

Auchenblae Messenger

Founded in 1999 by Donald B. Rennie

Autumn Edition

VOLUME 19 ISSUE 3

SEPTEMBER 2017

From The Editor

As is obvious from some of the articles in this issue there has been a busy summer in Auchenblae. The weather has not managed to completely dampen our spirits and we have plenty more to look forward to.

The next issue will be the Christmas one and i will start collecting for it in November. I can be reached at barpollybar@gmail.com



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Memo Date

The Next Memo is scheduled for November 2017 if you have any upcoming event dates please send them to :
auchenblae_memo@hotmail.co.uk or call Lindsay on
01561 320242. by 20th October 2017

MESSENGER & MEMO DISTRIBUTION TEAM

We are always looking for volunteers to assist in distribution. It doesn't take long and you get some exercise & get to meet people—how good is that!

Please contact Ann Anderson on
320524 to help



Auchenblae Guild

At last the long summer break is past and we look forward to starting our new season of meetings. Our theme this year is "Go In Love". "Go In Joy" was a very good theme and we promise that you will enjoy "Go In Love" just as much. We start on Wednesday 20th September in the Church Hall at 2.00pm as usual. It is a Welcome Back Session and Barbara will give the latest update on the Guild Projects. We hope to see all our present members on that day and will be delighted to see anyone else, male or female, who would like to give us a try. There is always a strong feeling of fellowship whenever we get together. Come and join us.

After the success of our Autumn Fair last year we have decided to hold another one this year on Saturday 4th November in the Village Hall. Details of stalls and times will be posted around the village and in the local press nearer the date. Keep an eye open for them

