

The

Auchenblae Messenger



Volume 9 Issue 6

December 2007

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HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR READERS FROM THE MESSENGER TEAM

CALLING THE YOUTH OF AUCHENBLAE

As part of their Development plan, to promote citizenship in young people, the Community Development Group are inviting young people to apply for funding for community youth projects.

Up to £500 is available for each community; this amount could be allocated to one project within the community or be made up of several smaller bids.

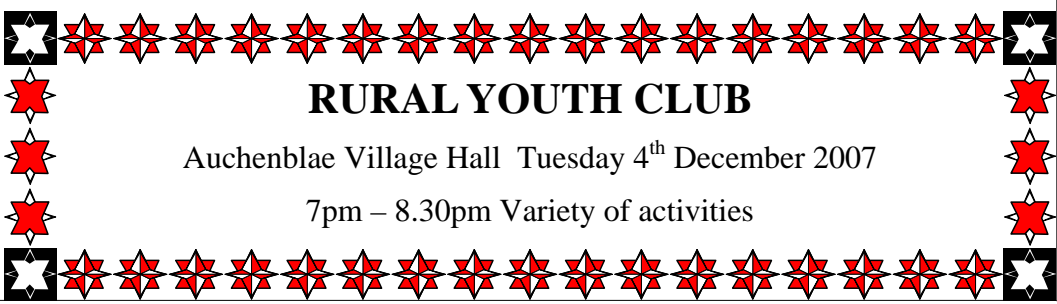
The criteria for these bids are as follows:

- Projects must be self sustaining
- Bids must be put together by young people (aged 12 – 25)
- The bids must demonstrate need
- Projects must be for the benefit of young people in that community
- Maximum of £500 per community

Deadline for bids is 28th January 2008

The CDG will decide on which bids are successful. Decisions will be made by the end of February 2008.

Staff members from the Mearns Youth Team will promote this idea and support young people to make applications. Should a group of young people like some more information or an application form for this fund, please contact Elaine Dalgetty at Mearns Community Centre on 01561 378298



RURAL YOUTH CLUB

Auchenblae Village Hall Tuesday 4th December 2007

7pm – 8.30pm Variety of activities

West Mearns Parish Church



Minister : Rev. Catherine Hepburn

The Manse, Fettercairn, Tel. 01561 340203

NORMAL SUNDAY SERVICES :

9.30a.m. Every Sunday at Fettercairn

11.00a.m. First Sunday of the Month at Glenbervie

11.00a.m. Every other Sunday in the month

Service at Auchenblae Church.

Visitors especially welcome at all services,

SPECIAL SERVICES FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR

DECEMBER 2nd First Sunday in Advent

9.30a.m. Fettercairn

11.00a.m. Auchenblae

6:30 p.m. Carol Service Fordoun Village Hall

DECEMBER 7th *CAROLS, CANDLES AND CHRISTMAS PIES*

at

Auchenblae Guild will hold their annual Carol Singing in the Church on **Friday December 7th** **7.30p.m.** All are warmly invited to join in an evening of real Christmas Spirit before the big rush 'to get everything done' begins. After the Carols and Candle there will be the Christmas Pies and a chance to meet up with old friends and make new ones.

DECEMBER 8th On Saturday December 8th

The Sunday School Christmas Party will take place in the Church Hall, Auchenblae at **2.30p.m.**

DECEMBER 9th Second Sunday in Advent

9.30a.m. Fettercairn White Gift Sunday

11.00a.m. Auchenblae for children in need

6.30p.m. **Blue Christmas Service.**

A Carol Service for those who find Christmas a difficult time.

DECEMBER 16th Third Sunday in Advent

9.30a.m. Fettercairn,

11.00a.m. Auchenblae Family Service with Nativity Play.

2.30p.m. Queen Elizabeth Court (Fettercairn) Carol Service with Mince Pies.

6.30p.m. Carol Service in Drumlithie Village Hall

DECEMBER 23rd Fourth Sunday in Advent

9.30a.m. Fettercairn, Family Service with Nativity Play

11.00a.m. Auchenblae

DECEMBER 24th *CHRISTMAS EVE*

6.30p.m. **Children's Carol Service Auchenblae.**

11.15p.m. (for 11:30) Fettercairn, **Watchnight Service**

DECEMBER 25th **CHRISTMAS DAY**

Christmas Morning Family Service 1.00a.m. Glenbervie Church

DECEMBER 30th Sunday

9.30a.m. Fettercairn with Communion

11.00a.m. Auchenblae with Communion

AUCHENBLAE FRIENDSHIP GROUP

After quite a lively session with lots of different activities we will be closing for the Christmas holiday on 19th December. We will reopen, weather permitting, on 9th January 2008. Where does the time go? My thanks to all the members for their support at all times. It is very much appreciated.

