

The

Auchenblae Messenger

Volume 10 Issue 1

March 2008



Inside this issue:

West Mearns
Parish Church 2

Auchenblae Guild 3

Friendship Group 4

Drama Group 4

Parks Committee 6

Tracing a Mrs Duthie 7

Community
Association 8

Memo 8

The Messenger is 10 years old this year!!!

A huge “THANK YOU” from the Auchenblae teenagers.

As some of you are aware, a good friend of ours left Auchenblae to start a new life in Australia. Shaun Valentine was brought up in the ‘Blae and we have all been great friends through out school. We desperately wanted to give him a proper send off. The church kindly gave us the hall so we could have a party, and what a great night we had. We would like to thank the church for making this possible, and also the neighbours for being so understanding. Shaun is doing great, he keeps regular contact with us and life is looking pretty good.

From Alanah Mills & Sophie Mathers



HOGMANAY FUND—Readers may be pleased to know that following an appeal for suggestions for good causes to receive the surplus “Hogmanay fund” money, the money was equally split between the pensioners Christmas Lunch and the Auchenblae Youth Drama Group.

The fund is now officially closed and the committee disbanded.

West Mearns Parish Church & Auchinblae Guild

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



9.30 a.m. Every Sunday at Fettercairn

11.00 a.m. First Sunday of the month Glenbervie

11.00 a.m. Every other Sunday in the month

Service at Auchinblae Church

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

VISITORS ESPECIALLY WELCOME AT ALL SERVICES

WEST MEARN'S HOLY WEEK & EASTER 2008—DIARY: SERVICES & EVENTS

WEDNESDAY HEALING SERVICE 19th March; 7.30pm – Fettercairn Church

An informal act of worship which includes praying for those whose names are given and the ministry of healing touch. All are welcome.

MAUNDAY THURSDAY 20th March; 7.30pm – Auchinblae Church

Jesus said: *"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, as I have loved you."* (John 13:34)

This act of worship includes the celebration of the Sacrament of the Last Supper. All are welcome.

OR MAUNDAY THURSDAY 20th March; 7.30pm - Auchinblae Church

Congregational AGM and Supper including short act of Maunday Thursday Worship. All members and friends of the congregation welcome.

Jesus said: *"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, as I have loved you."* (John 13:34)

GOOD FRIDAY 21st March; 7.30pm – St Andrew's Church, Fasque

"God showed his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us". (Romans 5:8)

A joint act of worship, with our brothers and sisters in Christ of West Mearns, Aberluthnott linked with Laurencekirk and the Scottish Episcopal Church reflecting on the events of Good Friday. This service is followed by hot cross buns and refreshments. All are welcome.

EASTER DAY Sunday 23rd March; Fettercairn 9.30am - Auchinblae 11.00am

Both of these family services will be followed by a short informal celebration of communion for those who wish to stay on. All are welcome.

CHILDHOOD MEMORIES—Sheena M. Auld

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.

The Messenger apologises unreservedly to Sheena for the misprint in the last edition of The Messenger. There were a number of mistakes added to Sheena's wonderful poem and we shall be undertaking more rigorous checks to ensure this does not happen again. We have corrected the poem and above is the correct reading. We apologise again Sheena and hope this does not deter you from submitting more of your work in the future.

Regards, Craig Sandeman—Co-editor

Auchenblae Guild

The March meeting of the Guild will be in the Church Hall on **Wednesday 19th at 2.30 pm**. The speaker is Mr Malcolm McCoig who will give a talk on Art Therapy. This promises to be a very interesting talk and all are welcome, whether Guild members or not.

Friday 7th March is the World Day of Prayer Service. This will be held in Marykirk, look out for further details.

We have advanced notice of a real treat for Wednesday 2nd April. We have managed to persuade Ury Players to come and entertain us. We hope that there will not be any snow, as there was for their last visit. A good time will be had by all. Keep your eyes open for the posters with full details nearer the time.

Barbara Strouts

Auchinblae Drama Group



On the 15th and 16th December Auchinblae Drama Group undertook a huge task in presenting Charles Dickens "A Christmas Carol". Nerves were jangling and tempers were fraying as the curtain rose on our new expanded group of actors and backstage crew. The curtain also rose on our new tabs, curtains and backdrops which the Community Association kindly agreed to us erecting.

