



# Auchenblae Messenger

Founded in 1999 by Donald B. Rennie

## Spring Edition

VOLUME 25 ISSUE 1

MARCH 2023

### From The Editor

At last we have signs of Spring in the gardens and around the village. We can only hope that it is here to stay. Once again my thanks to all who have contributed. We are a little short but will be back to normal when the summer issue is due. We are always open to new contributors. I can be reached at [barpolly-bar@gmail.com](mailto:barpolly-bar@gmail.com) I will collect again in mid - June. Please send anything you have then.

Barbara



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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)

## Auchenblae Friendship Group



“When friends meet, hearts warm.”

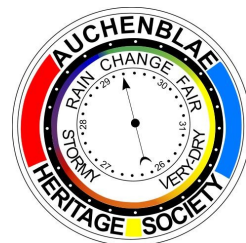
For some reason we seem to have spent some time looking over past times recently. I found some photos taken many years ago when we seemed to be celebrating Hallowe'en. Many of the faces are no longer with us. That certainly started some talk of the old days. About twenty three years ago Donald Rennie and Ross Muiry decided to set up a meeting, one morning a week for pensioners, and especially those living on their own, so that they could chat over a cuppie and a biscuit. We were off. They are now no longer with us and we have recently lost Donald's widow, Ann. She has been a very good friend of the group over the years and we will certainly miss her.

We are no longer just a group for pensioners and we don't just meet for a cuppie. There are still lots of lonely people out there who enjoy getting together with friends. We have lots of people who like to come to entertain us. Dave Ramsay, who was with us this week, first came twelve years ago and has been coming twice or three times a year ever since because, “You feel the friendship as soon as you walk in the door. I wouldn't miss it, Please ask me again.”

We take a short break over the Easter Holiday but will be back, in the Church Hall, at 10.00 am on Wednesday 19th April. Come and join us for one of our musical mornings. You will know the songs and will be able to join in.

“No matter where we are we need those friends who trudge across from their neighbourhoods to ours.”

## Auchenblae Heritage Society



Our rescheduled meeting following last months snow, will now take place at the Church Hall on Monday 3rd April, at 7.30pm with a talk and slide show from Jenny Thomson on Auchenblae from the Millennium.

The meeting is open to guests with a fee of £3, with teas and coffees and a warm welcome.

At the meeting, details of our summer outing will be confirmed, and we are looking at a visit to the Tolbooth in Stonehaven, a walking tour of the Harbour area followed by a meal possibly at the Waterfront. Dates, itinerary etc to be discussed at the meeting.

The Heritage Society are also looking at taking in some projects to capture the local history and make it more accessible for everyone, come along and share your ideas.

## **Bridge updates courtesy of Councillor George W. Carr**

### **On Abbeyton Bridge**

- Still on course for this year in terms of design and awarding a contract.
  - Budget is still in place – funded completely by Aberdeen Council from the IF1 funding stream.
- It will be built by Network Rail.

### **On Fordoun Bridge**

- They have tidied up the unsightly barriers.
  - Funding is in place for the traffic control solution.
  - That work was scheduled for last year, but is dependent on utilities – Water, BT, Power etc. who have infrastructure over that bridge.
- It has been challenging to say the least to get these utilities to commence their re-routing works, so unfortunately I don't as yet have a timescale, but will keep asking.

### **On Laurencekirk Junction**

- Again, not an Aberdeenshire project but the catalyst to get it moving was the Westminster City Deal.
- Access and compulsory purchase have been holding up this project.
- However, Tess White MSP has had regular meetings with Council, Transport Scotland and more progress has been made in the last 6 months, than the last 10 years.!
- She has been very effective at getting these key players around the table, and Aberdeenshire Council are working up plans and budgets to resolve access concerns, should that be required to bring this to a solution.

Auchenblae Bridge near Golf Course (from Donald Macpherson, Bridge (structures) Manager)

We plan to carry out repairs to the masonry parapet and to install a sacrificial barrier in front to prevent future damage to the masonry from vehicles. This work is currently schedule for the first quarter of financial year 2023/2024.

Kind regards

George

## SIMBA THE CAT GOES WALKABOUT

At Montrose train station  
you can see him arrive,  
Strutting his stuff, his warm character  
bringing the whole station alive.