We still have room for more members so do feel free to join us on Wednesday mornings at 10.15am in the Church Hall. The school bus will pick you up if you need a lift.

A Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year to you all.

Barbara Strouts

AUCHENBLAE GUILD

A different kind of programme this month. On Friday 7th December we will be holding our Carols, Candles and Christmas Pies celebration, in Church, at 7.30pm. There will be carols and a few readings to start with, to get us into the Christmas spirit, followed by mince pies and shortbread, with tea, coffee or punch. Our guest is Phil Smith, a guitarist from Laurencekirk. This a family occasion. Do come and join us. All are very welcome.



Wednesday 19th December sees the Guild Christmas Party. It will be held at The Crown Hotel in Laurencekirk at 12.30pm. Friends from Glenbervie will be joining us.

On 16th January we will be holding our Scottish lunch in the Church Hall at 2.30pm. Lovely food and entertainment of a Scottish nature with DVDs. Come and enjoy.

AUCHENBLAE DRAMA GROUP

Auchenblae Drama Group would like to wish all who have supported the Group over the past year a very Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.



Even though our next performance will be "A Christmas Carol" on the 15th and 16th December there will be no "Bah Humbug..." from us.

In the last year we have performed in Aberdeen Arts Centre for the Scottish Community Drama Association, held our inaugural Auchenfest and are now rehearsing like crazy for "A Christmas Carol".

Continued on page 4

The group has grown significantly over the past year and the support we have received from ‘bums on seats’ to new actors and backstage crew has been fantastic and we are very grateful.



We are looking forward to seeing you all for another quality production from Auchenblae Drama Group on the 15th December at 7.30pm or the matinee performance on 16th December at 2.30pm. Tickets are available from Metelski's, the Post Office, Judith Houghton or Tracey Harrison-Lewis. Should you fail to get near any of these ‘outlets’ please email achristmascarol@auchenblaedramagroup.co.uk to reserve a ticket and we will happily deliver or leave at the door for your collection.

We look forward to sharing a mulled wine with you at “A Christmas Carol” which has kindly received sponsorship from MacPhees of Glenbervie. If you would like to sponsor a page in the programme please give Craig Sandeman a call on 320867.

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 being taken for the Festive Period.

Closing dates;

Tuesday 25th December 2007

Wednesday 26th December 2007

Tuesday 1st January 2008

Wednesday 2nd January 2008

ELIZABETH AND ALL THE GIRLS IN THE POST OFFICE

WISH YOU ALL



MERRY CHRISTMAS

AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Thank you all for your continued support

Why Not Check Out The Personal Banking Facilities at Auchenblae Post Office.

Getting cash at any Post Office™ branch is free, easy and safe with our new automated banking service – all you need is your card and Personal Identification Number (PIN). The service is available to customers with selected current accounts, basic bank accounts and the Post Office card account

Ask at the counter for details!

Childhood Memories

I often think of my childhood when,
I lived in lovely Drumtochty Glen,
Roaming the hills with my siblings dear,
Free as the birds, with nothing to fear,

All of the summer the sun seemed to shine
Keeping us outdoors, with no sense of time,
Going home only when tummies did rumble,
Making our mums have a bit of a grumble,

We paddled in fords, played up in the Castle,
Content as could be, causing no hassle,
Down to the stables which were partly in ruin,
With bits falling down, and it wasn't our doing,

Made 'housies' across among the trees,
The rooms divided by dead, swept up leaves,
Rummaged in dumps for old broken dishes,
Finding old pots and pans, fulfilled all our wishes,

Wild berries we picked for Mum to make jam,
Bla'berries and rasps, boiled up in a pan,
The smell was delicious, and when that was done,
We all fought each other for a 'piece' with the scum,

We played in the 'stooks' by the light of the moon,
Till a voice from the house meant bedtime had come 'roon',
We had no shower or bath, so I'm being quite honest,
We went to our beds with a 'lick and a promise',

