



# Auchenblae Messenger

Founded in 1999 by Donald B. Rennie

## Spring Edition

VOLUME 23 ISSUE 1

MARCH 2021

### From The Editor

As we advance into the New Year we can already see slight signs of improvement with lockdown and vaccinations.

There is slightly less content this time but grateful thanks to all contributors who have managed to find something to say. I hope that when I start collecting for the June issue in May we will all be able to report that we are starting up again. I can always be reached at [barpollybar@gmail.com](mailto:barpollybar@gmail.com)



### Auchenblae Memo

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

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### The Messenger— e-Newsletter

Due to costs & 'staying green' The Messenger continues to be published online at [www.mearns.org/auchenblae](http://www.mearns.org/auchenblae)

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

All the best,  
Kevin (Publisher)

Photo from Kevin



## Fun Spring Facts

The first day of spring is called the vernal equinox. The term *vernal* is Latin for “spring” and *equinox* is Latin for “equal night.”

On the first day of spring, a person at the North Pole would see the sun skimming across the horizon, beginning six months of uninterrupted daylight. A person at the South Pole would see the sun skimming across the horizon, signalling the start of six months of darkness.

Spring almost always arrives on March 20 or 21, but sometimes on the 19th. The reason the equinoxes and solstices don’t always come on the same day is that Earth doesn’t circle the sun in exactly 365 days.

In the Southern Hemisphere, springtime lasts from August until November.

Children actually grow faster in the spring than during other times of the year.

While the spring equinox typically occurs on March 20 or 21, meteorological spring begins on March 1, a month when average temperatures increase by 10 degrees over the month.

Holidays that occur in spring include Easter, Passover, April Fool’s Day, Earth Day, Arbor Day, Mother’s Day, Father’s Day, Cinco De Mayo, and Holi (festival of colours in India).



## Auchenblae Parks Committee

### Auchenblae Den Clear Up

Due to the current restrictions the Den Clear Up day won't be going ahead this year, however, we know there are people in the village who are very keen to help. As a committee, we'll be putting together a list of jobs that need doing and asking people to choose a job from the list and complete it in their own time (for example, raking leaves in specific areas).

Please keep an eye on the Auchenblae Den Facebook page for further updates.



## Auchenblae Friendship Group



Friendships are the places where we gossip, enjoy, explore and feel at ease with people who are similar to us and care about us."

How true. Even though we can't meet we are still keeping in touch by phone and when we do it is not all gloom and doom. We are able to enjoy a good laugh. What does come across is that the friendship is still there and we are all hoping that we will soon be able to get together again. People who come to entertain us like Dave, Ray, and Ian send good wishes to all and hope to see us in the not too distant future.

2020 is best forgotten. 2021 can only get better. When we are able to start again we will let you know. I'm sure that there are people out there who haven't given us a try before. We now know just what loneliness can be like. Do come and join us when we get together again. Details will come when the time comes.

Best wishes to all.

"Friendships are our lifelines and our support system."



Photos courtesy of Paul Stenton



## LISTEN

Over the Hill of Garvock a peaceful dawn  
slowly breaks,  
A warm morning Sun teases tree, hedgerow  
and shrubberies feathered choirs awake.  
Listen to the morning bird song of beautiful  
sounds,  
Springing up from Pitnamoon's greenery their  
melodious bird songs abound.

Listen to the bird song arias the feathered  
choirs sing,  
Listen to a feathered symphony of sounds  
that to Pitnamoon day break brings.

Listen to our feathered friends symphony  
of choirs,  
Bursting forth with an orchestral sound of  
sweet lyres.

Listen....

