



The Auchenblae Messen-



Inside this issue:

West Mearns Parish Church 2

OAP Fund 3

Community Assoc 4

Racquet Group 5

Festival Ceilidh 5

Seasons Eatings 6

Guides 7

Christmas Card 8

Messenger Funding 9

Special points of interest:

- Guild & WRI Page 3
- Christmas Card Page 8
- Band Night Page 13
- Heritage Society Page 14
- Football News - Page 14 & 15



This picture postcard takes us back to the earliest years of the 20th century, when travel by horse drawn vehicles was common place. Little has changed in this scene with the building on the right, still sitting resplendently at the entrance to Drumtochty Glen.

The estate changed hands in 1822, when James Gammell of Counteswells, Aberdeen became the new laird. The subsequent ninety one years of this family's tenure saw many changes which are still enjoyed by those living in the Auchenblae district.

One of the most picturesque, undoubtedly, is the pretty little church built by Rev James Stewart Gammell of Bristol who inherited the property in 1883. On arriving at Drumtochty he set out to build within his grounds, an Episcopal church. Within three years Saint Palladius was consecrated by the Bishop of Brechin.

The name was taken from a much older chapel, the remains of which can still be seen within the churchyard at Kirkton of Fordoun, Auchenblae. This very ancient chapel which was consecrated in 1244, was named after a missionary who, history tells us, came to this area in the 5th century.

Rev. James Gammell was buried in the churchyard in 1899 and his white granite memorial stone can be seen in our photograph. The legacy he left behind is admired to this day by tourists who pass through this Kincardineshire glen on route to Royal Deeside and the Scottish Highlands.

Messenger Notice

Do you have news or information you would like us to include?
Are you lacking the time and/or facilities to prepare it for publication?
Then help is at hand. You need be silent no longer.

Call Colette, tell her what you want to share on 320310 and she will endeavour to get your information into print.



West Mearns Parish Church

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

At this time of year, we extend a very genuine welcome to the whole community not only to the special services of worship for Christmas, but to the occasions in the 'run-up' to Christmas called 'Advent' – which means 'coming'. We rehearse not only what the coming of the Christ child meant two thousand years ago, but what his advent means in all the pathos and turmoil of the present day.

Advent and Christmas Services 2005

27th November, Sunday : ADVENT 1

9.30 a.m. – Fettercairn Church ; 11.00 a.m. Auchenblae Church

4th December, Sunday : ADVENT 2 “White Gift Sunday”

9.30 a.m. – Fettercairn Church; 11.00 a.m. Auchenblae Church

9th December, Friday

“Carols, Candles and Christmas Pies”, 7.30 p.m. in Auchenblae Church
 with a welcome for everyone.

10th December, Saturday :

2.30 – 4.30 p.m. Joint West Mearns Sunday School Party
 in Auchenblae Church Hall

11th December, Sunday ; ADVENT 3

9.30 a.m. Fettercairn Church ; 11.00 a.m. Auchenblae Church

6.30 p.m. A 'Hard to be Merry' Blue Christmas Service in Auchenblae'

A short Service recognising that Christmas can be a sad and difficult time for many people.

18th December, Sunday;

Christmas Family Service with Nativity Play
Manger Gift for Shelter.

9.30a.m. – Fettercairn Church; 11.00 a.m. – Auchenblae Church.

Both Services followed by Tea/Coffee and Mince Pies.

2.30 p.m. Queen Elizabeth Court Carol Service and Mince Pies.

19th December, Monday :

9.30 a.m. Auchenblae Primary School Service in Auchenblae Church

24th December, Saturday; CHRISTMAS EVE

6.30 p.m. Auchenblae Children's Carol Service

Christmas Eve Watchnight Services:

Fettercairn Church 10.30 p.m. Mince Pies & Mulled Wine in Fettercairn
 Church Hall for 11.30 p.m. service in the Church.

11.00 p.m. informal carol singing until 11.30 p.m. when the Watchnight
 Service begins at Auchenblae Church.

25th December, Sunday : CHRISTMAS DAY

11.00 a.m. United Christmas Day Service at Glenbervie Church.

1st January, 2006 Sunday: CHRISTMAS 1 New Year Worship

9.30a.m. Fettercairn Church with informal Communion

11 a.m. Glenbervie Church with informal Communion

AUCHENBLAE OAP FUND 2005

It's been a busy but wonderful year for the O.A.P. fund. We'd like to say a big thankyou to everyone who has helped and supported the group during the new committee's first year.