Road Closure notification from Councillor George Carr

On the C19K & C1K for a period of 5 Days

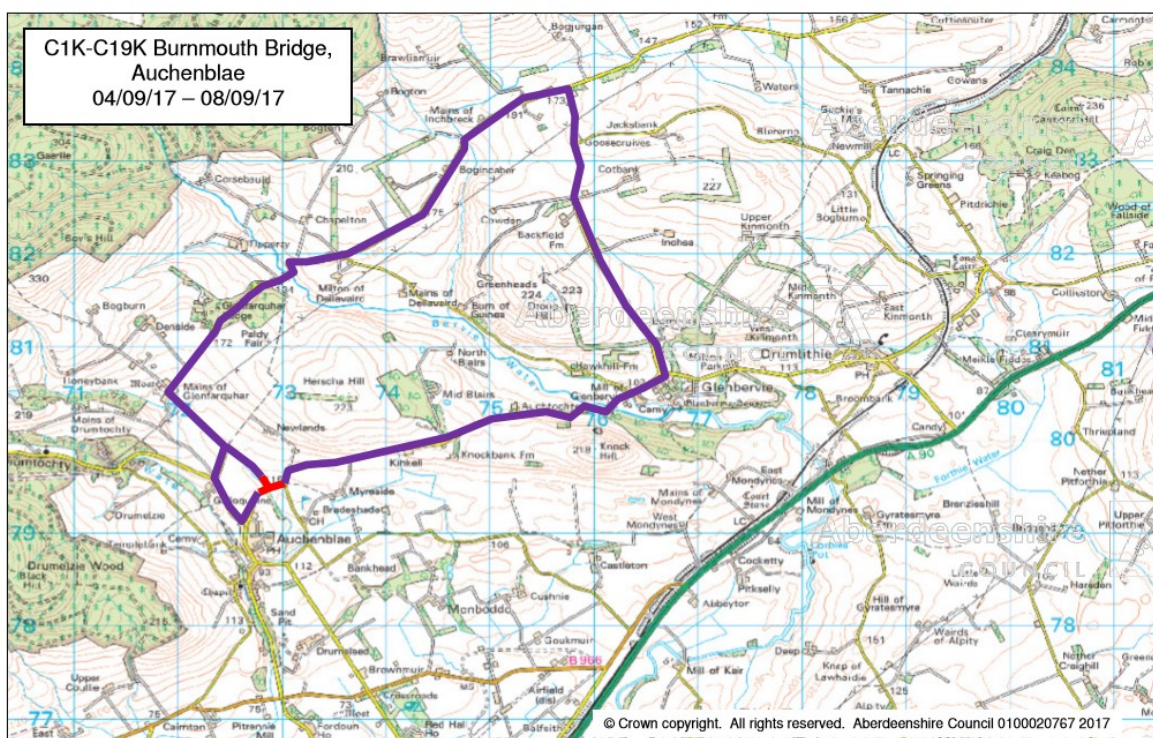
Commencing Monday 4th September 2017

Site notices will be erected in due course indicating the temporary restriction to traffic and the alternative route via

Local Diversion – C7K – U110K – C1K – U75K – C19K and vice versa

Diversion - C1K - U69K near Fetteresso Cemetery, Stonehaven – U69K – U70K Broomhill Road – C1K Kirkton Road – C1K Auchenblae Road – A90T – B966 – C7K – C1K Auchenblae and vice versa

EMERGENCY AND PEDESTRIAN ACCESS TO BE MAINTAINED. VEHICULAR ACCESS TO AFFECTED PROPERTIES TO BE MAINTAINED WHENEVER POSSIBLE



Closure —

Local Diversion —

Aberdeenshire Council



See more on page 7



Auchenblae Friendship Group

" Wherever you are it is your friends who make your world."



We, the members of the Friendship Group, would like to prove the truth of that statement to you. We are always very happy to welcome new friends on Wednesday mornings from 10.00am to 11.45am in the Church Hall. Between us we try to offer a varied programme with something to suit everyone. It is a good chance, at least once a week, to get out of the house and join with others for a cuppie, a fine piece, a blether and to be entertained. Come and give us a try.

"The Clubbie"

**"There is singing, there is chatter and a general hub-bub
When you join the Auchenblae Friendship Club"***

Since coming to live in Auchenblae, (albeit at weekends and when I am on holiday), over 3 years ago, I have felt "at home" (but that could be because I have discovered that the Village is in my DNA as many of my relatives came from here and the surrounding area!).

From those working in the shop, to the members of the Church, from the Walking Group members, the Heritage Society to the Friendship Group to name a few groups, I have been made to feel most welcome, and one of the societies that I drop in as an occasional member is the Friendship Group.

Each Wednesday during school term time at the Church Hall from 10.00 - 11.45 a.m. the Auchenblae Friendship Group. The Group is affectionately known as "The Clubbie" and has been in operation for a number of years now. Under the stewardship of Barbara Strouts and her committee they devise interesting programmes whether it be "outside" speakers, individual members giving presentations, monthly bingo sessions, games mornings and quizzes- there is something for everyone. Many of the speakers return as they enjoy coming along to speak to the assembled company. Also there is a lot of talent within the present membership with members devising musical presentations, to keep fit and poetry sessions to name a few.

I have made several visits to the Club and I have been to feel most welcome. There is much laughter and chatter. The Clubbie has started for the Autumn season and at my last visit we were all fine singing fettle as we had an old fashioned singalong. Yes, we are ready to go on Britain's Got Talent! What name we would give ourselves is debatable!

"The Clubbie" is open to anyone who feels they need company (and we all need company from time to time) and you will be most welcome to join in. A nominal weekly fee is charged to cover costs. So don't be shy, give us a try.

The spirits of the high peaks
are calling-
Calling me down the vale,
The clapping winds are call-
ing,
calling me through a land-
scape's
wintry pale.

The spirits of the high rills
ripple their pebbled song of
the free-
Come again, come again,
beckoning, calling me-
You wanderer of our lonely
wilds,
Come join with us, embrace
with us, share the peace and
solitude with us for a while.

Come to where our sunsets
blaze their glory,
Where our silvered heights
to open skies scribe their
story;
For the splendour of our
wild ways you were born
to roam carefree,
And the wanderlust you
nurture
within your heart, once more
our call will set free.

