

Auchenblae Messenger

Founded in 1999 by Donald B. Rennie

Spring Edition

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MARCH 2020

From The Editor

What a Community

I'm sure that you are aware that I have been quite ill recently and spent the best part of a month in Aberdeen Royal Infirmary. I would like to say a really big THANK YOU to all who sent cards and get well messages. I was quite overwhelmed at times.

I am now beginning to get back to normal and hope to be able to meet with people again soon.

Once again, many thanks.

Barbara

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Auchenblae Memo

Due to insufficient response the Memo production has been suspended but can be restarted if required.

The Messenger—e-Newsletter

Due to costs & 'staying green' The Messenger continues to be published online at www.mearns.org/auchenblae

The very few printed copies that have been requested are provided by the very kind assistance of **Joanna Fraser and Alastair Macphie.**

All the best,
Kevin (Publisher)

Auchenblae Friendship Group



"Pleasure is spread through the earth in stray gifts to be claimed by whoever shall find.."

A very warm welcome awaits you at the **Auchenblae Friendship Group**. We meet every Wednesday at the Church Hall at 10.00 a.m. during school term.

We offer a varied programme and so far this season we have enjoyed games of scrabble/ dominoes/ cards; monthly sessions of bingo; a singalong and talks given by our "old friends" to the group – Philip, Ian, Dave and Ray, and David to name a few on a variety of subjects. We have literally travelled to "Infinity and beyond" with the Club.

We start our weekly meetings with a cuppa, a "fine piece" and a blether. So if you are at a loose end, wish some company and would like to learn something new please do come along. After all you may find pleasurable times on a Wednesday morning.



Auchenblae Guild

Auchenblae Guild continues to meet on the first Monday of each month in the Church Hall. After a break in January the February meeting was our annual Guild Lunch. Those present enjoyed good food, friendship and plenty of "craic".

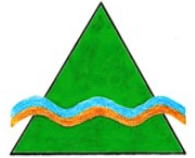
In March we hope to welcome Beth Dobson from the Boys' Brigade - one of the projects which we are supporting this year.

Jenny Thomson will be our speaker in April - her topic will be - Changes in Auchenblae Village since the Millennium.

All are welcome to come along to our Meetings.

Kind regards
Margaret

Auchenblae Parks Committee



Auchenblae Den

As we get ready for the forthcoming season at the Den we would like to invite you to our annual Den Clear Up Day on Saturday 28th March (weather permitting). There are lots of jobs, for all ages, that need to be completed including general tidy up of the area, raking leaves, cutting bushes back etc.

Last year's Clear Up Day was well attended and had a lovely community vibe about it - the free lunch, snacks and drinks definitely helped!!

If you're able to help, please turn up on the day with any gardening equipment you have (rakes, wheelbarrows, gloves) from 10.00am onwards.

If you're unable to help on the day, but would like to bake for the event please let me know.

Parks Committee members

By the time the Messenger is published we will have had our AGM and hopefully new members have joined our committee.

If you would like to be part of the committee, you can join anytime during the year. We meet once a month, excluding July and December, in the village hall and the meetings last approximately 2hrs.

We need as many committee members as possible as we are responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the widely used green areas around Auchenblae, not the council. If you're unable to join committee but would like to help out occasionally please let me know.

Clare Ptaszek
Correspondence Secretary
Auchenblae Parks Committee



Auchenblae Golf Course is accepting membership applications for the 2020 season

Best value
golf in
Aberdeenshire

Turn up
and play,
no need
to book

Membership Type:	Cost:
Full	£195
Senior (65 and over)	£185
Junior (8 - 17 years old)	£45
Youth (18 – 21 years old)	£100
Parent & Junior	£220

If you are interested in becoming a member, you can get an application form by:

emailing auchenblaegolf@gmail.com;
visiting our Facebook page or
picking one up from the golf pavilion.



Auchenblae Bowling

BOWLING CLUB AIMS in 2020

Auchenblae's Bowling Club is aiming to increase membership in 2020 by inviting individuals and families to come along and have a go at The Den's beautiful bowling green when the season opens late April/ early May.



In the past 3 years the Club has gradually attracted newcomers to discover how bowling combines fun and gentle exercise and how the club is geared both for those who have never played before and for long experienced players.

