Group has had a difficult start to the year with the resignation of our manager. Karen Clements did a wonderful job in maintaining a playgroup that is the envy of many in the district. She will be sadly missed.

The Group is working hard to recruit a replacement manager, but with other playgroups in the area also looking for staff, this is proving harder than it sounds. The Chairperson would be pleased to hear from anyone in the village who thinks they may be able to help with this part time paid post. Anyone interested in the manager's position would be expected to have at least an SVQ level 3, although those wanting to work towards a qualification in childcare would be considered for a playleader position.

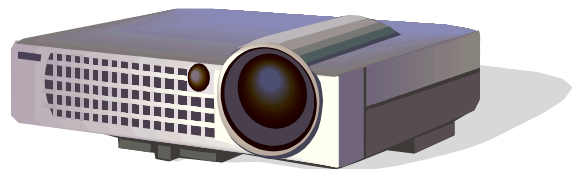
The apparent baby boom in the village continues. As a result, a parent and toddler session has now been started on a Thursday morning to cope with the overspill from a Tuesday.

Fundraising events planned include an **Autumn Fair** on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> October. Coffee, homebakes and lunches will be served from 10am to 2pm, and a variety of stalls will be available. Also in the village hall, a **Ceilidh** is set to take place on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> November, featuring Duck Duck Goose. Tickets will be available from committee members nearer the time.

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**

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## **DIGITAL PROJECTOR**



Remember the Messenger has a digital projector for the use of any reasonable person in or around the village. There is no charge for the use of the project. It works from a notebook computer, a video machine, a DVD player or from a USB Memory stick.

We also have a projection screen to use with it if required.

Contact Eddie Cairns on 01561 320494 for information.

## Auchinblae Community Association

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2007**

Chairman Sallyanne Morrison opened the well attended meeting by welcoming those present and reported on a very busy year with major expenditure in the fire alarm system, expensive but effective and of course necessary to comply with the Public Entertainment Licence. The Chairman thanked all the committee for their support and efforts throughout the year with special mention to the 'Friends of the Community Association' who assist at events and in particular supply home baking. A new committee was elected followed by a meeting to elect the Office Bearers:

Chairman: Sallyanne Morrison, Vice-Chairman: Allan Mills. Secretary: Alice Morgan. Treasurer Sue Hodgson. Committee: Jenny Thomson (Fabric Convener), Gina Easter, Simon Leigh, Tracey Harrison Lewis, Trevor Hodgson, Graham Milne, Carol Nelson, Sandra McDonald, Chris Robinson, Alan Richardson, Marjory Simpson, Liz Gammie, Susie Brown.

### **ART SHOW**

The work of local artists was on display at the annual Art Show held over the weekend in the Village Hall. The exceptional standard of over 170 exhibits was reflected in the high proportion of exhibits sold. A large attendance over a pleasant weekend enjoyed a Cheese & Wine evening on Friday with teas and home baking on both Saturday and Sunday. Jenny Colbeck organised a Childrens Art Competition, again with some outstanding entries, and judged by Malcolm McCoig and Elaine Gowans. The 'Nostalgia Corner' featured a display of old photographs of Auchinblae's past and provided a lively talking point. The Community Association wishes to thank all who contributed to a most successful Art Show – in particular, Jenny Colbeck for the Childrens Art Competition, Elizabeth and Angela for ticket sales, the Messenger Group for printing the catalogue and of course Alister for transporting the boards.. Thanks to you all.



## **Halloween—Did you know?: Hallowe'en is derived from an ancient Celtic festival, Samhain.**

The Celts celebrated their New Year's Eve on October 31st. It was celebrated every year with a festival called Samhain (pronounced 'sow-in'), that marked the end of the "season of the sun" (Summer) and the beginning of "the season of darkness and cold" ( Winter). The beginning of the Celtic New Year on November 1st.

The Celts believed that evil spirits came with the long hours of winter darkness. They believed that on that night the barriers between our world and the spirit world were at their weakest and therefore spirits were most likely to be seen on earth.

The Celts built bonfires to frighten the spirits away, and feasted and danced around the fires. The Hallowe'en fires brought comfort to the souls in purgatory\* and people prayed for them as they held burning straw up high.

(\*Purgatory is a place where souls are temporarily punished for venial sins. After they have been punished enough, they are permitted to move on to heaven.)

The fires of Hallowe'en burned the strongest in Scotland and Ireland, where Celtic influence was most pronounced, although they lingered on in some of the northern counties of England until the early years of the last century. The last night of October was transformed by the Church into the vigil of All Saints' or Hallowe'en. Christians believe that goodwill always conquers evil, and that Jesus, the light of the World, defeats all the fear of darkness.

In England the day of fires became November 5th the anniversary of the Gunpowder plot of 1605, but its closeness to Hallowe'en is more than a coincidence. Hallowe'en and Bonfire Night have a common origin they both originated from pagan times, when the evil spirits of darkness had to be driven away with noise and fire.

In Lancashire, 'Lating' or 'Lighting the witches' was an important Hallowe'en custom. People would carry candles from eleven to midnight. If the candles burned steadily the carriers were safe for the season, but if the witches blew them out, the omen was bad indeed.

In parts of the north of England Hallowe'en was known as Nut-crack Night. Nuts were put on the fire and, according to their behaviour in the flames, forecast faithfulness in sweethearts and the success or failure of marriages.

