



The

Auchenblae Messenger

Volume 6 Issue 1

March 2004



Editor's Comments

Welcome to the first *Messenger* for 2004.

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Yes, I know, there has already been a 'Memo' that went out at the end of January, but this is the first full-scale *Messenger* for this year, and it's the sixth year running our local newsletter has been in production. And before I forget – many thanks to all who actually read the request to get information for the March edition in by the 15th of the month – and who provided the copy on time. This has made the editor's task a much easier one than it would have been if he had had to 'phone up everybody who *might* have been going to contribute, and who still thought it was the 20th of the month!

As one who, perhaps more than any other, is to blame for having a newsletter at all in this vicinity, I frequently reflect on the difference between the edition you have in your hands at this moment and the simple little one-pager that I reproduced after an interesting discussion at the Community Association in 1999. At that meeting some were complaining that events took place in the community, and if nobody ran round – as some decidedly did – with little typed out flyers, and shoved them through the letter-boxes, it often happened that quite a lot of folk weren't even aware of what was going on.

It seemed quite logical, therefore, that we ought to have a regular production that would just keep people informed of all the activities, and I offered to put my head on the block and, if you've got a strong magnifying glass, you may be able to make out what I wrote in that first edition. The gist of what I was trying to say was that, from the very outset, it was going to need more people than myself if it was going to work. And despite not a few ups and downs, that's what we've got today. A team of people, every one of whom plays an essential part in getting the information into every home in the village – and a bit further afield than that! Of course the current publication bears very little resemblance to its simple beginning, but that's because it's a dynamic kind of thing. If it were static, we'd still have something run by a one man band as it was for quite a few months to begin with.

But there's one further essential, without which this publication is just so much waste paper. **YOU'VE GOT TO READ IT!** And unbelievably, that's what some folk seem to forget to do, with the result that occasionally events take place, and when we mention them, we get a look of blank incomprehension because people weren't aware they were happening. And when we say, "**But it was in the Messenger**"we realise that not everything we write has been read! So don't miss out on what's going on, and we hope you will all continue to enjoy the *Messenger* and the *Memo in 2004*.

Donald Rennie

Special points of interest:

- "How did we survive" - Page 3
- Auchenblae Surgery—Page 7
- Monthly Memo—P8
- Village New Years Party—Page 2
- Story Telling
- Workshop—P3

SEE Page 8 & 9 FOR POSSIBLE DESKTOP PUBLISHING TRAINING COURSES IN SPRING & NEWS OF OUR POSSIBLE COLOUR SUPPLEMENT



West Mearns Parish Church & Auchinblae Guild

Minister: Reverend Catherine A. Hepburn—Tel. 01561 340203

Every Sunday: Fettercairn Church 9.30 a.m.

and

Every Sunday (except 1st) 11.00 a.m. Auchinblae Church

VISITORS AND THEIR CHILDREN WELCOME AT ALL SERVICES

Auchinblae Guild

It seems a long time since Christmas, but we still remember the evening with Carols, Candles and Christmas Pies held on December 12th to celebrate the real meaning of Christmas. This was much appreciated by all who came. Then, to enjoy another aspect of the Festive Season, we met with the ladies from Glenbervie Guild and friends at the Redhall Hotel in Fordoun to share in an excellent Christmas Dinner.

The next meeting of Auchinblae Guild (West Mearns Parish Church) will be on Wednesday March 17th at 2.30p.m. in the Church Hall, when the speaker will be the Rev. Alan Watt, recently appointed minister at Edzell. Mr. Watt will speak on the theme for the year – “Dare to Care”. All will be made very welcome.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

This year's service, prepared by the women of Peru, will be held in Auchinblae Church on March 5th at 2.30p.m. Each year, on the first Friday of March, Women (and Men!) gather all over the world in Churches, Halls, Meeting Houses, Chapels, Hospitals, Homes, Colleges, Schools and other places to worship together using the same order of service which is prepared each year by women from different countries and translated into many languages. If ever the world needed to pray together, it is now. Everyone is welcome at this service, whether a church-goer or not. Tea and coffee will be served after the service.

Auchinblae Over Sixties Friendship Group

Since the last issue of The Messenger went out we have to report the death of Robbie Cruikshank. He was a founder member of the group, and was missed by all of us when he became ill to attend our meetings.

Recently we have also heard of the death of Margaret Ogilvie. She was not with us for very long but was very enthusiastic about our activities while she did come.



We extend our sympathy to the families of both Robbie and Margaret, and hope that they are now coming to terms with their loss.