2005 has financially been a good year for the fund and we have raised the money required to purchase the Xmas Hampers in December.



Our last event of the year will be a 'catch up' coffee morning at Tracey Harrison-Lewis' house on Saturday 3rd December 10-12. Please come along to have a cuppie and a piece.



"For Home and Country"

SCOTTISH WOMEN'S
RURAL INSTITUTE

AUCHENBLAE BRANCH

1st December 2005
Village Hall 7:30 pm
"Taste and Try"
Members Evening

**Competition: Christmas Tree
Fairy - Any Craft**

Novelty Competition: Novelty Christmas
Ornament

Duty Committee Member: Elizan Fyfe

12th January 2006
Village hall 7:30 pm
"Talk on Genealogy"
by Ian Bell

Competition: 2 Highland Shorties

Novelty: Old Family Photograph

AUCHENBLAE GUILD WEST MEARN'S PARISH CHURCH

At the time of writing, guild members are preparing for their Coffee morning in the Village Hall on Saturday November 19th. This being organised in aid of Church Funds, Guild Projects and Trade-craft.

The following day, being the start of Guild Week, members will be taking a large part in the Sunday morning Church Service with members of the Kirkton Singers leading the praise.

On Friday Evening December 9th, in Auchenblae Church at 7:30 pm, there will be an evening of Carols, Candles and Christmas Pies to start the Christmas season in a traditional fashion. This should provide an ideal way to spend an evening away from worrying about the other side of Christmas: the presents, the cards and the Christmas Dinners; providing an oasis of calm as the hurly-burly begins in real earnest.

On Wednesday 21st December at 7:30 pm, Auchenblae and Glenbervie Guilds members are set to share a Christmas meal and seasonal fellowship at the Drumtochty Arms.

We wish all our friends a very joyful Christmas and good health and happiness in the New Year.

Ann Rennie

Auchenblae & District Community Association

Auchenblae Community Association

Burns Supper – Friday 27th January – A most entertaining evening with traditional home cooked Burns Fayre. Master of Ceremonies: Arthur Anderson. Address: Alan Sim. Immortal Memory: Ian Bell. Lads & Lasses: John & Carol Medlock. Tickets from local shops and committee members. See posters for full details.

Auchenblae Christmas Card - The photograph for this year's card is by Ross Muiry and shows a winter view of the village highlighting the local church. The cards are on sale in the local shops or available from committee members. (See page 8)

Auchenblae Community Association wish to thank all who have contributed in any way to a most enjoyable and successful year – your continued support is much appreciated. We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Healthy & Happy New Year.



BUTTERY COFFEE MORNING

with

Local Produce Market & Christmas Craft Stall

Saturday 10th December 2005

10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.



Auchenblae Village Hall
Butteries, Teas, Coffees, Juices
Price: £2.00 Concession: £1.50

**Proceeds in aid of the Auchenblae Hogmanay
Celebrations 2005**



Auchenblae Festival

Afternoon 3:00 to 5:30 pm Saturday 3rd December 2005

Refreshments, Music, Storytelling, Dancing

Puppet show 3:30 pm

St Nicholas 4:00 pm for invited children (enquires to Gillian)

Auchenblae School Poster Competition

Admission £2.50/£1.50

Proceeds To Medical Aid Palestine

For Info contact Gillian 320360 or Jess 320340



Auchenblae Racquet Group

We have had yet another wonderful outdoor season, and have been delighted to see so many youngsters attend and improve week by week. The weather was very kind and we suffered very few cancellations for weather between Easter and October, even enjoying two wonderful social events with the Midsummer BBQ and the End of Season Tournaments being blessed with dry, warm and sunny weather. We have just commenced the indoor winter season for two juniors' groups. We have 8 in the advanced juniors and 12 in juniors, all using foam balls, portable nets and small racquets and much fun is had on Tuesday evenings. We have been really impressed by the numbers attending and the effort and results being seen throughout the season and look forward to seeing those continuing to play indoors through the winter progressing their game even further.



