



Auchenblae Messenger

Founded in 1999 by Donald B. Rennie

VOLUME 15, ISSUE 1

MARCH 2013

From The Editor

If you have not had the chance to see the film on the floods in the Den do make an effort to. The power of water is unbelievable. I'm sure that we are all hoping for a big improvement in the weather. Winter has gone on for far to long.

As you can see there is a lot happening in Auchenblae over the coming weeks. Who says "Life in the country is boring"?

Contributions for the next Messenger will be required by 15th May.

Please note my new e-mail address is barpollybar@gmail.com

There will be a Memo in April and May if there are enough contributions to justify printing and distributing one. Please get in touch with Ann Rennie at Mernis Howe, Inverurie Street.

Happy Easter to you all.

Barbara

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Ross Muiry 2

Parks 4

FRIENDSHIP GROUP 6

Community Assoc. 6

Guild 6

Heritage Soc. 9

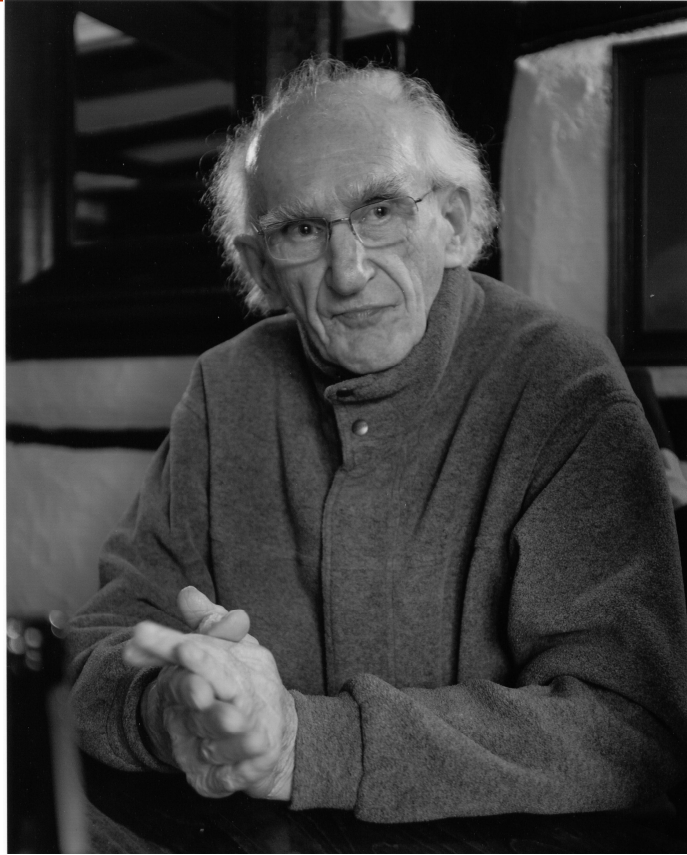
Church 10

The Messenger Memo

The next Messenger memo will contain information about forthcoming events in April and May and any short reports of events that took place earlier. Please contact Ann Rennie at Mernis Howe, Inverurie St. (tel. 01561 320622) before 15th March

Messenger and Memo Distribution

It is thanks to Ann Anderson and her team that the Messenger and the Memo are delivered to your door. We certainly owe them our gratitude. At times some members of the team may not be able to deliver for various reasons. Ann would be grateful if a few of you would volunteer to act as relief members. The rounds are short and should not take more than about 30 minutes a month. If you feel that you can help please phone **Ann on 320524.**



Dr Ross Muiry

M.B., Ch.B., FRCOG

1937—2013

“Absence is not forgetting”

Ross was a husband, a father, a grandfather, a doctor, obstetrician and gynaecologist which is enough to ask of anyone in any one lifetime. But it wasn't enough for Ross.