Schooldays were happy, we walked for a mile,
In all kinds of weather, sometimes it was vile,
But everyone had to, we all were the same,
And where was the harm in a few showers of rain,

Now snow! That was different, it lasted for weeks,
And the cold frosty winds brought a glow to our cheeks,
The drifts were so high they reached up to the hedge,
Dad had to bring groceries home on a sledge,

No TV or computer, with mechanical mouse,
The mice were alive that stayed in our house,
We had just a wireless, and sometimes not that,
Depending you see, if the battery went flat,

My Mum kept a pig, ducks, hens and chickens,
And Korky the cat, who kept having kittens,
Dad grew lots of veg so we ate very well,
And were all very healthy, and never got ill,

But times they have changed, and so has the Glen,
Much more traffic than there was then,
We had so much freedom to romp and roam,
It will always be special, my childhood home.

Sheena M Auld





Drumtochty Xmas 2006



St Paladius Jan 2007



Drumtochty Xmas 2006



Loch Saugh Oct 2007



Autumn Afternoon, November 2007



Edzell Woods, Lunchtime November 2007

WHEN SCROGE COMES TO AUCHENBLAE

When Scrooge comes to Auchenblae
Cantankerous and mean
No shred of Christmas jollity
Nor change of heart foreseen

But Jacob Marley's ghost appears
He tells Scrooge of his plight
Of three visitors who will come to him
Upon that Christmas night

The spirits - future, present, past
Show Scrooge his days of yore
His miserable present
The mean grave he's headed for

But does Scrooge heed their warnings?
What will then become of him?
Is Bob Cratchit's Christmas merry?
What's the fate of Tiny Tim?

So on 15/16 December
Come to the Village Hall
Where Auchenblae's own Drama Group
Will be pleased to reveal all...

METELSKI'S STORE



Angela and Francis would like to thank all our customers for their support to date and wish them.

**A Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year**



AUCHENBLAE DRAMA GROUP

presents its family production of

Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*

Auchenblae Village Hall

Saturday 15th December (7.30pm) and Sunday 16th December (2.30pm matinee).

Tickets £5 (adults) and £3.50 (children and OAPs)

Available from Metelski's Store or the Post Office in Auchenblae

Tickets can be reserved by calling Judith Houghton on 01561 320222

Or email achristmascarol@auchenblaedramagroup.co.uk

DOGS

I was once called a dog by an erstwhile friend
 And I thought to myself, well, it rather depends
 On what breed he intended to liken me to-
 If he means I'm a bulldog then he's a shitzu
 But again, he might think I am rather like Lassie,
 Long nosed, right enough, but still clever, and classy,
 And probably rich, with the trappings of fame
 The world full of acolytes bearing my name
 My own Winnebago with sacksfull of meal,
 And an agent securing the very best deal,
 A girl whose sole duty is brushing my hair,
 And never a worry about what to wear,
 A pound full of stand-ins in case I get tired-
 Perhaps my friend meant I am likewise admired?

And what about Leica, who went into space?
 Gave her life up for science and earned her a place
 In the history books where they often don't mention
 A hero's return didn't follow ascension .
 I'd not go for martyrdom were I consulted,
 But if he meant Leica, I'm hardly insulted.

I hope you won't think me pretentious and snobby
 I'd not be much flattered by Grayfriar's Bobby-
 Faithful for sure, undeniably brave
 To go freezing and starving on somebody's grave
 But the thought does occur she might be a bit dim
 Not to spot the man's death as they filled the grave
 in....

Yes, now I think further perhaps I was wrong
 To throw out my friend by the strap of his thong
 But I don't really care and I'll ponder no more
 That particular friend was a bit of a boar.

By April Pressley

DIGITAL PROJECTOR

Available free of charge to any reasonable person.



Contact

Eddie Cairns

01561 320494

MOORLAND CALL

When the Sun glances down from an open sky,
 And the wind rakes the heather the call of the
 moor feel I;

When the day is ripe and not yet old,
 And all of the peaks are edged in gold;
 These peaks that call to mortal men of clay-
 Come test your steel's intestine upon these
 ramparts grey.

'Tis then I wander freely and at will,
 To ramble content and clothe myself in dreams
 within the moorland still.

