

Auchenblae Messenger

Founded in 1999 by Donald B. Rennie

Summer Edition

VOLUME 19 ISSUE 2

JUNE 2017

From The Editor

As usual there is a mixed bag of articles in this edition of The Messenger. There is always something happening in Auchenblae. There must be something to suit most tastes. I was very pleased to receive another acrostic. Surely there must be others out there willing to have a go. Keep them coming.

I will start collecting mid August for the September Issue if you would like to contribute I *can be contacted at* barpollybar@gmail.com



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Memo Date

The Next Memo is scheduled for August 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 July 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

We are now at the end of Guild meetings for the 2016/2017 season. Our theme this year was Go in Joy and we have certainly done that at our meetings. We have enjoyed some really interesting talks from some excellent speakers. We have enjoyed visiting other Guilds in the area and taking part in the World Day of Prayer.

We look forward to meeting again in September with existing members but we are also very happy to welcome any new people to join us in fellowship. Meetings are on the third Wednesday afternoon of the month so do not take up too much time. Our Theme next year is Go in Love which opens up real possibilities for another set of very interesting speakers. Do come along and join us. Watch the notice board for details in September.

Christian Aid Week



Many thanks to all the people in the village who contributed to the recent Christian Aid Week. The sum of £951.03 was donated in Auchenblae. The full amount for West Mearns Parish is still not known. Thank you once again for your generosity and also a big THANK YOU to all who helped delivering and collecting envelopes, and in other ways.



**All Welcome
Saturday June 17th
Midday onwards
Palestinian Picnic**



To celebrate Palestinian food and culture and raise funds for Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP)

Upper Cairnhill, Inverurie Street, Auchenblae.

Any queries to Gillian 01561 320360

Zaytoun (Arabic for olive) produce will be on sale. Donations will be gratefully received for MAP.

ACA GALA WEEK

A big thank you to everyone who came out to gala week and special thanks to the volunteers who came and supported the event by manning stalls and helping set up, clear away and bake. Without their support the ACA wouldn't be able to put on a much loved event.

Auchenblae Community Fund

A reminder that all groups in the area will be able to apply for funds through the Midhill Community Benefit Fund again this year.

Application forms will be available on the theblae.org website or a copy can be emailed to you after 1st May 2017. Hard copy will also be available from midhillfund@gmail.com or phone 07984 235329. (Please note that you may be asked to leave a message – someone will get back to you ASAP.)

The amount has not yet been confirmed by Fred Olsen, the developer but is likely to be in the region of £30,000 plus a £4,000+ carry over from this year.

Please note that only 2 entries will be accepted per group.

Closing date for entries is 31st August 2017.

Panel members will also be required! To be on the panel you should be:

- **A nominated representative from a recognised village organisation – parks, heritage, ACA, youth organisations etc.**
- **An independent representative from the village community.**

A minimum of three members from the existing panel will be carried forward.

If you are interested on being on the panel please email midhill-fund@gmail.com or phone 07984 235329. (Please note that you may be asked to leave a message – someone will get back to you ASAP.)



Auchenblae Friendship Group



I have recently heard it said that the group is only for pensioners. It's true that at the moment we are all senior citizens but we welcome anyone to join us. We enjoy many different activities, sometimes welcoming people to come and entertain us. Sometimes we provide our own. If you have been passing the Church Hall some Wednesday mornings you may have noticed much hilarity and singing(?). We have been going back to the 50s and 60s in song. Amazingly we are still almost word perfect.

Once again I repeat that we really are there for anyone who has nothing to do on a Wednesday morning. People who do come say they feel the friendship as soon as they come into the hall. That is what we are there for.

We will be finishing at the end of June for the summer holidays but will be back again in August. Do give us a try.

West Mearns Parish Church

“not just about Sunday”

West Mearns Parish, meeting in three churches, Auchenblae, Fettercairn and Glenbervie, is not a “just about Sunday” Church. Having recently moved from a Model Constitution to a Unitary Constitution, there are the required Kirk Session, Fabric and Finance Committees. However, there are several other committees and project groups that offer the opportunity for all sorts of involvement and are open to interested members of the community. Among these are IT, Web and Social Media, Communications, Worship, Pastoral Care, School and Children Ministry, Mission, Outreach (both local and abroad) and Community Engagement.