Many Congratulations to all of the youngsters who have taken part, and to those who won cups and prizes in various categories in our End of Season Tournament. Our advanced juniors played for all five cups this year, the results being as follows:

	<u>Winner(s)</u>	<u>Runner(s) Up</u>
Boys Singles	Andrew Shea	Connor Stewart
Girls Singles	Rosie Hoggmascall	Alanah Mills
Boys Doubles	Ramsay Forbes & Scott Hendry	Connor Stewart & Stuart Forbes
Girls Doubles	Alanah Mills & Rosie Hoggmascall	Isabelle Hoggmascall & Lucy Hendry
Mixed Doubles	David Roberts & Lucy Hendry	Isabelle Hoggmascall & Ramsay Forbes

Best of the Rest awards were **Ramsay Forbes**, Top Player and **David Roberts** as Runner Up. Well played everyone. It was good to see the players at this level developing game skills and tactical playing as well as good stokes.

Junior Players clocked up points for a variety of activities. The results were:

1st **Neil Murdoch** 2nd **Lindsay Roberts** 3rd **Kier McCrimmon**

Just a note to say that it is hoped to spread a new layer of blaise on the court surface in the spring so access will be denied to the courts for a short period when that happens. We hope that this will take place before the outdoor season opens and therefore with the minimum of disruption. We look forward to a much-improved playing surface for 2006.

Thank you for your ongoing support. We wish all players and families a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Gina (320269) and Carol (320748)

Auchenblae Festival Ceilidh Village Hall

**Saturday 3rd December
8 till Late**

“Beannachar Ceilidh Band”

Proceeds to Shelter (charity number 263710)

Bring your own drinks

Tickets £6, Family Ticket £15, Parties of 6 or more £5 per person

For Info contact Gillian 320360 or Jess 320340

Tickets on Sale at the Auchenblae Shop

Food for Thought - Season's Eatings!



Welcome to a new feature which, with your (the readers') help, we hope to run each issue, with a different topic but a linked theme based around seasonal, fresh, local produce (where possible) and generally healthy ideas. If you have any recipes to offer, please contact Carol Shea on 320748.

As we hurtle headlong towards the festive season, I am sure that everyone already has their meals planned for the main event, so we shall start this new series with some ideas for leftovers, and something for the New Year.

Nasi Goreng (serves 6 +)

A one-pot dish using leftover turkey and ham. Great for feeding a crowd. It could also be prepared anytime using fresh chicken pieces and bacon.

SEASONAL BEST

A note about what is in peak season at this time of year. Beef, pheasant, halibut, mussels, nuts, brassicas (cabbage, broccoli, sprouts), root vegetables, satsumas, clementines, lemons.

Ingredients

8 oz long grain rice, cooked and drained
 4 oz cooked ham, cubed or
 5 rashers streaky bacon, chopped
 2 tbsps olive oil
 2 med onions, chopped
 2 cloves garlic, chopped
 Pinch or two hot chilli powder
 2 tsps medium curry powder
 8 oz cold cooked turkey/chicken or *2 fresh chicken breasts, cubed*
 2 - 4 tbsps dark soy sauce
 Flaked almonds, spring onions and eggs

Method

1. Heat a non-stick frying pan, add oil, stir in onions and garlic, cover and cook over low heat for 10 minutes until soft but not coloured.
2. Add chilli and curry powder (adjust to taste) and stir 2 minutes.
3. Add chicken and ham, cover and cook for 5 minutes (*if using fresh bacon, cook at step 1 with no oil then proceed - ensure fresh chicken if used is thoroughly cooked.*)
4. Finally add rice and soy sauce, and warm through for 2 minutes.

Serving Suggestion. *Top with toasted flaked almonds, chopped spring onions and a poached egg. Add a nice salad or perhaps stir fried sprouts or cabbage for a complete and tasty meal.*

Hot Christmas Leftover Trifle

More a suggestion than a recipe. Use an ovenproof dish. Crumble Leftover Christmas pudding as the base and add a little more of your favourite spirit/liqueur if liked. Peel and segment three large oranges or a mix of orange citrus fruits for the next layer. Next add a custard layer, your own or ready made is fine. Finish with a meringue topping (just as sweet but less fat than the cream). Meringue is simply twice as many ounces of caster sugar to every egg white. Whisk egg whites first until stiff (you should be able to turn bowl upside down without anything moving!) then gradually whisk in sugar. Pile up on top of trifle and top with flaked almonds if liked. Bake in low oven (150 C/300 F Mk 2) for about 30/40 minutes and serve warm.

Fast and Fabulous Fresh Fish.