© Peter Morriss

Just an Ordinary Day (where have all the Easter Eggs gone)

By Carol Shea

Approaching the checkout I frantically scanned my list again. Desperation began to set in. I knew that there was something I'd missed but my meticulous list, carefully developed over weekly visits, aisle by aisle, category by category, held no clues,

I moved aside, aware of the tutts tutts of other shoppers and carefully scanned my trolley. What was it? What had I forgotten? I couldn't rest until I knew.

There was nothing for it except to go back to the beginning and start over, eyeing ever more keenly every shelf, every aisle, every 'special promotion' tub, every end shelf and refilling trolley until I find it.

Well, it isn't lurking among the fruit and vegetables – those fresh, glossy, colourful semi natural piles of tantalising goodies placed at the entrance to get the juices (and pennies) flowing. Of course, the juices that often flow are those of crushed fruit and bruised lettuce by the time the washing powder and drinks bottles have been squeezed in at the end of the shop. Sales psychology rules practicality in supermarket layout.

Nor is it in the dairy and cooked meats, where choice baffles and labelling confuses: kcals, fat and salt listings addle the brain I end up buying many more varieties of spread, cream, ham than I need simply because it is impossible to decide what's best (or least bad) for you without a chemistry degree.

The baking selection holds no surprises, except again the ever-growing variety of sweet treats on offer, and the scarcity of a plain loaf. You can remember, surely, when bread was bread. Crispy, white, fresh baked. The only choice you had to make was its shape (stick, cob, cottage, bloomer) and if you wanted it whole or sliced.

The aisles of tins, savoury beans and pulses; salted all too uniform vegetables; artificially coloured and sweetened fruits; sauces, and condiments baffled. No, nothing here.

Exotics. Tempting as it is to think it might be Asafoetida, tamarind paste or a vanilla pod or I quickly decided I do not need more little packets to 'seal and store' until well past their sell by date, after using the merest ½ gram for some new fangled concoction by the 'chef of the minute'. The deli counter drew a blank. I was not enticed by any of the cheeses with all manner of fruits added, dried hams from central Europe, mixed pasta and rice salads. Nor was I tantalised into buying a freshly roasted chicken and the acrid smell of hot burning cheese dripping off freshly baked pizzas onto industrial ovens had the opposite of the desired effect, being so unpleasant as to catch at the back of the throat. And offend the senses.

Skipping quickly past the pet and baby supplies, the nightmare of household products loomed large. Here, where a first class degree in chemistry was NOT enough to be sure that you were doing enough to protect your family and friends from E-coli, foot and mouth, salmonella and even plain old coughs and colds, I found nothing to fill the 'void'. Desperation was setting in. Alongside doubt and fear. Yes, real fear. Almost at the end now. Just drinks and snacks and the freezer departments to go. Something was wrong. Very wrong. Something was missing.

Then, as quickly as the panic had set in, the mist began to clear and I saw the light. It wasn't my list. It wasn't me that was wrong. There was a void. A gaping chasm in the store layout. As the truth dawned, I risked the wrath and concern of shoppers and store staff alike and let out a chuckle. .

There weren't any. That was it. No toffee apples, pumpkins or orange and black accessories for Halloween. No cakes, crackers, dates or seldom seen nuts to herald Christmas. No red heart shapes chocolates and silk flowers and no Easter eggs. NO end aisle promotion for beer and snacks to watch 'the match'; no strawberries, sparkling wine and cream for Wimbledon.

Nor were there aisles given over to sun cream, beach balls and buckets; no charcoal piles and heaving shelves or 'fresh' made burgers and marinated chicken drumsticks, no fireworks, haggis, or garden bulbs,

Eureka. That was it. I had found it. Or rather I hadn't. It was, after all, just a very 'ordinary' day. I pulled out my pocket diary. I HAD to note the date.

AUCHENBLAE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Christmas Bingo Wednesday 12th December 7 for 7.30pm Mince Pies & Mulled Wine.

Auchenblae Christmas Card: The photograph for this year's card is by Neil Gow and shows a winter view of Auchenblae from Drumtochty Glen. The cards are on sale in the local shops or from committee members.

Christmas Hamper: A Luxury Christmas Hamper. Comprising items donated by members of the Community Association will be for sale in the local shop in early December.