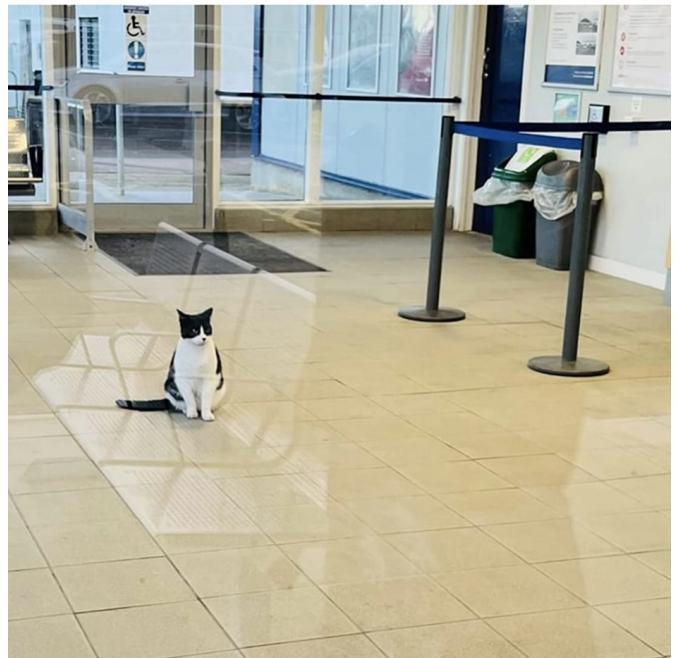
When all the passengers get off from  
the incoming trains, and on the platform  
give Simba loads of fuss,  
That at times it seems he just can't get  
enough!

Then it's time for Simba to go off to  
Aldi supermarket to see what's on  
offer there,  
Where he struts his stuff once more  
with resplendent flare!

© Peter Morriss 13.03.2023



Montrose Railway Station this  
morning. Bet he doesn't even  
have a ticket 😊 🐱 Seems to  
be enjoying playing with folks in  
the waiting room.





## Auchenblae Parks Committee

The Auchenblae Parks Committee wish to express a massive thank you for the fantastic turn-out and really brilliant achievements by volunteers on Den Day and to the Grampian tigers group who did work on pump track.

The children's playground, the parklands, walking areas and paths, Bowling green, Tennis courts, bike track, football facilities, and the Pavilion all rely on volunteers' time in helping with the big Spring Tidy up ready for summer fun! These facilities also rely on charitable donations to pay for their upkeep. If you wish to make a donation, then contact APC.

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

The Parks Committee, one of the village's major registered charities, relies on the fees it charges players for use of the Golf Course, Bowling Green and Tennis Courts. These clubs are always actively aiming to increase their memberships in order to generate more enjoyment for members and more income towards the maintenance of these important community facilities. Look out for posters in the village for further information on how to join any of these clubs.

Tom



## West Mearns Parish Church

Join us in celebrating one of the most significant events in the Christian calendar – Easter. This occasion holds immense importance to the Church as it commemorates the resurrection of Jesus Christ, which is the cornerstone of Christian faith. Easter symbolizes the triumph of life over death and hope over despair.

For Christians, Easter is a time for spiritual rejuvenation and contemplation. It reminds us of the sacrifice that Jesus made for our sins and the promise of eternal life. This celebration is also an opportunity for believers to come together, share their faith, and exhibit love and kindness towards one another.

Easter marks the end of the season of Lent, a period of fasting, prayer, and self-denial. The Church celebrates this occasion with great joy, hosting special services, music, and traditional practices such as the lighting of the Paschal candle, singing of hymns, and sharing of Easter eggs.

We invite you to join us at one of our Easter services, as we commemorate this significant event and rejoice in the hope of new beginnings.

### Dates for the diary.

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April    Fettercairn Guild Coffee Morning  
Fettercairn Church Hall    10am-12 noon

### EASTER PROGRAMME

Friday 7th April    Good Friday Service    Fettercairn Church    7:30 pm  
This is a combined service with St Laurence Episcopalian Church, the Parishes of Aberluthnott and Laurencekirk, and West Mearns Parish.

Saturday 8th April    Remembrance Service    Fettercairn Church    7:00 pm  
This is an opportunity to remember loved ones who have passed away during the last year. The idea is to bring a flower in remembrance and we place the flower on a cross which is then included in the Easter Sunday Service.

Sunday 9th April    Easter Sunday    Fettercairn Church    09:30 am  
Auchenblae Church    11:00 am





# Auchenblae Bowling Club

This year notches up the 110th birthday of lawn green bowling in Auchenblae.