Since we started up again in January we have been very pleased to welcome Peggy back to our ranks, And to welcome Ruby, a new member. May I remind all you people out there who are over sixty, that we will be happy to see you on a Wednesday morning in the Church Hall from about 10.15 onwards. We try very hard to have a varied programme for you. If there is anything that you would like us to do in the future please let us know, and we will try our best to oblige.—Barbara Strouts

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN A 2004/5 NEW YEARS PARTY FOR THE VILLAGE? - CONTACT ELIZAN FYFE FOR MORE DETAILS ON 320707

How did we survive—A loon remembers

We Are Survivors

(For those born before 1940...)

We were born before television, before penicillin, polio shots, frozen foods, Xerox, contact lenses, videos and the pill. We were born before radar, credit cards, split atoms, laser beams and ballpoint pens, before dish-washers, tumble-driers, electric blankets, air conditioners, drip-dry clothes...and before man walked on the moon.

We got married first and then lived together (how quaint can you be?). We thought 'fast food' was what you are in Lent. A 'Big Mac' was an oversized raincoat and 'crumpet' we had for tea. We existed before house-husbands, computer dating and 'sheltered accommodation' was where you waited for a bus.

We were born before day care centres, group homes and disposable nappies. We never heard of FM Radio, tape decks, artificial hearts, word processors, or young men wearing earrings. For us 'time sharing' meant togetherness, a 'chip' was a piece of wood or fried potato, 'hardware' meant nuts and bolts and 'software' wasn't a word.

Before 1940 'Made in Japan' meant junk, the term 'making out' referred to how you did in your exams, 'stud' was something that fastened a collar to a shirt, and 'going all the way' meant staying on a double-decker bus to the terminus. In our day cigarette smoking was 'fashionable', grass was mown, 'coke' was kept in the coal-house, a joint was a piece of meat you ate on Sundays, and 'pot' was something you cooked in. 'Rock Music' was a fond mother's lullaby, 'Eldorado' was ice-cream, a 'gay person' was the life and soul of the party, while 'aids' just meant beauty treatment or help for someone in trouble.

We who were born before 1940 must be a hardy bunch when you think of the way in which the world has changed and the adjustments we have had to make. No wonder there is a generation gap today. . BUT—by the grace of Godwe have survived!

Contributed by Ben Davidson, Kenilworth, Warwickshire— ex-Auchenblae loon!

Auchenblae W.R.I

**The Meeting On 4th March will be
At Redhall Hotel, Fordoun
at 7.30p.m.**

It's our 76th Birthday Party!

There will be a Bulb Show (all own choice)

Bowl of Daffodils	Bowl of Tulips
Amaryllis	Bowl of own choice.

The Competition : Foliage pot plant
Thomson Cup : Box of handmade Mixed Sweets
Duty Committee Member : Joan Nicoll

Persephone Project Story Work with Auchinblae Primary Children

There will be a performance at a story and music ceilidh in the Public Hall on Saturday 6 March at 7pm. Lots of support from the village would be a wonderful encouragement for the young people.

A wonderful storyteller called Donnie Henderson Shedlarz will be a guest at the evening and she will be supported by local tellers and members of GAS. Anyone from the village or round about who would like to take part in the ceilidh should contact Susie Minto, the co-ordinator of the Persephone project, on 01467 628957 or minto4@onetel.net.uk

Children and OAPs will have free admission to the event and there is a suggested donation of £2 for adults. All of the proceeds will go to the Auchinblae Community Association towards upkeep of the public hall. Donnie, will be holding a session from 1.30pm to 4.30pm for anyone interested in finding out how to have the confidence to tell a yarn.

Auchenblae & District Heritage Society

Meeting in Auchenblae Church Hall, Monday 1st March 2004

Subject : Auchenblae Stories and Memorabilia

The Heritage Society's first meeting for 2004 will be off to a promising start with a subject that is always a popular favourite with all our members. Under the able guidance of Jenny Thomson, whose knowledge of the past of Auchenblae together with her collections of memorabilia are quite awesome, we'll be transported into a bygone age.

But it isn't just a trip down memory lane, for there are stories and artefacts that may stretch well beyond the recollection of even the oldest among us and that are a real part of the heritage we share. One of the reasons why the Heritage Society exists is to keep that heritage alive among us, and we extend, especially to any of the children in the local schools a special welcome to attend. Indeed, so keen are we to have youngsters present that we have written it into our constitution that they can become members of the Society free of charge.

Of course we welcome everyone else as well!

Membership of the Society costs £5 per year for those who are in work and wage-earning, and £3 per year for others who are unwaged. Visitors pay £1.50 for an occasional visit – and as there are four meetings per year it's cheaper to become a member!