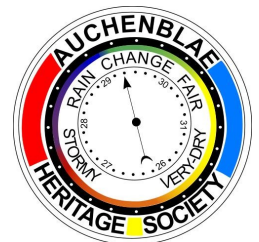
The club last season welcomed an extra 5 new members. The hope for 2020 is that more families might come along to try bowling and see how it can provide a happy relaxing time and sport for parents together with their children to enjoy the game. Membership is open to people of all ages and attracts players in the Auchenblae and in the wider district and from further afield.

The club's Annual General Meeting scheduled for 23rd February as usual decides a date in late April to 'inspect the green' and schedule an "Opening of Season" first play session. Confirmation of this date will be publicised in Auchenblae and district nearer the time by poster, by Messenger and by the Club's own Facebook page. Meanwhile, if you are interested to find out more about bowling and are thinking maybe to give it a try in 2020 please contact **George on 01561 321174**.

Auchenblae Bowling Club invites anyone interested in bowling to come along to the DEN Pavilion at 6.30pm on Tuesday 14th April when the club 'checks the green' and chooses the date and time for the new season's opening playing session.

This get-together is both for returning players wishing to renew membership and for anyone just thinking of trying out bowling as ideal opportunity to arrange with the Club their first 'give it a go' session with free coaching help.

Auchenblae Heritage Society



Growing up in Fasque

The word *fasque* means different things to different people. To some it may be a reminder of the Gaelic origin of the word: *safety* or a *dwelling place*. To others it evokes the image of a grand mansion associated with William Ewart Gladstone, a much-loved 19th century British Prime Minister after whom the famous gladstone bag was named. Indeed, before the sale of Fasque early in the 21st century, it was possible to see examples of this bag when visiting the house! Since the sale to private developers, Fasque has become known to a wider audience through its use as a venue for weddings and other events. However, to many, Fasque is a place for an enjoyable ramble in beautiful grounds, surrounded by magnificent trees and a variety of plants and birds. What must it have been like to grow up in such an idyllic place? Gemma Ancliff will give us an insight when she gives a talk on **Growing up in Fasque** at the next meeting of the **Auchenblae Heritage Society** at 7.30 on Monday March 2nd in the Church Hall.

Last night I dreamed I was in football Heaven,
where there's plenty of parking space,
And no car park charges as you travel from place to place.
No MOT or petrol tax,
No e-mail or letters to fax.

And down at the Harp 'n' Angel on Saturday they're
having a bit of a do,
For Heaven's playing Hell five-a-side and Heaven's
out to knock the latter back to division 2.

And as I dreamed something began to tear at the heart of me,
For I heard the Devil would be playing and he'll be marking
me.
And Heaven's supporters were somewhat at a loss,
For when it came to kick-off, it was Hell who won the toss.
The Devil and his team really began to shovel on the coal,
Till the roof of the Harp 'n' Angel lifted when
Heaven scored a goal.

And the hounds from Hell stood still, as 'Off-side!'
they heard the referee call,
And it was then in a moment of anger, the Devil
set fire to the ball.

And then it was half-time and in the Harp 'n' Angel
the Devil at the bar stood drinking his fill,
And a piercing light shone from his venomous eyes
and my knees from knocking would not still.
The second half was due to start at half-past three,
And I knew for sure the Devil this time would be marking me.
Hell was playing from the north end, Heaven from the south,
Then I saw the Devil with three by four timbers
nailing up his own goalmouth.

The score had reached Heaven 1 and Hell 23,
And glancing over my shoulder I found the Devil marking me.
When suddenly Gabriel blew his horn and Hell's
boarded-up goalmouth timbers blew asunder,
And Heaven's mighty goal-scoring roared like thunder.

Then all of Heaven's supporters roared at the sight,
As from out of the Harp 'n' Angel Saint Peter came
riding on a trike.
He shouted to the Devil 'It's time you and your lot
from Hell took a hike!
So here's a message from the man upstairs you'll not like!
Just like Tebbit-pal - you and your lot - on your bike!'

And down at the Harp 'n' Angel for all Heaven's
players and supporters, it's party night,
As together they all sing 'You'll Never Walk Alone'
with all their might.
© Peter Morriss



SPIRITS OF THE WILD

The spirits of the high peaks
are calling-
Calling me down the vale,
The clapping winds are calling,
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 nurse
within your heart, once more
our call will set free.

Dates for your diary

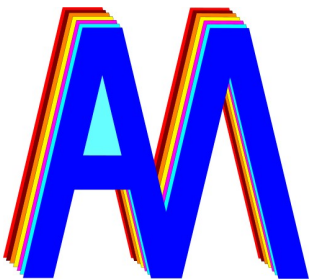
Den Clear up Day

The Den

28th March 11:00



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/)



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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