Peter Morriss 27.02.2016

Auchenblae
Under white scudding
Clouds
Hails
Early morning sounds of
Natures
Bird song
Lively
Arias
Enriching the rising day

© Peter Morriss 09.08.2017

Another Acrostic. Please
keep them coming. Auchen-
blae is a lovely place that
should inspire many of us.

Auchenblae Community Defibrillator

Nearly 2 years on from being installed the defibrillator has served its purpose and has given me satisfaction knowing that our community know here it is and how and when to use it. It has saved one life and I'm truly grateful for that.

I would also like to thank Auchenblae Community association for their help and support from day one, as well as Shirley Castles for the continual fundraising by way of the bonus ball, Macphie of Glenbervie & Roseanne Brown for their recent donations, and everyone else who has contributed funds to make sure it remains in service.

I will be leaving the village in October and will hand the overseeing and upkeep to Karen Newstead from the village who has kindly stepped forward to take this on.

Please continue to support this vital piece of equipment.

Thanks

Mark

VILLAGE SHOP

"Use it or lose it". This is very true. We in Auchenblae are fortunate to have a shop but if not enough people use it, how long will it be here? Of course those with families could probably not do all of their shopping locally but if they did use it some of the time, it would help. Tesco and other delivery vans are often seen in the village, on line shopping having become very popular these days but think of those who perhaps live alone and do not drive, especially if they are not exactly "spring chickens" and don't have the wherewithal to do emailing, they depend on our shop which also has a hosted post office service where on certain days pensions can be collected or one can withdraw money from one's account, pay electricity or other bills etc. In addition people from outside the village itself make use of this service. Where would they be without this amenity?

Yes, use it or lose it!
(A concerned villager)

Gardens Open Weekend - 29th and 30th July 2017.

"It was a stoater of a Weekend"

"Oh, what a glorious thing to be- A great big grown up busy, busy bee" so sang Arthur Askey; And there were certainly lots of "grown up bees" (and junior bees too!) in the village, busy in their hives and gardens, preparing for this year's Annual Gardens Open Weekend.

This year's gardening hosts were Gillian and Graham at Fernlea; Nicola and Jamie at Mayfield House, Mark and Nathan at Finella View; and Katrina and Bernie at Galloquhine; all first time participants.



This year, on the Saturday, I was accompanied by three friends, all making their first visit to Auchenblae; Linda, an allotment veteran and avid plantswoman, Isobel who gardens under duress but is keen to know more and Corinne, newly retired and a rookie gardener. Then there's me - who watches every TV gardening programme known to mankind!

The sun was shining and we managed to visit all four gardens in under 2 hours. We were amazed at the range of gardens and the ingenuity of the gardeners in turning what were challenging areas into "pockets of delight". Each garden was awash with a profusion of colours and a rich tapestry of planting. If I was a bee I would be so, so happy buzzing around collecting nectar from each garden. We came away with lots of idea for our own plots and gardens. A very grateful thanks go to the hosts for making us most welcome and letting us, the public, into their gardens.

After a fair amount of walking it was off to the Village Hall for a Strawberry Tea and we were not disappointed. My friends could not believe their eyes when they saw all the home bakes and of course the strawberry tarts laid out in the centre tables in the Hall. We were fully restored after the feast.

Next day we had a terrific downpour before we commenced for business. However the rain did not deter people from coming out to visit and we, "bees" whether in the gardens or in the Hall, were as busy as ever. I was stationed at the book stall and I was in a good position to hear the public's remarks. Judging from the feedback everyone had a good time.

A feature of Gardens Weekend Event is the home made produce stall and the home grown plants which are for sale. Together with the Raffle and second hand books, the goods "flew off" the shelves. There was a great "buzz" in the Hall on both days.

Bees, as you know, produce honey and I am delighted to report that £2,124.92 was raised for Church funds.