At the start of the meeting on 1st March, there's a brief AGM when we shall elect our new committee and review some of the features of the past year.

We give to everyone a most cordial invitation. Note the date and time again

MONDAY 1st MARCH AT 7.30 p.m. – AUCHENBLAE CHURCH HALL.



SPRING CEILIDH

SATURDAY MARCH 27th 7.00 – 11.00 p.m.,

AUCHENBLAE VILLAGE HALL

FOR ALL THE FAMILY

Tickets in advance £5/£3

From Gillian "Upper Cairnhill" 320360

Family tickets available—Bring your own drinks

ENTERTAINMENT 7.00 – 7.30 p.m.

Prior to the Dancing.

See you there !!!

PROCEEDS TO SHELTER AND A MIDDLE
EASTERN CHARITY (To be decided)

KEEP FIT

Once again, thank you for all your enquiries and continued interest regarding a Keep-fit class being organised in the village. Apparently there is a shortage of qualified instructors through Kincardineshire and the Mearns, and although Auchenblae has been earmarked for a class, there is still no available instructor to be found.

Aberdeenshire Recreation Department has given us their assurance that we will be informed immediately that an instructor has been identified.

In the meantime, keep hopeful!

Leonie Cowie (320768)

Auchinblae School

Recitation of Scots' Verse

In celebration of Burns and to encourage interest in Scots' verse, all the children in the Juniors and Seniors at Auchinblae School performed their chosen poem to their classes and a panel of judges comprising Donald Rennie, Joan Nicoll and Maureen McLaren.

Though all did really well, making it an incredibly difficult task for our judges, the eventual winners were as follows-



Seniors – 1st Allana Minty 2nd Gordon Sellar 3rd Craig Watson

Juniors - 1st Alanah Mills 2nd Lucie Hendry 3rd equal Luke McCormick and Jack Sellar

Auchinblae School PTA

As reported in the last Messenger our **Bag-2-School** collection was a great success raising the sum of £237.00 for school funds. We are so pleased with this fundraiser that we have arranged another collection for April. The 'wee blue bags' will be posted through your doors on 19th April and collected on 23rd April, so please save any old clothing for collection.

Our other fundraisers have been a success too with **Webb Ivory** raising £95.25 and our **Santa Drive** raising £180.99. These events have enabled us to pay for the childrens' Christmas party, subsidise the pantomime trip and to purchase some much needed equipment for school, including a shredding machine, as the disposal of confidential paper work in the dust bin is no longer acceptable.

Swimming Club has still not resumed – we await repairs to be carried out on the pool.

Football Club continues to be very well attended and enjoyed by all.

This year's **Summer Fair** will take place on Sat 12th June, our theme is 'The Olympics'.

School Sports Day will be Fri 18th June (weather permitting) or Fri 25th June.

Our Primary 7 pupils will attend Mearns Academy on 21st, 22nd & 23rd June, for their 3 day visit

The next **PTA meeting** will take place on **Tue 23rd March**.—All parents are invited

DATES FOR YOU DIARY

TUE 23RD MARCH – PTA MEETING

19TH APRIL – BLUE BAGS ARRIVE HOME

FRI 2ND APRIL – LAST DAY OF TERM

MON 19TH APRIL – SCHOOL RESUMES

FRI 23RD APRIL – BLUE BAGS COLLECTED

SAT 12TH JUNE – SCHOOL SUMMER FAIR

FRI 18TH JUNE/ 25TH JUNE – SCHOOL SPORTS DAY

21ST-23RD JUNE – P7'S VISIT TO MEARNS ACADEMY.

Auchinblae Parks Committee



Who are they?

Auchinblae Parks Committee is a voluntary group of residents entrusted with the management of the recreational facilities within and around the village

Which facilities?

The Den

Including a woodland walk; tennis courts; bowling and putting greens; childrens' play area and adventure playground. This secluded park is very popular with adults and children of all ages

The Football Pitch

Which received particular attention last year. Hopefully a coach will be inspired to form a new local team!

Gilbert's Hill

The ground surrounding the War Memorial overlooking the village. The trees in this area form part of a village woodland management scheme

The Golf Course

Recently extended to provide greater safety and scope for players. This popular 9 hole course was registered this year with Grampian Tourist Board

Why do we need a Committee?