This was the first full length play the Group had undertaken and what a play to tackle. The list of characters was awesome and the complexity of scene changes was a challenge to us all. The result was excellent though and our gamble paid off with amazing feedback from the village. We thank all those who gave us support and made it all worthwhile.—see opposite page for photos.

We have now decided on our next project which will be an evening of One Act Plays to be performed on the evenings of 7th and 8th June. The plays are "Last Tango in Auchinblae" by David Tristam, "Overtime" by H Connolly and "Joining the Club" by David Tristam. Please check out our website for further details www.auchinblaedramagroup.co.uk. For advanced ticket reservations please email tickets@auchinblaedramagroup.co.uk or speak to any of the group if you see us around the village.

We are still on the look out for new members. The more the merrier. We are on the lookout for absolutely anyone, if you want to tread the boards or bake us some cakes, we will welcome you with open arms.

We are also delighted to announce that the Auchinblae Youth Drama Group are back together for another performance. Casting and rehearsals to start soon for a performance in June this year. We wish them luck with their next production, a Greek tale entitled "The Pomegranate Seeds", and if it is nearly as good as "Twelfth Night" then we are all in for a treat.

Following the success of "Twelfth Night", the themed Medieval Day "The Pomegranate Seeds" will be performed in the Den with a themed Olympics Day. We are all looking forward to this.

The Youth Drama Group is run by Gillian Siddons, Judith Houghton, Natasha Kerr and Tracey Harrison-Lewis.

Also on the cards is our Christmas Pantomime. We have been keen for the past couple of years to do a pantomime and we are currently looking at titles and deciding on the best to perform.

Look out for more details and keep checking our website for the latest news.

Auchinblae Friendship Group



We are now at the end of another session, due to the early Easter. As usual we have tried to provide a varied programme. Our last session will be 19th March. We will be starting up again on **Wednesday 9th April** after a two week holiday. Again we would like to invite anyone who is at a loose end on Wednesday mornings to join us in the Church Hall at 10.15am. We offer different activities, but most of all friendship.

I will probably be missing to start with. I wish to thank all the members of the group for the support they have given me over the last few difficult months. I sincerely hope to be back with you all soon.
Barbara Strouts

Auchinblae Drama Group

“A Christmas Carol”



Auchinblae Amateur Dramatic Society 1936-60
Celebrating 21st Annual Production
at Drumtochter Arms Hotel - 30th March 1960.

Technically this year is the 70th anniversary of amateur dramatics in Auchinblae in one form or another. Have a look at this picture dated 1960 proclaiming the 21st annual production and let us know if you are in it or know any of the people who were

Auchinblae Parks Committee

After a bleak winter we hope that Spring is on its way. Down in the Den we are awaiting splashes of colour from the daffodil bulbs planted last year. We've been busy preparing for the new season with work ongoing to freshen up the Victorian Pavilion. The official Den Opening Day is planned for **Saturday 26th April**. As usual Soup and Sandwich Lunches will be served. Look out for our posters regarding this and the Annual Work Day.



Last year brought a surprise donation of £70 from Charles and Brenda Gordon and their Sunday Club children. This kind gesture certainly encouraged the committee. We have bought two 'adolescent' Rowan trees (Snow Queen and Jacquemontii) and planted them in the small wooded area overlooking the Children's Playground. We decided that this was the most fitting place and sincerely hope these trees will be left to mature as a reminder of the 'Lighthouse' presence in Auchinblae.

Irresponsible Dog Owners – Who are they?

Our apologies yet again to the majority who are responsible and whose dogs are welcome in the Den. However, some people simply do not clean up after their pets! The Den suffers persistently and this is not acceptable. We have put up signs, but these are ignored. What more can we do?

May we also remind you at this time, to respect our 'Dog Exclusion Zones' in both the Adventure and Children's Playground areas. These restrictions are applied to ensure a safe and hygienic environment for children, who are of course, our priority.—(please see comment below)

On this matter, it has been brought to our attention that the road leading from the Square to the Den and on to the football pitch is being treated as a 'dog exercising' area. While these sections of roadway are not strictly in our care, we would request that the same respect be given here. Pedestrians, especially Mums and Dads with toddlers or buggies who have to step off the road to avoid vehicles are often confronted with dog poo. We will enquire as to the possibility of a further dog bin on the football road stretch, but ultimately dog owners should be responsible and have consideration for the wider community. The local dog warden is Gail Abel and can be contacted on 01569 768224.

The new season at the Golf Course starts on **1st April** and we're looking forward to welcoming back our members and the many visitors who enjoy this wonderful facility.