Fish is the original fast food and so good for us. Most white flat fish plus salmon can be simply oven baked, drizzled with olive oil, lemon juice or a teaspoon or two of white wine, on top of your chosen roasted vegetables for a complete meal. Root vegetables (including potatoes) if chopped into ½ - 1 inch cubes and tossed lightly in olive oil, garlic and seasoning of your choice (cumin is a favourite) will take about 30 - 40 minutes. After 25 minutes, (or perhaps a little sooner for salmon) place your chosen fish in the oven under foil or on top of veg and dinner is ready in a flash.



Try Something New Challenge. Interesting vegetables like fennel (has a wonderful affinity with fish) butternut squash, pumpkin, sweet potato are great roasted as well as the more usual roots. Various mushrooms, cut thickly, work well this way too.

AUCHENBLAE GUIDES

The Guides and Brownies attended West Mearns Church, Auchenblae for the Remembrance Sunday service and paraded their colours.

The flag bearers led the walk to the War Memorial on Gilbert's Hill and laid the poppy wreath.

Guides will be doing their Christmas card delivery service again this year. This is a fundraiser for Guides and also gives them the opportunity to give a small service to their community. A donation of 10p per card goes to Guide funds.



**Collection box in Metelski's shop , delivery dates;
Sunday 11th , Wednesday 14th , Sunday 18th and last delivery Wednesday 21st December.**

Evelyn Richardson
Guide Leader

AUCHENBLAE PRE -SCHOOL HALLOWEEN PARTY





Autumn in the Den



Autumn in the Den



Autumn in the Den



Autumn in Glenesk



**AUCHENBLAE
CHRISTMAS CARD**

By Ross Muiry

Available from Local Shops

Editorial Comments

Welcome to the 41st edition of 'The Auchenblae Messenger', and once again, thank you to all who have made their personal contribution to the Magazine.

We have, as you will have noticed, changed the style of the front page-setting on this occasion. Sometimes even small, though thoughtful, changes can be refreshing.

At our AGM in October, many constructive and forward-thinking ideas were promoted; and we hope that these will be to the benefit of your Magazine in the coming year. Importantly, Carol Shea and Gina Easter have offered their support in the production process of The Messenger, and Carol Nelson has volunteered to assist in the organisation of distribution. They will make a very welcome addition to the Team.

The Production Team is once again pleased to announce another successful application to the National Lottery Fund; the outcome of which will go to the further benefit of your Magazine and to the Community.

The Team would like to take this early opportunity of wishing all our readers a very peaceful Christmas and New Year.

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

Ross Muiry

Mearns Camera Club

Presents

"The Wild Places" by Prominent Photographer - Colin Prior

7:30 pm, Monday 12th December

St Leonards Hotel

Stonehaven

Admission £5.00

Awards For All Grants

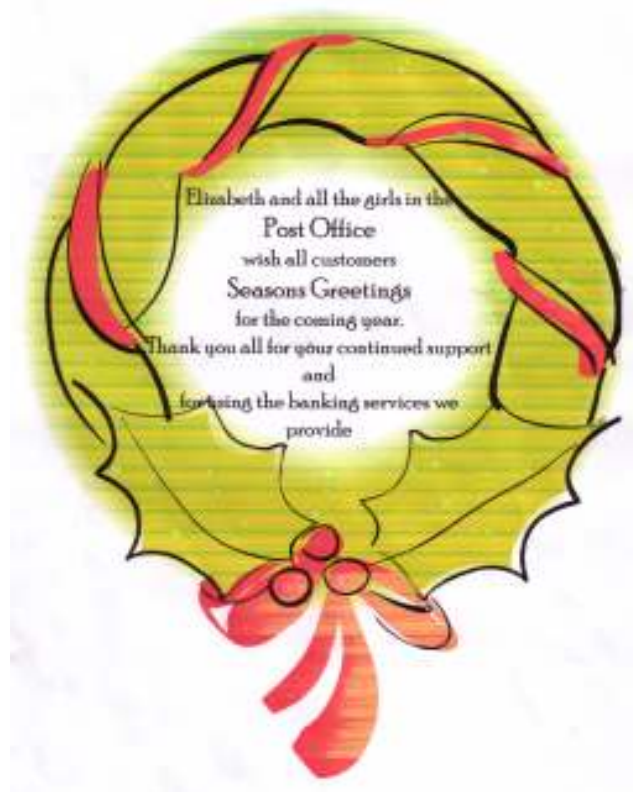
The Messenger Production team are delighted to announce the award of a grant totalling £5,000 from Awards for All Scotland.