- **These areas belong solely to the village**
- **These areas are not maintained by the local Authority**
- **The Committee are custodians on your behalf**
- **The Committee are responsible for managing and maintaining these areas**

If you are interested in becoming involved watch out for our Springtime "Work Day in the Den" poster

Auchinblae Community Association

Auchinblae Community Association wish to thank all who attended the Burns' Supper contributing to a most enjoyable evening. A full programme of excellent speakers and musical entertainment ensured a happy audience whose favourable comments are much appreciated.

Dates to Note: Gala : 24th - 29th May. Art Show: 3rd - 5th September. Christmas Concert: Friday 3rd December.

Auchinblae Pre-School Group

Pre-school Group Sessions at the Village Hall

Mother & Toddlers
Mondays, 09.30am – 11.30am

2's Group
Thursdays, 12.45pm – 2.15pm

Play Group
Monday to Friday,
9.15 ~ 11.30/ 11.45 am (flexible pick-up)

Please contact Enrolment Secretary, Trish 01561 340534
For further information.



OPEN DAY

Wednesday 3rd March
9.30a.m.
at the Village Hall
Refreshments will be served.

Please contact Pam on 01561 320 168
for further details.

AUCHENBLAE SURGERY

Continuing Improvements to the Surgery

Patients may have noticed that we have had CCTV cameras and security lighting fitted in the car park. We do appreciate that members of the public will use the car park from time to time outwith opening hours and in particular that there are some younger people who use the car park for skateboarding etc.

While we have no problems with this occurring, there have been several acts of vandalism in the past – undoubtedly the responsibility of a small minority of teenagers using the area. The money required to repair the vandalism is money that would otherwise have gone to improve services/equipment for all patients of the practice. Anyone using the car park outwith surgery hours should be mindful that the CCTV cameras are now operational 24 hours per day.

A section of the reception hatch has been lowered to improve access for wheelchair users, and there will be minor changes made to the disabled toilets.

There are now two new car parking spaces near to the front door of the surgery designated for use by disabled and less able patients. Handrails have been fitted to improve access to the surgery from these car parking spaces. We are less than happy with the appearance of the rails and are investigating how this could be improved. However, they undoubtedly make access to the surgery safer.

Now that we have increased the number of parking spaces there should be sufficient parking area within the car park at the rear of the surgery, and it would be appreciated if visitors to the surgery did not create danger for passing traffic by parking on the street.

Computer Training And A Messenger Colour Section

The Messenger has been offered funds from the European Community via the **Direct Grants** scheme to Develop the Newsletter. Due to time constraints



The areas that the money may be spent on are detailed below but the project must end by September 2004.

1 Computer Training

Please check the village notice boards for further details of timings and location of possible courses.

A course may well be organised later in the spring for interested parties who would like a shot at **Producing an Issue of the Messenger** obviously with some help from the old hands or on their own if they so wish.

At this time more basic computer courses are being organised, keep eye on the village notice board.

We have as yet to source lecturers, a location and gather interested parties in a very short period of time. We will keep our fingers crossed that this does happen.

2 A Colour Section subject to the production team agreeing this would possibly be distributed with the next 6 Messengers, where clubs and other organisations can publish their activities, in as you would expect "colour". We must have them printed by late summer. They could then be distributed within the Messenger throughout 2004 and into 2005.

We would be very interested if for instance a class at Auchinblae School would like to use one of these sections or a part of it to publicise what they have done during the year. But it will be open to any one with a strong link to the village or surrounding areas.

3 The Messenger Website will be upgraded subject to agreement to allow easier navigation and to let non Techy People use it to publish the online version.