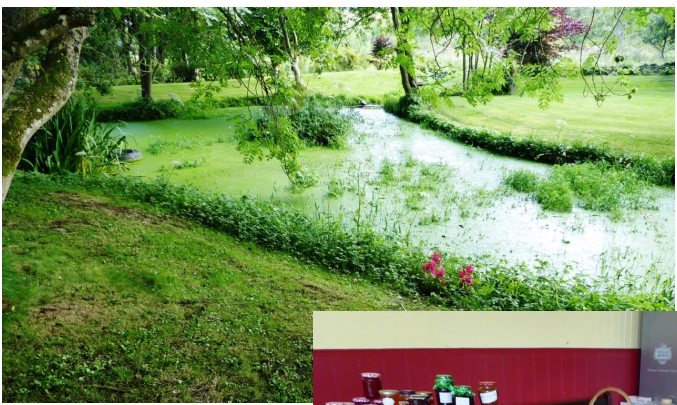
A great deal of work goes into such an event and Jenny Thomson and her team of "worker bees" should be congratulated in their organising.

My friend Corinne summed up Gardens Open Weekend in an email received by me afterwards:-

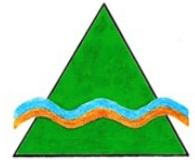
"Thank you for inviting us to Gardens Open Weekend and for introducing us to the lovely village of Auchenblae. The gardens were wonderful and the hosts and everyone we met either in the Village or in the Hall made us so welcome. I can see why you enjoy going to Auchenblae in your leisure time. We will be back."

Space does not permit me to say more about the individual gardens but to paraphrase Jim McColl from Beechgrove Garden - "It was a stoater of a weekend."

Karen Martin".



Auchenblae Parks Committee



Auchenblae Parks Committee (APC) is delighted to announce that the new Bike Trail/Pump Track at the football pitch, is fully open for everyone, young and not so young, to enjoy. The track has been created to provide a fun, but challenging, route around the pitch, whilst making full use of the natural layout of the site. The track has been heavily used over the summer holidays, and feedback has been very positive. Signage around the track helps everyone get the most out of the facility. Please take notice of the safety advice, and always wear a helmet.

The track has been generously funded by Tullo Windfarm and Aberdeenshire Council. Maintenance and upkeep of the track falls to APC.

Over the last few years we have added a climbing net, an outdoor gym and now the bike track to the village. If you have any suggestions for further additions, then please get in touch. All of these improvements have been made possible by the local windfarms. Without these financial awards, we would not be in a position to undertake any of these projects.

APC manages the golf course, the Den (including the tennis courts, putting green, bowling green, adventure playground, outdoor gym, play area and woodland walks) and the football pitch and bike track on behalf of the village. All of these facilities are owned by the village. Nothing is owned or maintained by Aberdeenshire Council, and no funds are provided by the Council for the ongoing maintenance of these areas. The upkeep of all these facilities is predominantly funded by income from the golf course, which, like most golf courses, has seen a continued drop in income over the last few years. To ensure we have enough funds to continue to maintain these recreational areas, we need more people playing golf and taking out memberships. So please encourage anyone you know to play and pay at Auchenblae Golf Course.

We would also like to gain some new committee members to help with the running of these facilities. You are invited to attend any of the committee meetings, which are held on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm. Meetings are held in the Den Pavilion from May to September, and in the Committee Room of the Village Hall October to April. The next meeting is Tuesday 26th September in the Den Pavilion.

Should you wish to make contact with Auchenblae Parks Committee, please email auchenblae@parks@gmail.com.



KIDS AND TEEN ART CLASSES

WITH ARTIST JENNY WATT COLBECK

There are a few spaces left for the classes below;

S1/2 Mondays 4.30-5.30pm

P5 Tuesdays 3.30-4.30pm

P5/6 Tuesdays 5-6pm

P4 Wednesdays 3.30-4.30pm

S4 Wednesdays 5.30-6.45pm

P7 Thursdays 3.30-4.30pm

S3 Thursdays 5-6.15pm

Cost is £8 per hour and £10 for the S3 and S4 classes.

ADULT DRAWING CLASSES FOR BEGINNERS AND INTERMEDIATE LEVEL.

These classes will be starting at the end of September.

Anyone interested in developing their drawing skills in a small group setting please contact me for further information.