We are proposing to purchase the following equipment, which will be made available free of charge for an agreed period to responsible individuals/organisations in the community: A powerful Laptop Computer; a high quality Digital Projector and a scanner that can handle prints, 35 mm and large format negatives.

If you would like to comment on these proposed purchases please contact Eddie Cairns (01561 320) to ensure that your views may be considered.

Fund Finding

Eddie and the Messenger team have acquired a wealth of experience, with substantial success, in finding funds for a variety of projects. If you have a 'pet project' or are part of an organisation seeking funding, we would be happy to share our knowledge and experience, perhaps opening up avenues you didn't know existed. Contact Eddie for advice.



William Lindsay Butcher

Dave and Andy would like to wish all their customers a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.



Thank you all very much for your custom over the past year.

Orders now taken for the festive period.
Closing dates

Monday 26th December 2005
Monday 2nd January 2006
Tues, Wed 3rd & 4th January 2006

Auchenblae Friends of Anchor

After 8 years, 'The Auchenblae Friends of ANCHOR Group', as it is presently known, has decided to close its fundraising activities.

Gordon Mennie died in 1996. And out of sorrow came hope. Pat Mennie, her Family and Friends decided to start raising funds for 'The ANCHOR Unit' in Aberdeen Royal Infirmary. (The acronym ANCHOR stands for 'Aberdeen and North Centre for Haematology, Oncology and Radiotherapy.)

Since 1997, a total of £25,130 has been raised in support of the ANCHOR Unit. This is of course a quite magnificent achievement; the result of much voluntary time and effort. Importantly, the 'Annual Cycle Run' and the 'Stovie Dance' have proved to be rewarding fund-raising events. And, in addition, various Personal Donations and Sponsorships have been gratefully welcomed.

Over the years, this funding has allowed and assisted in the purchase of various items of equipment for the added comfort and wellbeing of the patients in the Unit. In addition, funds have been used towards the purchase of costly and specialized nursing, medical and surgical equipment. And Research-based doctors have also been the beneficiaries of contributions from the Fund.

The final cheque for 2005 (£2,130) is seen here being presented to Fiona Poustie, the Fundraising Manager for ANCHOR.

In bringing fundraising by 'The Auchenblae Friends of ANCHOR Group' to a close, Pat, Family and Friends wish to give thankful recognition to everyone from Auchenblae and the surrounding District, who have in any way contributed to the success of the Fund.

This opportunity is also taken to wish everyone Good Health and Happiness in 2006.

Pat, Family and Friends





What do you think of it so far?.....

RUBBISH

It will not have escaped anyone's notice that our refuse collections have changed dramatically in the past week or so. Change is often resisted, and frequently painful, if not virtually impossible to embrace, but I am sure that most people deep down recognise that something has to be done to reduce the volume of waste going into landfill sites. And that will inevitably mean many people being at the very least slightly inconvenienced. For some people though, especially those without transport, the elderly and less mobile, these changes may pose major problems, such as.....

- No rear access or space for storage.
- Bin too small for your needs or too large or heavy to move easily
- Inability to get to recycling centre
- Disposing of large items
- Smells of rubbish after two weeks
- Pavement access blocked.
- Reduced level of service

And many more.....

Having visited the Information Bus and spoken to various people involved in the service, it is clear that there are going to be teething problems and that some patience and much discussion may be required before any further action is considered. Leaving aside the political issues of saving money vs saving the planet, and a 2nd class service in rural areas, I believe we shall need to learn to make the best of this service, as outwith a few tweaks here and there, it is unlikely to change substantially. Here are some ideas for making changes to 'waste management' that may be useful. Many more can be found in your Waste Aware booklet or on the website www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/waste.

REDUCE

- Use Mailing Preference Service www.mpsonline.org.uk (0845 7034599) to stop ALL direct marketing material and you can opt out of Royal Mail Door to Door service (who deliver non addressed promotional mail to you).
- Use Life Long shopping Bags available from numerous stores.
- Compost and use Green Cone system available at very good rates from the council.
- Avoid using 'disposable' items where possible, like razors, nappies, polish cloths, camera's etc.
- Where choice is available select items with limited or biodegradable packaging.