How Lucky We Are

What was the first thing you saw this morning? Your face in the mirror? Lucky you. I have not seen my face for 25 years. Why?

Because I caught the Toxocara virus when I was two years old.

This is an infection caused by parasitic roundworms which live in dog's mess. And the dog mess can contaminate soil.

All because I touched some dog poo when I was little in the local park a microscopic worm had damaged my retina. Result - blinded for the rest of my life.

Chat Article by Rachel Lane.—thanks to Shirley Castles for supplying this.

Editor's Comment...

Thanks to Shirley Castles and Jenny Thomson for highlighting a serious issue. There would seem to be a dog poo problem in the village, one which was the issue of a number of comments last year. It is an unsightly and potentially dangerous problem for us all. Let's keep this lovely village clean for ourselves, our children and our visitors. We have a village to be proud of let's keep it that way.

Cheers, Craig

Mearns Community Transport

I would like to take this opportunity to remind organisers and members of community groups that the Mearns Community Bus is available for hire. It has room for 15 passengers and is equipped with a tail lift for those who would find the steps a bit tricky. For more information and enquiries please call Mearns Community Transport on 01561 377000 or send an e-mail to info@mearnscommunitytransport.org.



As of the beginning of February 08, Mearns Community Transport will also be operating a free weekly shoppers service for concession card holders to Laurencekirk which will call at both Auchinblae and Fordoun, the timetable is below.

FRIDAY

LAURENCEKIRK	9.10	11.00
FORDOUN	9.20	11.10
AUCHENBLAE	9.30	11.20
LAURENCEKIRK	9.45	11.35

Mearns Community Transport now has a web site which can be seen at www.mearnscommunitytransport.org.

MCT are also very keen to get feedback from the community on how they would like to see the community bus used. For all suggestions, ideas, criticisms or comments – all equally welcome, please contact MCT by phone 01561 377000, e-mail or in person at 8 High Street, Laurencekirk.

Thanks—Mark Graham – MCT Coordinator

Tracing Mrs Duthie

If anyone has details of a Mrs Dorothy Duthie who lived at Jade House, High Street, Auchinblae in 1985.

Please Contact

Jennifer Rutherford
Legal Executive
Marshall, Ross and Munro
Solicitors
106 Hamilton Road
Motherwell ML1 3DG
01698 263522

JRutherford@MarshallRossMunro.co.uk



Daffodil Tea

Saturday 12th April starts 10.00 a.m.

**Village Hall
Stalls, & Raffle**

**Children's Easter Bonnet
competition**



**Contact Margot Titmuss (320808) for more
information**



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



PRODUCTION TEAM

Donald Rennie
Craig Sandeman
Ann Rennie
Eddie Cairns
Kevin Newstead
Anne Anderson
Barbara Strouts
Colette Hoggmascall
Carol Shea
Gina Easter

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"Keeping you informed"

The Publisher of this issue was
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Anne Anderson, Sheena Auld, Carol Nelson, Anne Caird, Sheree Caird, Therese Hendry, Colette Hoggmascall, Ann Rennie, Trish MacEachern, Margaret Muiry, Barbara Strouts, Lois McCormick and Moira Hutchison.

Copies of the Messenger can be collected from the local shops and the Drumlithie Hotel

Auchenblae Messenger Supplement—MONTHLY MEMO

DATE	EVENT	PLACE	TIME
Wed. 12th March	Spring Bingo	Village Hall	7.00 p.m.
Sat. 12th April	Daffodil Tea	Village Hall	10.00 a.m.
Sun. 25th—Sat 31st May	Gala Week	Auchenblae	TBA
Sat & Sun. 7th & 8th Jun	One Act play evenings	Village Hall	TBA

ALL INFORMATION FOR INCLUSION IN THE APRIL MEMO

SEE NOTICE OUTSIDE THE POST OFFICE

Auchenblae Community Association

A Spring Bingo – Bingo Evening on **Wednesday 12th March** 7pm for 7.30pm. Raffle. Teas.

Gala Week – Gala Dates - Sunday 25th May – Saturday 31st May
– Suggestions for items for consideration for the Gala Programme would be welcome – please contact Sallyanne Morrison (320650) or Alice Morgan (320081) or any committee member **before our next meeting on 4th March.**



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

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

Otherwise, hand to Eddie Cairns, Glenside, Drumtochty. 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>