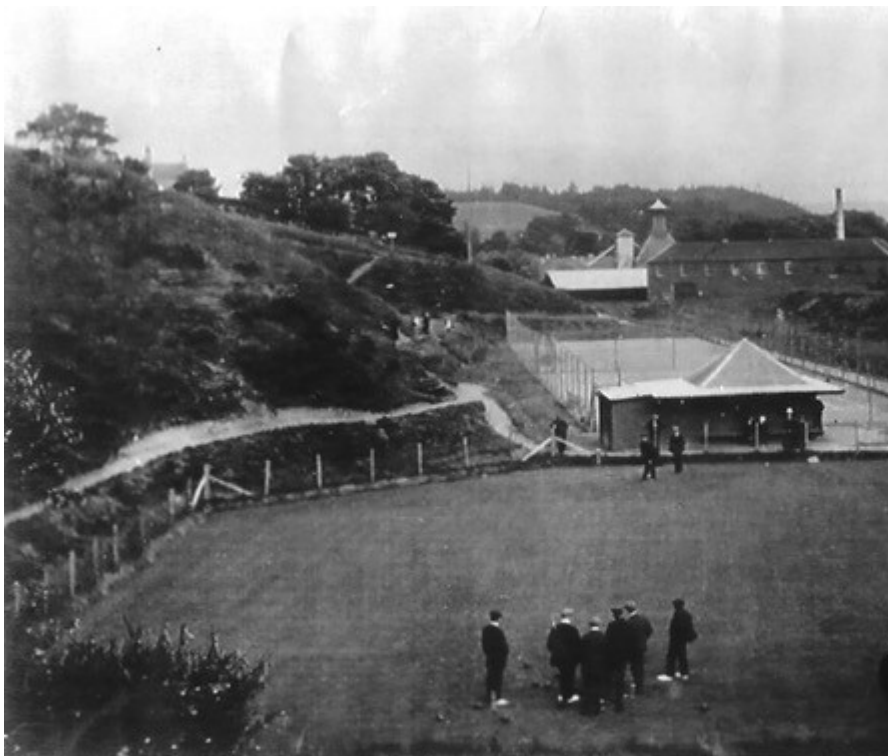
Here's a snapshot of how it looked just a few years after the bowling green was created at the Den in 1913. Do you notice how the shape of the green is different in the photo from how it looks today? We don't know when the green was reduced in size. Does anybody have any knowledge of that history?

The Club is keen to attract new members in this special year and to join in helping the club celebrate. So will you make 2023 YOUR year to ROLL the bowls? it is gentle exercise and helps maintain fitness, albeit does need being able to bend your knees and hips.

Get playing this individual champion game + team sport! Test your aim! Discover your own skills!

Auchenblae Bowling Club is actively welcoming new members by offering 'come try' coaching sessions when the season opens from mid April.

Interested? Want to book yourself a 'come try' session? If yes contact George Wilson on 01561 321174 or 07985 593374 or Anne on 07552 952006.



BOWLING GREEN AND TENNIS COURT, AUCHENBLAE

Distillery buildings can be seen in the background. 1917



**ENGLISH, THE INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE!!!!**

YOU ARE REQUESTED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE CHAMBERMAID.

In a Tokyo hotel.

IN CASE OF FIRE, PLEASE DO YOUR UTMOST TO ALARM THE HALL PORTER.

In an Austrian hotel.

HELP ONESELF TERMINATING MACHINE.

On a cash machine in China.

PLEASE LEAVE YOUR VALUES AT THE FRONT DESK..

In a Paris hotel.

MARDAN PALACE: BAD AND BREAKFAST.

Outside a hotel in Estonia.

THE RESTROOM WAS FOR COSTUMERS ONLY. THANK YOU.

In a Chinese store.

WE TAKE YOUR BAGS AND SEND THEM IN ALL DIRECTIONS.

At an airline ticket office in Denmark.

EXECUTION IN PROGRESS.

Warning sign that a floor is being cleaned, China.

LADIES MAY HAVE A FIT UPSTAIRS.

Outside a Hong Kong clothes shop.

BEWARE OF YOUR HANDS.

In a Chinese toilet.

SPECIAL COCKTAILS FOR THE LADIES WITH NUTS.

In a bar in Tokyo.

TEETH EXTRACTED BY THE LATEST METHODISTS.

In a Hong Kong dentist's office.

DROP YOUR TROUSERS HERE FOR BEST RESULTS.

Outside a Bangkok's cleaners.

SUGGESTIVE VIEWS FROM EVERY WINDOW.

In a hotel in Amalfi, Italy.

IT IS OUR INTENTION TO PLEASURE YOU EVERY DAY.

In a Hamburg hotel.

PLEASE HOLD DOWN HANDLE WHEN FLASHING.

On a Japanese toilet.



HAPPY SPRING



# Dates for your diary



# 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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**Memo Production**— Vacant  
The publisher for this issue was **Kevin Newstead**