Throughout his long and distinguished career, Ross worked as a doctor all over Scotland, Stracathro in particular, and as a GP in Northern Ireland. Retiring to Auchenblae as the 4th generation of his family in the area he enjoyed his pastimes of fishing, walking and photography while tramping the many riverbanks in Aberdeenshire. And there would have been a fitting place to stop & remember Ross as a healer and friend and wish him well in his retirement but he had other ideas which took him out of a well earned retirement to the wilds of Malawi to set up teaching programmes with medical staff and improve care.

He returned to 'school' to update his medical skills and attended many interviews in Edinburgh prior to embarking on a task that would challenge people many years his junior.

At Embangweni hospital it was his vision to set up a special baby unit to look after the tiny, sick babies. Prior to Ross arriving the 'wee mites' (as Ross called them) were left to die.

He was well supported in his chosen cause by family and friends from all over even people he didn't know. Mountains were climbed, marathons run, lunches and cakes sold all in aid of Ross's cause. A band of faithful knitters produced a mountain of hats, vests and booties for his special babies. These stalwarts should know that every baby left hospital with a hat and bar of soap!

This is where he spent the last 7 years working and had indicated the next trip would be his last trip but we shall never know as he passed away suddenly while on holiday in Switzerland in January.

His many friends & family filled the church to almost overflowing to pay tribute & to hear about his life & work and a particularly touching tribute came from his grandchildren, Piers and Gabriella, in the form of a poem:

*We were very close to Grandpa
He was an inspirational man
He was kind and caring and gentle
He shared my love for books and chocolate
He was always interested in my art and photography
He always ate his pizza with a knife and fork
We will miss the reassuring sound of his whistling around the house
We will miss him.*

Many people will also know that Ross was a founding member of The Messenger and was he editor for many years before passing on the baton. I personally enjoyed our long debates over punctuation and in particular the use of the comma—this one is just for you Ross.

KN



*Thank
you*

Margaret Muiry and her family has asked The Messenger to pass on her grateful thanks for all the help & support she got following the sudden death of Ross. She was particularly touched by the way all her friends rallied round to help organise things, offering accommodation, help with arrangements and so on. She would also like to let everyone know that through the generous donations at the church, £1264 was raised to help carry on Ross's work in Malawi. Further donations have brought this total up to £2164

Auchenblae Parks Committee

Golf Course

Drainage works over winter should see noticeable improvement to the condition of the course.

We are pleased to welcome Robert Cattanach as our new Golf Course Convener. Having played golf competitively throughout Scotland, Bob's knowledge will surely be a valuable asset to the committee.

Membership for the new season is now available. Full membership - £150, Senior - £130, 16-17 year olds - £70 and under 16s - £35. If you are interested please contact Margo Titmuss on 320808.

The golf course has been surprisingly busy during the earlier part of this year; at times, the car park bursting at the seams! You're right - mums, dads and kids took to the slopes to enjoy the many forms of 'sledding'.

Providing there is enough snow to cause no damage to the "sacred grass", Auchenblae Parks Committee is happy for this tradition to continue, providing children are accompanied by an adult at all times.

Football Pitch We will cut the grass as normal, and live in hope that someone will come along to nurture our local youngsters to take up the game. Any volunteers? The majority of dog owners who use the area for exercise are responsible indeed, but may we once again remind the very few to PLEASE pick up after their pets.

The Den Oh dear!

Needless to say, we are very, very disappointed that much of the work done since 1998 to create an interesting extension to the Den, has suffered badly by the extreme weather and flooding on 23rd December.

We are actively assessing the damage to decide on the best way forward. Obviously this is a major project and will be very costly. We will prioritise the damage and act, as and when, we can afford repairs.

Thank you sincerely to those who have offered help. We will certainly need you. Please watch the noticeboard for details.



"The golf course has been surprisingly busy during the earlier part of this year"

Auchenblae Parks Committee

A. G. M

Village Hall Committee Room

Tuesday, 26th February at 7.30pm

Your presence and support would be welcome

Come and hear how all the recreation areas
in our village are managed and maintained



Auchenblae School Parent Council

3rd March - a cinema event. A showing of the Aardman Animation film Pirates in an Adventure with the Scientists. Donations would be welcome on arrival and there will be a tuck shop with snacks and refreshments.