REUSE

Be creative and try to think of other ways to use an item, even empty packages, before binning.

- • Shoeboxes covered for storage.
- Lidded take away boxes for screws, pens etc
- Some cartons for freezing soup.
- 2 ltr drinks bottles as mini cloches.
- Old crockery for drainage for pots. RECYCLE
- Take a bag of bottles, cans and paper on daily basis on the way to the shops or school etc.
- Organise your recycling around necessary journeys rather than making special journeys.
- Can you provide access or storage space for your neighbours bin in return for them having spare bin capacity or taking your compostable rubbish. Ask. You may be surprised.
- Large high quality items may be collected by some charities. Otherwise special collection by the council will carry a charge for up to 4 items (3 piece suites and similar count as 1 item). Try to plan join together with neighbours to make the most of the service.
- If you have real problems with handling your bin without rear access or due to size and weight and you can't find a solution yourself or with friends, contact the Aberdeenshire Wasteline (0845 600 3900) for assistance.

Anyone wishing to share their own tips for being more green/environmentally conscious could send them to the Messenger for future publication.

Carol Shea

MEARNS COMMUNITY CENTRE

ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES – Classes begin again in January – these include Art and Drawing, Yoga, Pilates, Digital Photography, Computing, Beginners Golf, First Aid. For further information please contact Susan Robson at the Community Centre on 01561 378298.

LAURENCEKIRK OUT OF SCHOOL CLUB – The club runs every weekday from 2.30 pm to 6.00 pm. For further information please contact Helen Reid on 01561 378298/377252.

YOUTH CAFÉ – Every Friday at the Venue (back of Masonic Hall, Laurencekirk) there is a Youth Café open to all from age 12 upwards from 7.30 pm – 9.30 pm. For further information please contact Natalie Cooper at the Community Centre on 01561 378298.

P7 CLUB – This starts up after Christmas. For dates and information please contact Gil MacKenzie on 01561 378298.

1st YEAR CLUB – Open to all 1st Year pupils at the Venue. This Group runs every second Tuesday. For more information, contact Gil MacKenzie on 01561 378298.



AUCHENBLAE PRE SCHOOL GROUP

The Auchenblae Pre-School Group has seen a healthy increase in the numbers of children attending the Toddlers, 2's Group and Playgroup to such an extent that an additional 2's Group session is being held on Wednesday afternoons to cope with these numbers.

The Committee, and I'm sure the parents, are very grateful to the Playleaders, Karen, Kate & Nicola for their dedicated commitment to the children of the village, and local areas, in providing a friendly and fulfilling environment for them. This was reflected in a recent Inspection by the Care Commission, who gave the Playgroup an excellent report once again.

The Group welcomed in the cooler weather and longer nights with an Autumn Fair in the Village Hall which treated everyone to a lovely hot cup of coffee and a selection of home bakes that was enough to tempt even those watching their waist lines. Stalls were set up by local small businesses and gave visitors an opportunity to buy a variety of goods

Halloween night proved a great success with the local children turning out in a wide range of scary outfits and taking part in apple dooking, Doughnut catching and games. The Committee arranged and ran the evening with 'Jack our local Postie' judging the children's outfits.

On 19th November, a Touch of Tartan Ceilidh was held at the Village Hall with everyone enjoying a great night in their fine frocks and kilts to the music of 'Duck, Duck, Goose'.

With Christmas drawing nearer, plans are in hand for the traditional Children's Christmas Party at the Group. Details of the date will be advertised nearer the time.

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

On behalf of the Playleaders and the Committee at the Pre-School Group, we would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Any parent who would like their child to have a place at Toddlers, 2's Group or Playgroup, please contact Denise Bird on 01561 320887 for details.

BAND NIGHT

Friday 2nd December 2005

Drumtochty Arms Hotel

Fundraiser for the Mearns Skatepark Group

For lovers of Wild and Wonderful Music. Come along and help us make the Skatepark in Laurencekirk Memorial Park a reality

Look out for Poster. For information phone Jamie 320360

LIGHT HOUSE SWITCHED ON!

Since the summer break, Light House has grown steadily. We're lit up and switched on, as they say. (But, spread the word, we could do with more girls.....)

We have a full, fun programme each week with lively songs, games, stories, drama, Bible teaching and refreshments. The age group is (loosely) from 4 to 12 and upwards, with helpers from teenage and up always welcome!

