



# Auchenblae Messenger

Founded in 1999 by Donald B. Rennie

*Christmas Edition*

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December 2014

## From The Editor

Once again the contributors have done very well for us. I never cease to be amazed at how much is happening in the village and how many very busy people there are in Auchenblae. They are all volunteers giving up their time on our behalf. Do support as much as you can.

I will be collecting for the next issue mid February. Please send to

[barpollybar@gmail.com](mailto:barpollybar@gmail.com)

A very Happy Christmas to you all.

Barbara

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## Memo Date

The Next Memo is scheduled for January 2015 if you have any upcoming event dates please send them to :

**[auchenblae\\_memo@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:auchenblae_memo@hotmail.co.uk)** or call Lindsay on **01561 320242**. by 10th January 2015

## HELP - AGAIN!

Sadly I need to appeal again for volunteers to help with the distribution of the Messenger and Memo in the village. For various reasons, the number of distributors, both regular and relief, has been somewhat reduced meaning that those of us who are left are having to do more each month. If anyone feels they can spare half an hour on a regular monthly basis please get in touch with me on **320524**.

Anne Anderson

*"...a very pleasant outing"*

## Auchenblae Friendship Group



We continue to meet on Wednesday mornings in the Church Hall and have an enjoyable time. We have recently visited the Clatterin' Brig for lunch, a very pleasant outing. Any one who is not a member is more than welcome to come along and give us a try. If you have some spare Wednesdays but not all that is fine by us.

For more information phone **Barbara on 320911.**

A Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year to you all from all of us.

## Auchenblae Parent Council

Thank you Auchenblae village for supporting our Bag2School collection. We will in future be using a new company called RagBags. This company offers a permanent Collection Bank which will be placed in the School Car Park. This means we can take items of old clothing and bedding all year round, We will let you know when the Clothing Bank has been delivered.

It's beginning to feel a lot like Christmas.....

Auchenblae Primary School children have been very busy creating Driftwood Christmas trees. We would like to say a HUGE THANK YOU to our lovely tea shop for displaying and taking orders for the past six weeks. This activity was part of the Education Enterprise where children get to make their hands dirty and see how a product can be made to generate funds. Thank you to everyone who has placed an order. Sales have taken us all by surprise. If you haven't had chance to place an order we will be having a stall at the Pre-School Christmas Market on 28th November 6.30pm until 9.30pm. We will be selling Driftwood Trees and Driftwood Tee Decorations.

Dec. 6th and 7th will see our Parent Council Christmas Tree Event. It is being held to support families who struggle at Christmas. Monies raised will be spent on getting a child a Christmas present. Why not book a slot to decorate a tree and have it judged by ur local community. There is a prize for the best one. We are also having a giving tree where we encourage a cash donation to the cause/

Magic Christmas 14th December.

Parent Council will be hosting a magical Santa's Grotto at the Pavilion in our stunning Den, 1.30pm to 3.30pm. Come along and see Santa, Mrs Claus, Beebo and Deebo the Elves. Cost for this is a donation only. Each child will receive a message from Santa and a little bit of magic. Please watch out for pop up messages from Santa around the village.

HO HO HOOOOOOOOO!

## Auchenblae Pre-School Group



Exciting news from Auchenblae Pre-School Group as we have finally completed our £10,000 lottery funded refurbishment of our playroom AKA the mutual hall.

It has taken over 12 months since inception to completion and represents a fantastic improvement in facilities and resources for both playgroup and indeed all village hall users.

The National Lottery awarded us £10,000 which was ring-fenced for the refurbishment project and has been spent on new fixtures and fittings, toys and educational resources, storage and a brand new fitted kitchen (a real one, we bought a new toy one too). The refurbishment was for the benefit of the children attending our group now and for future generations and is also of benefit to all users of Auchenblae Village Hall. The improved storage for playgroup 'stuff' means the mutual hall can be more easily leased to other users outside pre-school hours. The brand new fitted kitchen with fitted fridge, cooker and dishwasher represents a significant investment in Auchenblae Village Hall and the current committee are rightly proud of this achievement.

Huge thanks to Rachel MacLean who has been the architect of this grand plan as well as to all the volunteers who have helped with the project in numerous ways – I know there are lots of people who never want to see flat pack furniture again...

Auchenblae Pre-School Group is holding a Christmas Shopping Night on November 28<sup>th</sup> from 6.30pm to 9.30pm to fundraise for the group. There will be mulled wine and hot chocolate served in the playroom so please come along and see what we have achieved. If you can't make it, we'll shortly be hosting an open evening to show it off, so come and have a look then, we'll let you know when.