Hallowe'en was also sometimes called Snap Apple Night, in England. A game called snap apple was played where apples were suspended on a long piece of string. Contestants had to try and bite the apple without using their hands. A variation of the game was to fix an apple and a lighted candle at opposite ends of a stick suspended horizontally and to swing the stick round. The object was to catch the apple between the teeth whilst avoiding the candle.

Many places in England combined Hallowe'en with Mischief Night (celebrated on 4 November), when boys played all kinds of practical jokes on their neighbours. They changed shop signs, took gates off their hinges, whitewashed doors, and tied door latches.

Another tradition from which Halloween customs might have come from is a ninth century European custom, souling. It was a Christian festival where people would make house calls begging for soul cakes. It was believed that even strangers could help a soul's journey to heaven by saying prayers, so, in exchange for a cake they promised to pray for the donors' deceased relatives.



## Auchinblae Tennis Club



With all of the work involved in constituting and affiliating a club almost complete, we found ourselves with the final 6 weeks of the outdoor season disappearing before our eyes.

All too soon our finals day Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> September loomed fine and fair. Parents and friends joined us to enjoy some filled baked potatoes and chocolate-coated marshmallows whilst watching some fine tennis. Our younger juniors had played round robin mini tennis games the previous week and received medals and prizes accordingly.

**Red Group.** Winner = Scott Riddoch; Runner Up = Jordan Titmuss with Stephenie Barron and Eliza Burgoyne joint third. **Orange Group 1.** Winner = Lindsay Roberts; Runner Up = Daniel Harrison-Lewis and third place was Katie Sellar **Orange Group 2.** Jnt Winners were : Lisa Byres and Ronan Keddie; Runner Up = Millie Keddie with Daniel Clark a close and worthy third.

Certificates were also awarded to these groups as follows:

**Best Newcomers:** Red = Stephenie Barron; Orange 1 = Robbie Crighton and Orange 2 = Robert MacEachern

**Best All Rounder:** Red = Scott Riddoch; Orange 1 = Lindsay Roberts and Orange 2 = Daniel Clark

**Most Improved:** Red = Jordan Titmuss; Orange 1 = Katie Sellar and Orange 2 = Ronan Keddie

Our junior boys, a large group, had been whittled down to three to play off round robins to decide finals places. These matches, a joy to see as the juniors all had to play over arm serves on full size courts, resulted as follows: Connor Barron bt Neil Murdoch by 7 games to 5; Connor was then beaten by David Roberts by a 7/4 margin and David also went on to beat Neil by the same score line 7/4. So, all was lined up for David to meet Connor in the final a little later on.

But first, our foremost young ladies squared up on court 1 and game us a fascinating hard fought final, ending with Louise McGregor the narrow victor by 6 games to 4.

In the boys final, David's superior height and strength began to wear down Connor, who fought bravely, both players showing growing maturity, concentration and skill in their game. The final score line of David's 6 games to Connor's 1 did not do justice to Connor's fighting spirit and we look forward to all of our young players continued development over the coming seasons.

Later still, as prizes were awarded to younger juniors, midges started to bite and light levels began to drop, our two senior boys finalists, Craig Byres and Andrew Shea took to Court 1. Here was the culmination of a season where everyone involved had perhaps found the greatest 'payback' for their effort and commitment. Our stalwart, dedicated group of 8 teenage boys have grown in skill, maturity, understanding and sportsmanship throughout the year and we look forward to seeing Grant Barron, Alistair Johnstone, Ross McLean, Adam Milne, Andrew Murdoch and Stuart Young continue as part of our youth group and perhaps encourage even more players, perhaps some girls from Mearns, to join in.

This match demonstrated some fine tennis at a very high level, neither willing to concede points and going with serve until finally Craig's strength's won through and forced just a couple of errors from Andrew allowing him the space to win. The final score line of Craig 6, Andrew 4 ended one of the finest games I am sure these courts have seen in many years.

It just remains to say a HUGE congratulations and thanks to all of our young players and their parents for their support in this busy and at times confusing year. We look forward to next spring seeing you all back on court. In the meantime, please await news of our indoor programme, details of which are being finalised as I type. FINALLY, thanks as ever to Wendy Byres, Gina and Margo, without whom, none of the above would be possible. We hope also to be able to commit a little more time to developing the adults group for the next season. So if you started to play but tailed off, please HANG IN THERE. Bear with us. I do not think any of us were prepared for the amount of work we would be faced with this year, as well as our own changing commitments. We look forward to a short break but more tennis indoors, over the winter, and even greater involvement next year.

Carol Shea - Secretary



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



**PRODUCTION TEAM**

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"Keeping you informed"

The Publisher 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 27th Oct	Pre-school Group Autumn Fair	Village Hall	10.00
17th Nov.	Pre-school Group—Ceilidh	Village Hall	TBA
Sat. 15th Sun 16th Dec	"A Christmas Carol"	Village Hall	TBA

**It is unlikely there will be a Memo until 2008, see the Christmas Messenger**



**Please note that the next edition of 'The Messenger' will be published during December 2007. The closing date for inclusion in this edition will be 15th November 2007.**

If you have access to 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, a CDR would be appreciated. **Thanks from all the team!**

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