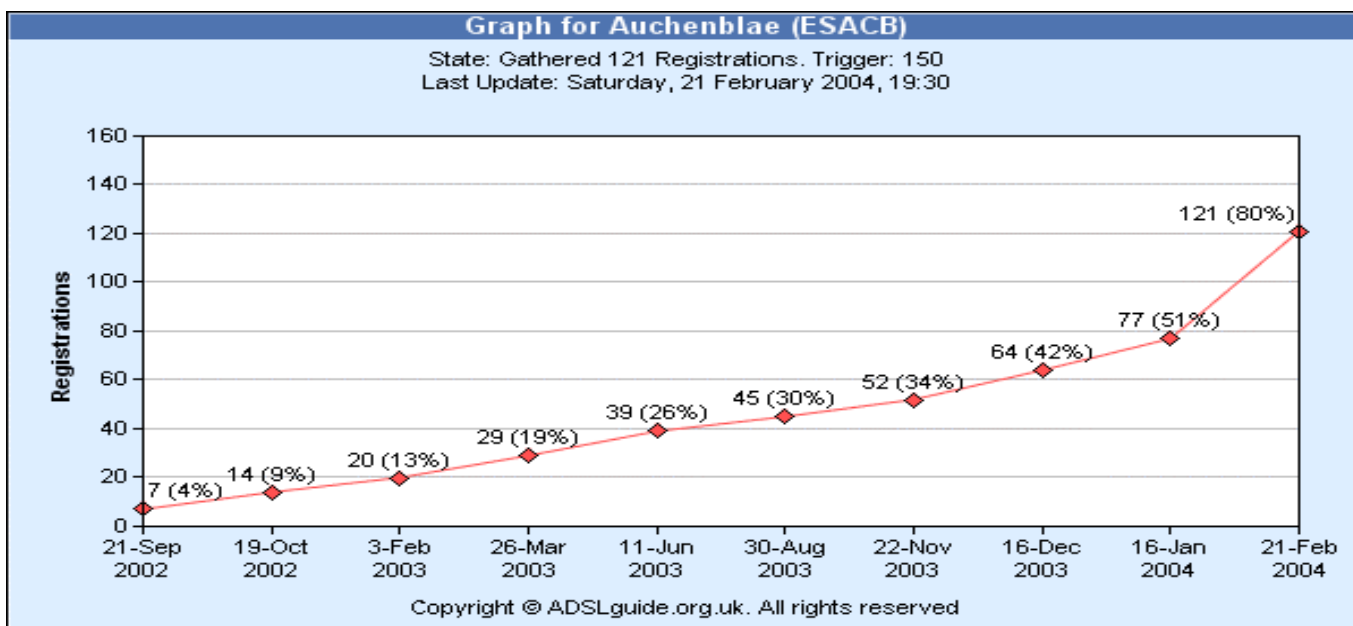




BROADBAND INTERNET ACCESS IN AUCHENBLAE

BT has set a trigger of 150 users on the Auchinblae exchange registering an interest but not actually ordering broadband to make it commercially viable to install ADSL facilities. The Auchinblae exchange includes all the numbers in Fordoun and the surrounding district.

As the graph below shows as of Saturday the 21st February 2004, there are 121 registered interests in the scheme. It is good news that 43 of these interests were in a four-week period from mid January 2004 to Mid February 2004. This is not unusual in exchanges nearing their trigger and it is hoped that March will be as productive



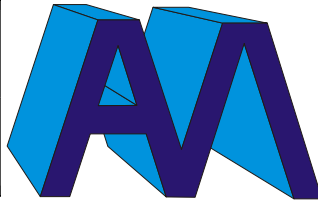
If this high level of interest is shown in the next month or two, the Auchinblae Exchange will hit the 150 trigger probably in April 2004 with BT likely producing a ready for service date usually some 5 months after the trigger is reached. This may well be in September going by the example of a number of exchanges shown on the www.adslguide.org.uk site.

So if you have not done so please register at <http://www.bt.com/choosebroadband> or at any participating Internet Service Provider if you would rather use another provider.

Disclaimer: The Messenger does not in any way recommend BT or any other ISP for Internet services.



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, Drumlithie Post Office and Fordoun Post Office.

Auchenblae Messenger Supplement
MONTHLY MEMO

Mon. 1 st Marsh	Heritage Society	Church Hall
Wed. 3 rd March	Pre-school Open Day	Village Hall
Thurs. 4 th March	WRI Meeting	Redhall, Fordoun
Fri. 5 th March	World Day of Prayer	Auchenblae Church
Wed. 17 th March	Auchenblae Guild	Church Hall
Tuesday 23 rd March	PTA Meeting	Auchenblae School
Sat. 27 th March	Spring Ceilidh	Village Hall
<u>Community Association</u>	24 th - 29th May	GALA
	3 rd – 5th September	ART SHOW
	3 rd December	CHRISTMAS CONCERT
<u>Auchenblae School PTA</u>	23 rd March	PTA Meeting
	2 nd April	Last Day of Term
	19 th April	'Blue Bags' distributed
	19 th April	School resumes
	23 rd April	'Blue Bags' collected
	12 th June	School Summer Fair
	18 th or 25 th	June School Sports Day (Weather permitting)
	21 st - 23 rd June	P7 Visits to Mearns Academy.
<u>CHRISTIAN AID WEEK</u>	9 th – 15 th May.	Watch this space for details!

ALL INFORMATION FOR INCLUSION IN THE APRIL MEMO
SHOULD BE GIVEN TO ANN RENNIE, 'MERNIS HOWE' Tel. 01561 320622
BY 15TH MARCH 2004

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

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

Otherwise, hand to Ross Muiry— Marybank. 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>