We meet from 11 a.m. to 12 noon and you don't need to "join". Most kids come every week they're able to, which is ideal for us and them.

Others drop in once a month or so and add a lot of freshness to the mix - much appreciated!

There is no charge but, when they remember, the children bring "piggy money" to save up and send to children and others in need around the world.

Light House will meet for the last time on December 11th this year and will start again in mid January. Please phone 320371 with any enquiries.

Have a wonderful, joyful, peaceful Christmas, and always remember the reason for the season. As the carol says: "Love came down at Christmas....." in the form of Baby Jesus, to lighten up our lives. Every blessing for 2006!

Charles and Bren Gordon

AUCHENBLAE SHOPS

It's going to be a long, hard winter, so we're told. This rumour may or may not be true, but it's good to be prepared.

We're OK here in Auchenblae, aren't we? If we can't get the car out, we just nip to the local shops! Let's hope they're still there when we need them! The old saying "Use them or lose them" is not a fiction as we've seen in many areas where village stores have had to close. Oh, don't let's allow it to happen in Auchenblae!

Perhaps, if at present we only use our shops as an emergency standby, we ought to consider investing in their future, otherwise in an emergency they may not be there to stand by us. Yes, they're more expensive than the supermarket. It shouldn't be a surprise! We're not living in Alice in Wonderland, and they do have to make a living.

However, if we look closely at the local shops, we'll find plenty of bargains. We'll discover they sell things the supermarket doesn't, and that some things are the same price or even cheaper. We'll find friendly, helpful service and good quality and we'll be helping to secure the future - ours as well as theirs. This is a service we don't find now in many local communities.

Little shops have struggled on for years and then finally admitted defeat. Let's not allow it to happen in our lovely village. Nobody is suggesting we abandon Tesco, but we need to be realistic and help our shops to keep going and continue to be an asset to the village. We must determine to support them, save petrol, take time to use them. We need to make an effort from today. If we wait for the snowdrifts - it may be too late....

There are three good shops in Auchenblae. Will we keep them? I confess I haven't done my best yet, so I'm going to try harder. Will you?

Bren Gordon

Auchenblae Youth Football Team

Saturday November 5th went off in the traditional Guy Fawkes Night way at the Village Hall, but this time with a different bang.

The sound of the Classic Rock Band **RADAR** belting out hit after hit to rapturous applause from the great turnout from far and near who came along to support the Fund Raiser, in aid of the Auchenblae Youth Football Club.

The night was a great success and enjoyed by all who attended.

The committee would once again like to say a big thank you to **RA-DAR** for giving the night of music for free and keeping the dance floor alive and hot until close of play.

Thank you to all who donated a raffle prize for the night as this went down a storm.

We would like to thank Tanya and friends from Fordoun who helped clear up after a long night, very much appreciated. Also Marianne and Julie who worked really hard providing the thirsty crowd with refreshments from the bar all night.

At the end of the night a staggering **£1,131.80p** had been made, well done girls and a big thank you to you both.

Along with ticket sales and raffles the night raised a grand total of **£1,915.50p**.

The food served on the night was traditional Scottish fair, Mince, Tatties and Skirley, donated by Macintosh Donald of Portlethen, the Kerrs Pinks by Clarence Murray and the Oatmeal by Medlocks of Laurencekirk.

HERITAGE SOCIETY



Monday December 5th
Church Hall 7:30 to 9.00

ORGANIC FARMING

John Medlock, local farmer at Mains of Haulkerton will talk on the subject of ORGANIC FARMING and his organic farm.

ALL WELCOLME

Tea and coffee provided
Members free
Non-members £1.50

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS.

BEING SEEN.

- If you are on foot after dark, please try and remember the old adage and 'wear something bright at night'. Light coloured clothing or fluorescent bands are good.
- Use of headlights. On dark and wet days we should remember to use headlights correctly. Dipped headlights (the 2nd position on most car switches) rather than sidelights, SHOULD be used in reduced visibility. **BETTER TO BE SEEN** than a has been!

PARKING – DID YOU KNOW?

- That drivers leaving their vehicles on the road with the engine running are committing an offence **punishable under the law.**

AUCHENBLAE SCHOOL PTA

Hello from this year's newly elected committee! As done previously, here are the goings on with the school this month and last.