23rd March - a Spring Fair in the school in the morning.

14th May advance notice. There will be a Bag2school collection on this date so look out for blue bags through your door a few weeks before. Please leave bags in the village clearly visible at the road side. Should you live out with the village contact **Isabelle 320759** prior to collection day. Thank you for your continued support.

"....We are open to anyone who is looking for friendship and entertainment."



Auchenblae Friendship Group

Our activities have been sadly curtailed by the weather since Christmas. However, nothing daunted, we will continue to meet in the Church Hall, weather permitting, on Wednesday mornings from 10.00am to 11.45am. We are open to anyone who is looking for friendship and entertainment. We are mainly pensioners, but you don't have to be one to join us. If you do decide to give us a try you will be very welcome. For more information call **Barbara on 320911.**

Auchenblae Community Association

Diary Dates: **Gala – Sunday 19th – Saturday 25th May**

Future Events:

The ACA would like to arrange another Open House general meeting this year for everyone to come and visit the hall and participate in discussions about the hall, events and community issues around Auchenblae and District. A date is yet to be confirmed and will be announced in due course.

Auchenblae Guild

The Guild is open to anyone who would like to meet with others for stimulating meetings and fellowship. We are open to all, men and women. We meet in the Church Hall on the third Wednesday of the month at 2.30pm. Our March meeting, on the 20th, will be led by the Leadership Team and will be a short AGM and a discussion topic. On April 17th we welcome Councillor Bill Howatson who will give a talk on "A Provost at Work". Do come and join us. You will be made to feel welcome.

DEN FLOOD RELIEF

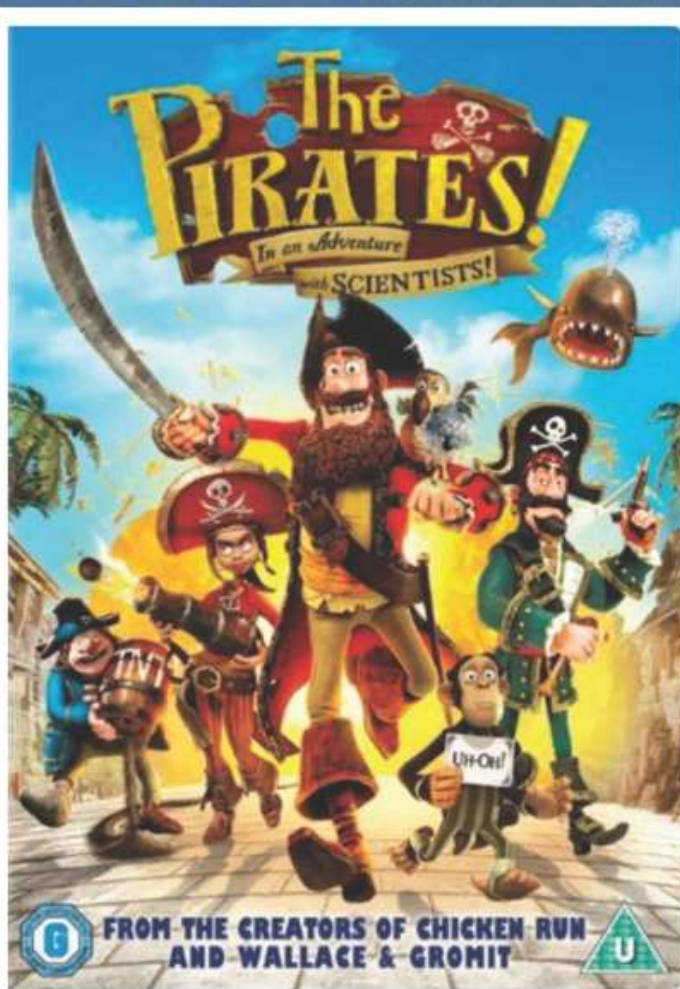
Bob Jamieson has produced a DVD of the recent Den flooding. He is selling copies for £5, all proceeds to the Den relief fund. Tel. 01561 320383

CINEMA EVENT

Sunday 3rd March 2013, 10.30 am

(Doors open 10.15 am)

Auchenblae Village Hall



The Pirates in an adventure with the Scientists follows the Pirate Captain and his crew of amateur pirates in their attempt to win the Pirate of the Year competition.