Simply put, if you would like to be involved let us know and we would be delighted to meet you.

If you would like to visit us, come along on a Sunday. Auchenblae @ 11:00AM (except 1st Sunday of the Month), Fettercairn, every Sunday @09:30AM and Glenbervie the 1st Sunday of every month @11:00AM.

If you are considering having your child baptised or would like to participate in a celebration and thanksgiving for your child, or would like to know more contact Rev Brian Smith Bsmith@churchofscotland.org.uk or phone **01561 340203**

Auchenblae Community Defibrillator

There is now a weekly bonus ball sheet in the village shop. Funds raised from the weekly draw will be used to maintain and future proof the defibrillator, ongoing costs such as after every use cost £40-£50 and a replacement battery will cost £200. Thank you to Shirley Castles for organising and David Jones for letting us fundraise from Auchenblae stores. Mark



Auchenblae Gardens Open
Weekend
with Strawberry Teas
on Saturday 29th & Sunday 30th
July



Visit all four
Gardens and
enjoy Straw-
berry Teas
for just £7.00
Gardens will be
open from
1pm - 4pm

If preferred, spread your visit over two days!
Collect your 'garden map' from the Village Hall

*** Produce; Preserves * Plants***

***Savoury Take-Away Stall* Books * Raffle ***

Strawberry Teas on their own: £3.00

This year's participants are:

Graham and Gillian at Fernlea;

Nicola and Jamie at Mayfield House;

Mark and Nathan at Finella View;

Katrina and Bernie at Galloquhine Farmhouse

If you'd like to take part, then please contact Jenny
320245

WIGGY WAGTAIL

I met little wiggly wagtail this morning
trotting down the old farm track,

He zigzagged here; he zigzagged
there,

He steered a jaunty tack.

Bobbing up and down the muddy
wheel ruts,

Proudly his stuff he strut;

And as I left the track to clamber o'er
a rustic style,

My heart went out to little wiggly wag-
tail who started my day off with such
a cheery smile.

© Peter Morriss



SPRING STROLL

When spiders busy their lacy webs
along the dewy hedge,

And to the teasel bows the wind-
blown sedge;

When the song of spring comes
skipping on the breeze,

And from long rest a warm Sun the
dapper daffodil has teased;

When Sun reclines from an open
sky,

'Tis then, along a narrow lane to the
woods stroll I- To clamber o'er a rus-
tic style,

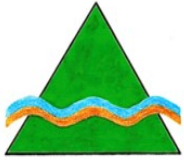
And there to savour the peace of
the woodlands for a while.

© Peter Morriss

Another Acrostic

Auchenblae Messenger, good to read.
Useful message boards.
Child safe.
Helpful people.
Education - good school.
No - one needs to be lonely.
Beautiful countryside all around.
Lovely flowers in the planters.
Aberdeen not too far away.
Entertainment for all in the Village Hall.

Anonymous



Auchenblae Parks Committee



Work day down the Den.

We were all very lucky to have such a glorious day for our annual work day down the Den. It was brilliant to see how many people turned up but we could always have done with more help. Saying that, a lot was achieved including putting chicken wire on the bridges, de-weeding of the river and general tidying up of all areas. The older children enjoyed using the quad bike taking load after load to the compost heap and the younger ones were busy cleaning out the edges of the bowling green, putting green and tennis courts. Both adults and children enjoyed themselves, worked hard and were spoilt with lots of home-made soups, sandwiches, cakes and lots of other delights. It was a great day had by all. Of course I had my camera with me and managed to take a few pictures, but I was so busy I didn't take as many as previous years.

Finally, I'd like to say a big thank you to all who helped. Without you our beautiful Den would not be looking so good. Thank you also to Isabelle Riddoch, Margo Titmuss, Gillian Milne, Jenny Thomson, Alice Morgan, Clare Ptaszek, Lindsay Shaw and Lindsay Cochrane for the lovely spread of food which was very much appreciated. Thank you to Bernie Melsom and John Nicoll for bringing your machinery and to Jim Titmuss for your quad bike.