As with any project, there have been a few oversights and we are still fundraising to purchase items which were not included in the original budget. These include items like a safety guard for the oven and additional shelving and decorating costs. As ever, playgroup expenses exceed income so please continue to support us as much as you can, we really do appreciate it.

Thanks

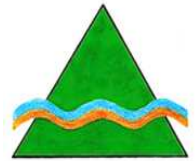
Kate Matthews (Treasurer)



## Auchenblae Parks Committee



Although this is the quiet season for us, work is still going on, both in the Den and the Golf Course.



With initial instruction from committee member Grahame Cruickshank (Douglas House), our young groundsman Morgan, with occasional help from Connor, has carried out much needed improvements to 'the high roadie' in the Den.

At the golf course, a wooden fence has been erected between the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> greens, tidying up this area. So, take a look next time you pass. The course will remain open throughout the winter months, weather permitting, and an Honesty Box is in place in the pavilion for visiting players.

We are disappointed about the condition of the golf course road, but this is out-with our control. We live in a rural area and appreciate that this road is a vital link for farmers and other heavy vehicles avoiding the village, which inevitably cause damage. Unfortunately, and despite many approaches by Auchenblae Parks Committee, Aberdeenshire Council will not undertake repairs as it is not an 'adopted road'.

The Remembrance Day service at the Church on 9<sup>th</sup> November was followed by a procession, led by the uniformed youth groups, to the War Memorial on Gilbert's Hill.

Some, who had never made the climb before, were surprised by the view.

The descent however, especially to elderly participants (!), was somewhat treacherous due to underfoot conditions! However, I'm happy to report that Aberdeenshire Council's Landscape Service Department is to meet this month with representatives from the Parks Committee to discuss the path's upgrade.

In signing off for this year, the members of Auchenblae Parks Committee wish you all a very happy festive season and convey their best wishes for 2015.

Jenny

Correspondence Secretary, Auchenblae Parks Committee





**The Auchenblae Drama Group**  
**proudly presents a**  
**traditional pantomime**

# **MOTHER GOOSE**

**Auchenblae**  
**Village Hall**



**January 2015**

**16th & 17th - 7.30 p.m.**

**18th 2.30 p.m.**

**Adults £8.00 - - Concessions £3.00**

**Tickets from Judith 320222 or shop**

# 2015

'Auchenblae' Calendar on sale  
at

Auchenblae Stores

or by contacting Jenny (320245)

Local scenes in and around the  
village taken by  
Auchenblae people

£6.00 each





## Community Defibrillator Project

The Auchenblae Community Association have very generously agreed to support the project. So far I have had one very generous donation to the project which will help enormously, I am still looking for volunteers to become trained in the use of the defibrillator if an emergency arises in the village, if you think that you would be willing to help someone in an emergency, please get in touch.

Hopefully I can announce more details in the very near future.

**Mark Strickland 07881 287452**

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## Can you help?

I am looking for volunteers who are willing to become part of a community first responder group in Auchenblae. In the event of a life threatening emergency they would be utilised in the first instance. As we all know the closest ambulance station is Stonehaven and it can often take 10-15 minutes for the ambulance to arrive from there. This time can be very precious if someone's life is in danger.

I am also looking for volunteers who would be keen to help to raise money for the defibrillator and its placing. The approximate cost is £1000 to have a public access defibrillator installed in the village. Unfortunately due to full time work I don't have the time to commit to all of this so any volunteers would be much appreciated.

Email me: [mark.strickland@nhs.net](mailto:mark.strickland@nhs.net)

Mark Strickland.  
Aircrew Paramedic,  
Scottish Ambulance Service,  
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## Auchenblae Guild

Once again we have made a successful start to the season. By the time this is published we will have held our first three meetings and our coffee morning. As usual we will also have delivered the Guild Service in Church during Guild Week.

The new start time of 2.00pm seems to be popular with all.

On Friday 12th December we will hold our annual Carols, Candles and Christmas Pies in the Church at 7.30pm. If you haven't been before do come. The church is always beautifully decorated by Jenny and there are lots of favourite carols to sing.

Our Christmas Lunch is on Wednesday 17th December at the Crown Hotel in Laurencekirk, 12.00 for 12.30pm.

Our January meeting will be in the Church Hall on Wednesday and will take the form of a Scottish Stovie Lunch. You are also asked to think up ideas for what you would like to see in Room 101.

New members are always welcome.

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### Did you know.....?