An animated adventure comedy film produced by Aardman Animations in partnership with Sony Pictures Animation is a fun filled adventure for all the family.

*Film run time 88 minutes
(excluding interval)*

Fundraising Event

This is a fundraising event organised by Auchenblae School and Nursery Parent Council. Donations on the door would be welcomed. A tuck shop with a range of very reasonably priced snacks and refreshments will be available. Please do not bring your own. Make use of the tuck shop and help us to raise funds for our local school and nursery.

Transition Mearns (TraM)

TraM is a passionate group of individuals concerned about the impacts of our actions and aims to rebuild resilience of the Mearns community with exciting local projects to make a positive difference to our world and quality of life. It allows us to take matters into our own hands and have fun in the process.

Join us for our first Spring work days at the Fettercairn community allotment, Saturday 16 and Sunday 17 March, 10am to 5pm each day. Bring a picnic lunch and find more information on our website: www.tram.btck.co.uk.

It's Earth Hour around the world on Saturday 23 March, 8.30-9.30pm! Help to combat climate change by switching off your lights and electrical appliances for this hour, Just one day of the year... See how you enjoy a dinner by candlelight, then maybe you can do like my household and make it one day each week! Find out more about Earth Hour at www.earthhour.org.

TraM will be running our first skill sharing event on Saturday 13 April at The Venue, Laurencekirk, 1-3pm. Come along for a family-friendly afternoon of story-telling and baking!

Join our Facebook group 'Transition Mearns (TraM)' or e-mail transition-mearns@gmail.com to join our mailing list. And please come along to the next TraM meeting (held on the second Tuesday of every month) on Tuesday 12 March at 7pm, venue TBC.

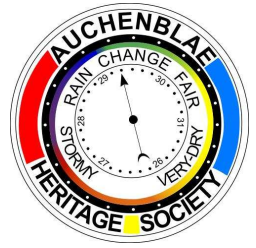
Auchenblae Drama Group



We are always on the look out for new members; people willing to have some fun on the stage are always welcome but we can also use other talents—joinery, painting, sewing, lighting, sound etc. Willing bodies are more important than skills—we can always teach you to use a light desk!

Call Kevin on 320471 or Craig on 07581 798732

Auchenblae Heritage Society



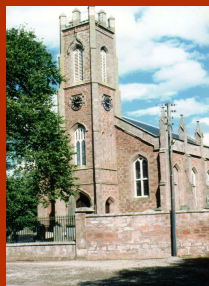
On Monday 3 December, David Doig, manager of Fettercairn Distillery, gave a highly informative and historical account of, not only Fettercairn Distillery, but of whisky in general. The talk really took off when the audience started asking lots of searching questions, and it appeared that with David's vast knowledge, there was a danger that the meeting might overrun. His namesake, Charles K Doig designed 57 distilleries in Scotland, with his trademark "Pagoda" easily recognised. He designed Auchenblae's former distillery.

Some very expensive bottles of Fettercairn whisky were on display, but sadly, no drams were offered.

"The Den - before and after"

In a change to our programme, on Monday 4 March at 7.30 in the church hall, **Bob Jamieson** will show his highly contrasting video of the opening day of The Den in 2011 to the utter devastation of the flood on 22/23 December 2012. This visual record of good and bad times is of great importance, not only to the village at present, but for future generations to witness what the weather can inflict on us, from glorious sunshine to rain of biblical proportions. Everyone should see this.