I will be there again next year all set to help get our beautiful Den looking good for the summer.

Stephanie Howe

Auchenblae Bowling Club has it's greens at the Den, a beautiful tree lined setting with other activities and walks.

On several Friday afternoons recently we have had 21 Primary 3 pupils down for an hour, having fun and learning to bowl. We hope that they will be back, weather permitting. We are hoping to get some parents involved too.

The club has an open day on Tuesday afternoons for anyone to come and have a try. Our hat night is at 6.30pm on Fridays, so if you can't manage Tuesday please come then, and I promise that you will be made to feel very welcome.



Important message from Susie Brown:

Anne Lawson has replaced Trevor Hodgson as an Auchenblae representative on Mearns Community Council.

Trevor felt he should stand down after many years representing Auchenblae as work commitments prevented him from attending meetings.

Anne Lawson's contact details are: tel: 01561 320626 or email tml@mosspark8.co.uk

Millie Keddie's year with Project Trust update

First of all I would like to say a massive thank you to everyone who has supported my year volunteering with Project Trust, either by donating on my Just Giving page, helping with events and attending events. I am so lucky to live in a place like Auchenblae with such a supportive community.

I have almost reached my final target of £6,200. I would not have managed to do this without the support of so many people in the village! I have raised the money by writing to charitable trusts, donations from extremely generous people, selling handmade soap at Christmas, a coffee morning, an art exhibition thanks to Brenda Forbes (Denmill Picture Framing) and more recently a fashion show hosted by Encore (Carrie Murdoch).



Many things have changed since my last article in the Messenger. I am now going to be teaching English and Maths in an orphanage in Cambodia. With Project Trust, you attend a selection course where you choose the top three countries where you want to be placed. Project Trust then look at the skills you have to offer and then decide on a project where you are best suited. Cambodia has always been my first choice but Project Trust did not allocate volunteers to this project until about a month ago. I will be heading off for a year in the third week in August.

I will be working in Honour Village, a little orphanage situated in a rural village, 30 minutes away from the famous temples of Angkor Wat. Honour Village is a school and place of safety set up in 2010. There are currently 13 children living at the centre as most of the residents have been re-housed and reintegrated into communities. The school serves both the children living there and those in the surrounding villages. 100's of children come to the school to learn English and basic Maths and computing every day.

I have training on the isle of Coll in the last week of July, where I will learn how to teach English as a foreign language as well as general teaching techniques. In this week I will also meet the 3 other volunteers I will be living and working with for the next year.

Thank you so much again, for all your kind support. It is very much appreciated, I will try to keep you updated on how things progress.

Don't hesitate to contact me for any further information.

milliekeddie@icloud.com

TEL: 01561 320222

Disturbing Happening in the Den

A few weeks ago The Messenger Editor received this e-mail and found it very disturbing.

"My wife was walking our dog in the Den on Tuesday 21st March, early evening, when it was attacked by a vicious dog which was off the lead. Our dog, which was leashed, was left bleeding, lame and stressed. The owner of the attacker showing no remorse whatsoever, in fact blaming our dog for being aggressive.

Our dog is nearly 15 years old, has arthritis and cushings. In addition, my wife, whilst trying to protect our dog, ended up on the ground, bleeding from both knees with her clothes ruined.

Apart from the obvious injuries and anxiety caused by this out of control animal, more concerning was the lack of concern, responsibility and total denial of the owner. His immediate response was - Quote "he had a total right to walk his dog unleashed as it was a public park." More concerning was that the attack took place near a children's play area.

This is an experience we have never encountered before and is very concerning

Owners with dogs with a tendency to attack have a LEGAL responsibility to ensure that their dogs are leashed or muzzled if appropriate.

The Den is a credit to the village and an ideal area for walking dogs and for children playing and hopefully will be kept that way for everyone."

Dogs and the Law

When I read the e-mail about the attack in the Den I found it very disturbing. I have had a further communication from them. The wife's knees were so badly injured that she needed treatment at ARI. She was only able to get around with very great difficulty for some time. I decided to see what I could discover about the law and dogs on-line. There are pages and pages on the gov.uk site. The following is a brief summary.