Burns Supper – Friday 25th January 2008 – A most entertaining evening with traditional home cooked Burns Fayre. Master of Ceremonies: Arthur Anderson. Immortal Memory: David Johnston. Address: Dot Davidson. Music: Violet Bruce & Sandra Nicol. Tickets from local shops and committee members £10. See Posters for full details.

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 and Happy New Year.

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO DO

Would you like to know 'What's On' in your area in Aberdeenshire? Are you holding an event and would like to advertise it?



Aberdeenshire Council has an Events Directory on their website which gives details of events taking place throughout Aberdeenshire. These are varied and include musical, sporting and countryside events, exhibitions, markets, galas and seasonal activities.

Go to www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/events to see what events are taking place.

You can use the online form on this website to tell us about an event. Just look out for 'Submit an Event'. We do make the effort to include events as soon as possible but cannot guarantee that all the activities you submit can be included. The event must be open to the public and held in Aberdeenshire.

Regular club meetings are not eligible.

For further information please contact

Information Services
Aberdeenshire Library and Information Service
Meldrum Meg Way
Oldmeldrum
AB51 0GN
Tel 01651 871206
Email alis.enquiry@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

HIGH PEAKS

I enter its silence
and breathe in its tranquillity;
They have stood the ravages of time.
These purple headed peaks
that carve their silence to the sky;
These grey stone walls raised
up like altars in praise of God.
Here the centuries pass marked by virgin snows.

God created these moors
with their wild openness,
These peaks that lie bleak
to their belonging.
This land tended by stubborn men,
wresting a livelihood from
the harshness of its unyielding.
There are those that endeavour,
Those that minister this land;
Those whose shadow pass
fleetingly the rocky outcrops
that have stood a million years.

© Peter Morriss

HIGHLANDS

I lift my gaze to the mountains
heights whose jagged peaks
embrace their noble skies;
Under a layered mist, hill walkers'
spirits ride the creaking winds.

Vibrant foothills cascade to court
the meandering deer,
Lichen to moorland boulders
grey face lie welded;
Snow capped ridges flaunt their
bitter harshness to the climbers' mettle.

© Peter Morriss

WINTERY LANDSCAPES (Pitnamoon)

Flat as a drum skin lay the frozen snow,
Weary hills slumber from winter blizzards
bitter blow;
Brooding silence of white- capped peaks
menace the hill walkers steel,
Landends Plantation birch and beech to
a chilled landscape the rime adds its seal.
Racing waters of the Devilly Burn scowl
to the Devilly Bridge,
Trees of Pitnamoon, pearl like frost cast gems
adorn winter foliage.

Spirits of the wind chase across Cairn o' Mount
shouldering a tired sky,
To a departing Sun, epic skies rubefy.
Homely nooks of Fettercairn light up their
beacons to gathering twilight,
On wings of stealth Pitnamoon nocturnal
dearth hunt the pall of night;

© Peter Morriss 2007

PITNAMOON AUTUMN (HOWE of THE MEARN'S)

Where dawn awakes to open epic skies,
A buzzard soars to seek with searching eye;
Smouldering hills to autumn light stand bold,
Boughs of ochre across the Mearns stain gold;
Oh! Auchenblae jewelled field of flowers,
Who's Luther ripples her shady bowers;
Pitnamoon robins sport bright russet coats,
Pheasants call set the hour to raucous note;
Autumn's feathered chorus strum sweet lyres,
Departing swallows gather to taut wires;
Drumtochy woods recline to pebbled rills,
A crescent Moon rides the crests of still hills;
A lowering Sun glows in ambered fire,
To leave at peace, tranquil Kincardineshire.

© Peter Morriss



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



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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

DATE	EVENT	PLACE	TIME
Fri 7th Dec	Carols, Candles, Christmas Pies	Auchenblae Church	19.30
Wed 12th Dec.	Christmas Bingo	Village Hall	19.00
Sat. 15th Dec	"A Christmas Carol"	Village Hall	19.30
Sun 16th Dec	"A Christmas Carol"	Village Hall	14.30
Mon 24th Dec	Watchnight Service	Fettercairn Church	23.15
Wed 16th Jan	Auchenblae Guild	Church Hall	14.30
Fri 25th Jan	Burns Supper	Village Hall	See Posters

Watch the notice board for the dates for the February Memo.



Please note that the next edition of 'The Messenger' will be published during March 2008. The closing date for inclusion in this edition will be 15th February 2008.

If you have access to e-mail please send to:

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>