West Mearns Parish Church

SUNDAYS

9.30am: Fettercairn

11am: Glenbervie – first Sunday of the month

11am: Auchenblae - other Sundays

2.30pm: Queen Elizabeth Court, Fettercairn – usually last Sunday of the month—“All welcome”

SPRING DIARY: SERVICES + EVENTS

UNITED SERVICE AND CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, 17th March: 10.00am at Fettercairn Church followed by refreshments in the Church Hall

GLENBERVIE CHURCH COFFEE MORNING

Saturday, 23rd March, 10 – 11.45am in Drumlithie Village Hall.

HOLY WEEK + EASTER SERVICES:

MAUNDAY THURSDAY

28th March: 7.30pm – Glenbervie 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 welcome

GOOD FRIDAY

29th March: 7.30pm – Fettercairn Church

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. The service is followed by hot cross buns and refreshments. All welcome.

EASTER DAY Sunday, 31st March: Fettercairn: 9.30am Auchenblae: 11.00am

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Allelujah!

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

FETTERCAIRN GUILD COFFEE MORNING

Saturday, 20th April, 10 – 11.30am in Fettercairn Public Hall.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2013: 12th – 18th May

Today around 870 million people are desperate for food. One in eight people will go to bed hungry tonight. This is a scandal. But IF we **bite back at hunger** this Christian Aid Week we can help communities find ways to not only survive but to thrive, with enough food to eat not just today but tomorrow.

We are planning the usual house to house collection. If you are able to help, please contact Mrs June Scott, Tel: 01561-340482

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

On Sunday 26th May at Fettercairn: 9.30am and at Auchenblae at 11am

On Sunday 2nd June at Glenbervie at 11am

NEARLY NEW SALE, AUCHENBLAE VILLAGE HALL SATURDAY 2 MARCH 2013 0900-1100

"It is time for the latest in a string of Nearly New Sales run by Isabelle Riddoch and Gillian Milne of Auchenblae. The next sale will be held on Saturday 2 March 2013 between 0900 -1100 am at Auchenblae Village Hall. The sale will follow the usual format and on offer will be a wide variety of nearly new toys, games, books, puzzles, sports and musical equipment, clothing and nursery equipment. Pretty much anything your young ones from 0-16 years could desire!

This is the sixth year the sales have been running and over time they have attracted a very loyal (and growing!!) band of buyers, sellers and volunteer helpers. The sales represent an opportunity for parents, grandparents, family friends and local toddler/children's groups to buy very good quality equipment, in great condition at excellent prices; a real boost in the current climate when we are all "watching the pennies".

The girls hope to support a number of local good causes on this occasion and would urge you to come along on the day to support the event and grab some bargains.

The girls generally run 3 sales a year. One in March, the next around Aug/Sept and the last one in time for Christmas in November. Should you wish information on becoming a seller or helper at this or future sales, please get in touch with the girls on the contact details below:

Gillian Milne - 01561-320685/gillianmilne129@btinternet.com

Isabelle Riddoch -01561-320759/isabelle.riddoch@btinternet.com

Dates for your diary

Nearly New Sale

Village Hall

2nd March

Auchenblae Gala

The Den

19-25th May



CURRY EVENING

VILLAGE HALL

SATURDAY 16TH MARCH 6.30-11PM

18 YEARS AND ABOVE

ENJOY AN EVENING WITH FRIENDS

ALL YOU CAN EAT FOR

£12.50 PER HEAD

LICENSED BAR AND RAFFLE

UNABLE TO JOIN US FOR THE EVENING?

TAKEAWAY SERVICE AVAILABLE UNTIL 8PM

HAVE A DRINK WHILE YOU WAIT

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM ACA MEMBERS

Messenger Distribution Team—Anne Anderson, Sheena Auld, Sue Barrie, Anne Caird, Sheree Caird, Therese Hendry, Janette Hoedl, Ann Howe, Carol Nelson, Barbara Strouts.

Messenger Production Team—Barbara Strouts, Kevin Newstead, Eddie Cairns

Memo Production—Ann Rennie

The publisher for this issue was **Kevin Newstead**