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## HEARTS OF FIRE

<p>Give me a sword of light; Give me a lance of fire, Give me a burnished shield to protect from Earthly dark desire. Stand proud upon this Scottish field, Hold firm against those whose course would have you yield. Cast from the harvest of years the bitter husks of mire- For these sceptred islands will rise to a new dawn burning with an inner fire.</p>	<p>land into gloomier days drag, But hold dear the grace, the honour built upon the Nation's flag. Hold firm to faith that we shall return to happi- er lands, And the beacon's flame of truth will burn once more o'er these islands, mountains and glens of this treasured land.</p>
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Hark to the trumpet's fanfare among the  
drills,  
Succour to the breast those that lie on sol-  
emn  
hills-  
That hallowed ground where crosses  
stand row  
on row,  
For the wind reaps what man will often  
sow.  
Sow not the stony ground that would this

## HOW COME? OF A KIND

Sitting at the kitchen table-

*'How come?'* He said

Busy doing home baking,  
*'How come what?'* She said

*'How come there aren't  
any in it?'* He said

*'Aren't any in what?'* She said

*'How come it's been there  
all those years and there's  
not one in it?'* He said

Busy stirring her cake mix,  
*'Not one what?'* She said

*'By heck! You've got to  
give it to them! They built  
things to last in those days!'* He  
said

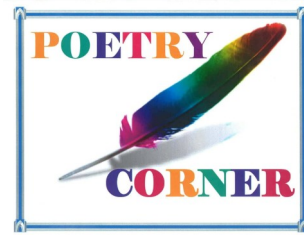
*'what on earth! Are you  
going on about now?'* She  
said

*'If they were around today,  
I could get some of them to  
come over to show the Council  
how It's done!  
They would soon sort the job  
out!'* He said

Starting to sound slightly  
irritated,  
*'Get who over?  
Sort what job out?  
What the devil are you going  
on about now?'* She said

*'Do you know what?  
I've downloaded a picture  
of it and you can't see one  
in it!'* He said

By now! Beginning to get  
Really drawn out with him,  
*'Can't see one what?  
In what?'*



*Just what the devil are you  
rattling on about?'* She said

*'The road across the moor'* He said

Busy stirring her cake mix,  
*'For goodness sake! What  
road across the moor?'* She said

*'You know the one!  
The road the Romans built!  
It's still as good as new and  
there's not one! In it!'* He said

Getting really worked up!  
*'Not one what?'* She said

***'Pothole!'*** He said

Her pudding basin full of  
flour, sugar and pasty mix  
suddenly slipped out of her  
hands,  
Shot across the table where  
the contents landed in his lap.

*'Now look what you've made  
me do!'* She said

*'Go to your shed!'* She said

His shed groaned!

The old Roman road leading to  
Doctor's Gate\* smiled.

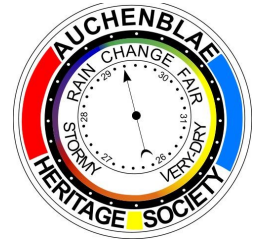
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01.02.2020

\*Doctor's Gate, Derbyshire



# Auchenblae Heritage Society



As we were enduring the snow and ice in early February, many of us were reminiscing about the severity of winters in years gone by, including "Auchenblae the Forgotten Village" when we had almost no links with the rest of the world for weeks (or was it just days?) on end. Now, with the milder weather of late February bringing a hint of spring and, with suggestions of a reduction in lockdown, we're starting to think about the possibility of meeting up in the not-too-distant future.

We've got some ideas for Auchenblae Heritage Society held over from last year (including Jenny Thomson talking about Auchenblae since the millennium) but we're keen to get ideas from all our members so please get in touch with any of your suggestions.

By the time we do meet up again, the Church Hall will, hopefully, have undergone a facelift. The back wall (facing towards the church) has long been a source of damp having been repaired with a concrete-based mortar. This will soon be replaced by lime mortar to allow the stone to breathe and the whole building to dry out. The interior will then be renovated and redecorated.

So, without being over-optimistic, we hope that the Auchenblae Heritage Society will be meeting again in the refurbished Church Hall sometime this year!

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## We need a smile

Why did the chicken cross the road? Because the chicken behind it didn't know how to socially distance probably.

Ran out of toilet paper and started using lettuce leaves. Today was just the tip of the *iceberg*. Tomorrow *romaines* to be seen.

My Mom always told me I wouldn't accomplish anything by lying in bed all day. But look at me now Ma. I'm saving the world.

If I keep stress eating at this level the buttons on my shirt will start socially distancing from each other.

Being quarantined with a talkative child is like having an insane parrot glued to your shoulder.

Nothing like relaxing on the couch after a long day of being tense on the couch.

Day 121 and the dog is looking at me like, "See? This is why I chew the furniture!"