Overview. It's against the law to let a dog be dangerously out of control anywhere, such as;
in a public place.
in a private place, e.g. a neighbour's house or garden
in the owner's home.

The law applies to all dogs.

Out of Control.

Your dog is considered dangerously out of control if it:
injuries someone.

makes someone worried that it might injure them.

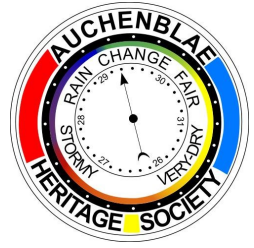
A court could decide that your dog is dangerously out of control if either of the following apply:

it attacks someone's animal or the owner of an animal thinks they could be injured if they tried to stop your dog attacking their animal.

A farmer is allowed to kill your dog if it's worrying their livestock.

There are some lovely dogs in Auchenblae and virtually all owners are responsible. It is a pity that very occasionally something like this should happen.

Auchenblae Heritage Society



Monday 5th June at 7.30 p.m. in the Church Hall

"Tea Planting in Ceylon"

Anne Lawson will talk about James Taylor of Auchenblae who introduced tea planting to Ceylon. Ceylon tea (of course) and biscuits will be served.

Members Free—Visitors £1.50

All Welcome

Any queries to Gillian 01561 320360



Tea is often thought of as being a quintessentially British drink, and we have been drinking it for over 350 years. But in fact the history of tea goes much further back.

The story of tea begins in China. According to legend, in 2737 BC, the Chinese emperor Shen Nung was sitting beneath a tree while his servant boiled drinking water, when some leaves from the tree blew into the water. Shen Nung, a renowned herbalist, decided to try the infusion that his servant had accidentally created. The tree was a *Camellia sinensis*, and the resulting drink was what we now call tea.



It is impossible to know whether there is any truth in this story. But tea drinking certainly became established in China many centuries before it had even been heard of in the west. Containers for tea have been found in tombs dating from the Han dynasty (206 BC - 220 AD) but it was under the Tang dynasty (618-906 AD), that tea became firmly established as the national drink of China. It became such a favourite that during the late eighth century a writer called Lu Yu wrote the first book entirely about tea, the *Ch'a Ching*, or *Tea Classic*. It was shortly after this that tea was first introduced to Japan, by Japanese Buddhist monks who had travelled to China to study. Tea drinking has become a vital part of Japanese culture, as seen in the development of the Tea Ceremony, which may be rooted in the rituals described in the *Ch'a Ching*.



Dates for your diary

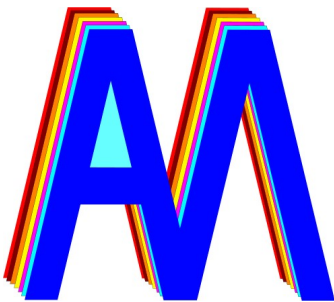
Palestinian Picnic
Gardens Open
Heritage Society Ceylon
- Tea Planting

7th June Noon
29th / 30th July
5th June 7.30 pm

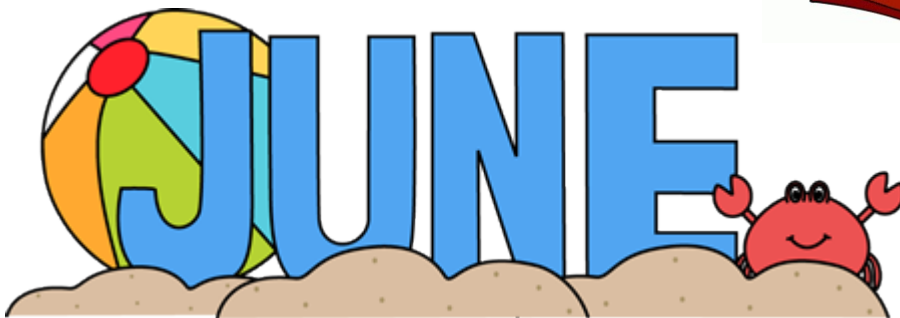
Upper Cairnhill
Various
Church Hall



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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