The first Christmas was celebrated on December 25, AD 336 in Rome.  
Artificial Christmas trees have outsold real ones since 1991.

There are 364 gifts mentioned in "The Twelve Days of Christmas".  
The Puritans forbade the singing of Christmas carols.

The popular Christmas song "Jingle Bells" was actually written for Thanksgiving.

Electric Christmas lights were first used in 1854.

In 1647, the English parliament passed a law made Christmas illegal.

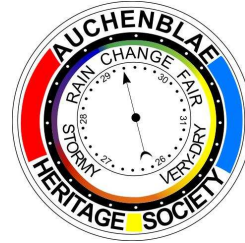
45% of the world's population celebrate Christmas

Christmas trees were popularised by Prince Albert following a German tradition.





# Auchenblae Heritage Society



After seven years as Chairman of Auchenblae Heritage Society - i.e. almost two and a half times longer than the normal term of office, I resigned from the post and committee at the Society's AGM on 3rd March 2014. I'd given the committee a year's notice of my intentions, and before leaving, I hope, helpfully suggested a few ideas for possible future talks. At this time, as part of Scotland's Tea Festival, an exhibition was proposed for Auchenblae's village hall, celebrating the life and achievements of locally born tea planter, **James Taylor** (1835-1892). The responsibility for presenting this major exhibition was to be carried out by the Heritage Society and although I had resigned, I offered to help out, as I've always been interested in exhibitions and their design. With fantastic support from two members of the committee, Pat Mennie and Jenny Thomson, the exhibition was completed in time, was very well attended and deemed a great success.

Nineteen years ago, **Takeshi Isobuchi**, a Japanese tea expert, arrived in Auchenblae looking for James Taylor's birthplace and what, if anything the village had in recognition of the "Father of Ceylon Tea". He stayed at the Thistle Inn, then run by Pat Mennie and her husband, and has stayed in contact with Pat ever since. In fact, it was Takeshi's enthusiasm for and knowledge of James Taylor that played a vital part in the concept of a "Scotland's Tea Festival" (22-24 August 2014). He returned to Auchenblae from Japan and was a very well received guest of honour at the festival.

For me, the marvellous story of James Taylor just strengthens the case for the continuation of the Heritage Society, which sadly, seems to have just disappeared. Surely one person leaving the committee does not warrant the collapse of a really lively society which until recently has been going from strength to strength? There is still a good committee in place - have your "Gap Year" and then just get it going again, even better than before. The village is a poorer place without it.

Malcolm McCoig

## GLENBERVIE HORTUS CLUB

**Annual Bulb Show , Drumlithie Hall , Saturday 8th March at 2pm**  
**Now is the time to plan your planting.**

**If you would like to join the club and have a schedule please contact.**

**Evelyn Richardson 01561 320362**

**or**

**show secretary Moira Duncan 01569 740618**

## Auchenblae Girlguiding

Guiding and Scouting units paraded the flags at Auchenblae Church for Remembrance Sunday.

After the service they led the walk to the war memorial on Gilbert's Hill and laid the village poppy wreath.

There are more formal Remembrance parades across the country but I think ours is special because the young people do it, the moment when they come into church with these heavy old flags trying to remember what we practised makes me feel very proud .

Each Guide who is carrying a flag takes it home to iron the flag and polish the brass part and practice walking with it.

If you have not been to the monument it well worth the steep climb for the lovely views , to pick up the path turn left at bottom of High Street and the path is on the right just after the large garage.



### GUIDE CHRISTMAS CARD DELIVERY

Guides will once again be delivering card within the village .

Box in Auchenblae Stores Monday 8th December - first delivery Wednesday 10th.



## Carols, Candles and Christmas Pies

Auchenblae Church, Friday 12th December



You are warmly invited to come and sing your favourite carols, by candlelight

This evening is truly quite special, so come early to enjoy the ambience.

Doors open at 7pm with singing starting at 7.30

Seasonal refreshments will be served at the close of service

There will be a voluntary collection in aid of Church fabric repairs

All welcome, hope to see you there

## Dates for your diary

Parent Council Xmas Tree event	Village Hall	6th/7th December
Pre-school Group Xmas shopping night	Village Hall	28th November
Carols Candles & Xmas pies	Church	12th December
Drama Group Panto—Mother Goose	Village Hall	16/17/18th January 2015



**Messenger Distribution Team**—Anne Anderson, Sue Barrie, Anne & Sheree Caird, Therese Hendry, Jeanette Hoedl, Trish MacEachern, Carol Nelson, Barbara Strouts

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

**Memo Production**— Lindsay Cochrane

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