Photo courtesy of Paul Stenton



### Spring Quotes

Spring is the time of year when it is summer in the sun and winter in the shade. – Charles Dickens

Behold, my friends, the spring is come; the earth has gladly received the embraces of the sun, and we shall soon see the results of their love! – Sitting Bull

She turned to the sunlight And shook her yellow head, And whispered to her neighbour:  
“Winter is dead. – A. A. Milne

Winter is on my head, but eternal spring is in my heart. – Victor Hugo

Spring is the time of plans and projects. – Leo Tolstoy

Spring is nature’s way of saying, ‘Let’s party!’ – Robin Williams

When spring came, even the false spring, there were no problems except where to be happiest. – Ernest Hemingway



# AUCHENBLAE SUPPORT GROUP

The impact of COVID-19 continues to effect all of our daily lives and any one of us may find ourselves in sudden and unexpected need of support or a little extra help. Auchenblae Support Group's teams of local volunteers are still on hand and happy to assist with...

Essential Shopping  
Obtaining Prescriptions  
Walking the Dog(s)  
A Friendly Phone Chat

All the Group volunteers are committed to offering a personal local network of support within the current government COVID-19 guidelines, with the welfare, safety and privacy of all being the uppermost consideration. If you would like another copy of the flyer with the details of your areas volunteers, please contact us.

## AUCHENBLAE COMMUNITY LARDER

The Supports Group's community larder is based in the Church Hall and is open for collections and deliveries on...

Tuesdays from 11am to 12 noon

The Larder is able to provide essential items such as food, cleaning products and toiletries on a weekly or ad hoc basis to boost a weekly shop, subject to availability and donations. These items are **FREE OF CHARGE** and **AVAILABLE TO ALL** who need them and can be provided anonymously... or just come along with a shopping bag.

**Remember...** if you are unable to leave home or prefer not to come in person, please contact one of your shopping volunteers on the Support Group flyer who will be able to collect and deliver items for you.

**Please remember.... if you find yourself in need...**



# IS STILL HERE!



Auchenblae Support Group  
 AuchenblaeSG@gmail.com  
 Margo Titmuss: 07527 585327 Gina Easter: 01561 320269



Auchenblae Golf Course is now accepting membership applications for the 2021 season. Due to Covid restrictions, we will only be open to Members and their guests.

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](mailto:auchenblaegolf@gmail.com)  
 or visiting our Facebook page.



## West Mearns Parish Church



Dear Friends

We don't now yet!

At the time of writing, we do not know how we are going to progress out of lockdown. So, for the time being our services are available each Sunday at [www.westmearns.com](http://www.westmearns.com) or on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/westmearns](https://www.facebook.com/westmearns).

At the moment we are holding a LENT STUDY led by Dr Donald Wood from Auchenblae. We meet on zoom each Wednesday at 7:00pm and the link for this is available on our website and Facebook page.

Our Easter programme will depend on the lockdown rules at the time so we will either be in the church or online for Holy Week, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday.

TRUE STORY (Johannesburg)

I conducted a funeral service for a racing pigeon enthusiast. The deceased was a well loved and respected in racing pigeon circles. And as a tribute, the club to which this gentleman belonged asked if they could release a few pigeons at the graveside.

The day arrived and near to the graveside was parked an enormous racing pigeon transporter.

We stood around the graveside, a fairly large gathering. At the appropriate moment, the pigeons were released.

To this day, I do not know how many pigeons were released but what I do know is that the sky went dark. What I do know is that the pigeons flew out of the truck, still low, went over our heads and then swooped up and around in the most spectacular, graceful, and magical formation. We could feel the wind from their wings.

What I didn't know then but know now, is that when racing pigeons take off, they tend to all do the same thing, and they all did that same thing on the day. As we looked up to view this magnificent sight, we saw what looked like confetti being showered down on us. Not one person was missed.

Moral of the story – when it comes to pigeons – it is probably not confetti.

God bless and till we can meet again – see you online.

Brian

Minister West Mearns Parish

Auchenblae, Fettercairn and Glenbervie.





# Dates for your diary



The  
**BLAE**  
your communities social network

# A

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](http://www.mearns.org/auchenblae)



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