ALL CLASSES ARE HELD IN BRIDGEND STUDIO, THE WATERS, AUCHENBLAE.

CONTACT JENNY ON 01561 320998 jennycolbeck1@gmail.com www.jennywattcolbeck.co.uk

The North East Open Studios Event will run from **Sat 9th to Sun 17th of September.**

This is a wonderful informal opportunity for you to visit the various venues, meet the artists and view paintings, prints, mixed media, ceramics and sculpture.



This year we have a large group of artists exhibiting their work locally.

In the village of Auchenblae Jenny Watt Colbeck will open the doors of Bridgend studio,

Whilst across the road at The Annex of Denmill, Brenda Forbes plays host to artists John Burness, Fiona Haddow, Fran Marquis and Wendy Page.

At Galloquhine farmhouse, Katrina McIntosh will be at home in her studio space.

Meanwhile north of the village at Crann-Tara studio, Templehill, Margaret Pitt will be in her print studio and sharing her lovely venue with April Pressley, Rosy Long, Shelia McFarlane and Linda Masson.

This event is free to visitors, for opening times [which may differ from venue to venue] please go to **www.northeastopenstudios.co.uk** or pick up a catalogue.

During the week follow our yellow signage in and around the village.



**Auchenblae Village Hall
Saturday September 23rd
Silent Auction
& Bric-a-Brac Extravaganza
Soup & Sweet Lunches too!**

**Doors open at 11am allowing time to
browse the goods on 'Auction' and to pick up bargains
at the 50p, £1, £2 and misc. ta-
bles.**

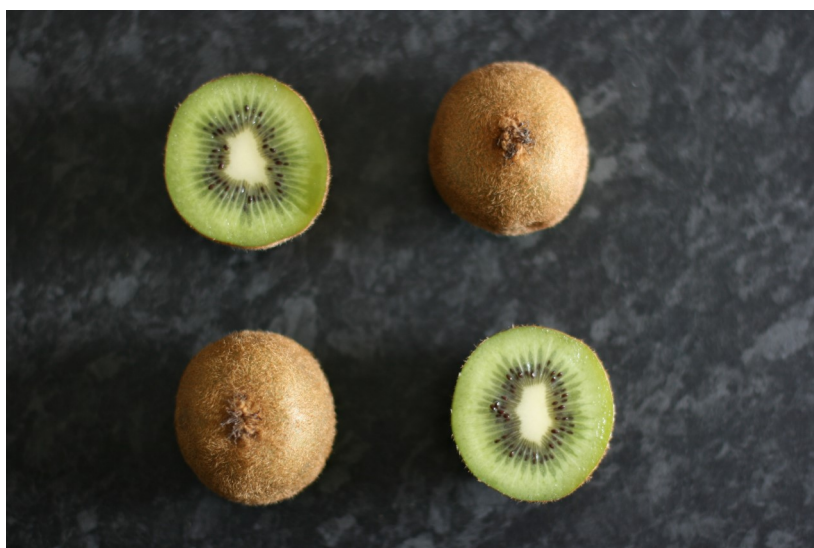
**£1.00 on entry for your individual
bidding number.**



Bidding closes at 1.30pm.

Lunches £4.00. Primary schoolchildren £2.00

**Proceeds towards a wheelchair area in the church and
additional safety provisions**



01561 340203

Dates for your diary

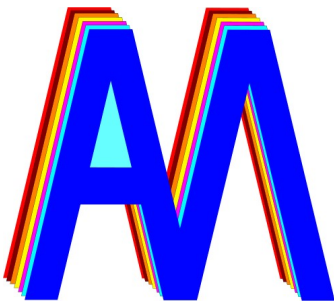
NEOS
Silent Auction

9th-17th Sept
23rd Sept

Various
Village Hall



Check out the social community network online, advertise events, book the hall, promote your group and lots more: [www.http://theblae.org/](http://theblae.org/)



Also, did you know the Auchenblae Messenger is available online for convenient reading or ex-residents wanting to stay in touch. Find us at www.mearns.org/auchenblae



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