The Halloween Drive was held on the 27th October and was very well attended, thanks to all who turned up. The evening began with the judging of the "fancy dress", the difficult task went to Hannah Metelski. 1st prizes went to an "Alien" (Ewan Harvey) for best bought costume, and a "Robot" (Anna Sherriffs) for best home-made. Prizes also went to Sean Rogers and Nicola Hendry for the highest scores, and this year a pumpkin was given as a consolation prize to the lowest scorer, Hilda Grant. A total of £146 was raised.



The Christmas Pantomime trip will be on Friday the 16th December. The children will be heading off to see "Jack and the Beanstalk" in Aberdeen.

The Christmas Party will be on Monday 19th December 1.00-3.00pm

The Christmas Assembly will be held in the church on Monday 19th December at 9.30am.

There will be a "Sweetie Trail", for which you can purchase a ticket, for a chance to win a bottle of Champagne and some sweets for £1 in either the Post Office or the Bottom shop.

Auchenblae Friendship Group

Please note that we have changed our name. We had various requests from people who are not yet sixty, to join the group. As a result we now have four new members. If you feel that you are at a loose end on a Wednesday morning do come and join us in the Church Hall from 10.15 am to 12.15 p.m. You will be made very welcome.

As usual we have a varied programme to keep you occupied. Coming up, we have a visit to Brechin Castle garden centre, a lunch at The Clatterin' Brig and all our usual quizzes, games, sing songs, etc.

We will soon be planning our programme for after Christmas. If you have any suggestions please let us know.



A very Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year to you all.

Barbara Strouts

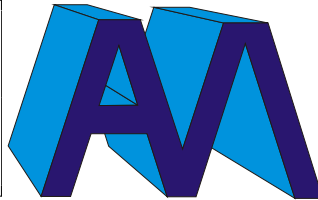
Auchenblae School Football Team

The Auchenblae school football team has a full schedule this term with matches practically every Saturday (subject to weather!) until Christmas. This year the team is composed of primarily new young members who are rapidly gaining lots of experience. So far they have beaten Redmyre in a friendly game and played and lost one league match. A 2nd round Quarter League Maclean Cup match against St Cyrus is coming up soon.

The team practices at Mearns Sport Centre on Wednesdays from 7-8 pm.



THE AUCHENBLAE MESSENGER
THE NEWSLETTER
FOR THE
AUCHENBLAE COMMUNITY



PRODUCTION TEAM

Ross Muiry, Anne Anderson, Eddie Cairns, Kevin Newstead, Donald Rennie, Barbara Strouts, Colette Hoggmascall, Carol Nelson, Carol Shea and Gina Easter

Email: themessenger@mearns.org

"Keeping you informed"

December Editor

Ross Muiry

The Publisher of this issue

Eddie Cairns

Messenger Distributors

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

Copies of the Messenger can be collected from the local shops!

**Auchenblae Messenger Supplement
MONTHLY MEMO**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>TIME</u>
Thursday 1 st December	WRI ,	Village Hall	7.30 p.m.
Friday 2 nd December	Band Night	Drumtochty Arms Hotel	See Posters
Saturday 3 rd December	OAP Fund Coffee Morning.	Tracey Harrison Lewis' House	10 to 12
Saturday 3 rd December	Auchenblae Festival	Village Hall	3 to 5:30 pm
Saturday 3 rd December	Auchenblae Festival Ceilidh	Village Hall	8 pm till late
Monday 5 th December	Organic Farming, Heritage Society	Church Hall	7:30 pm
Friday 9 th December	Carols, Candles & Christmas Pies	Auchenblae Church	7:30 pm
Saturday 10 th December	Buttery Coffee Morning	Village Hall	10 to 1
11, 14, 18, 21 December	Guides Christmas Card Delivery	Village Store	
Monday 12 th December	Wild Places by Colin Prior	St Leonards Hotel	7:30 pm
Thursday 12 th January	Genealogy Talk, WRI.	Village Hall	7:30 pm
Friday 27 th January	Burns Supper	Village Hall	

**ALL INFORMATION FOR INCLUSION IN THE FEBRUARY MEMO SHOULD BE GIVEN
TO ANN RENNIE, 'MERNIS HOWE' Tel. 01561 320622
BY 15TH January 2006**

Please note that the next edition of 'The Messenger' will be published during March 2006. The closing date for inclusion in this edition will be Wednesday 15th February 2006.

If you have access to e-mail please send your information 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>**