



# Auchenblae Messenger

Founded in 1999 by Donald B. Rennie

## Summer Edition

VOLUME 25 ISSUE 2

JUNE 2023

### From The Editor

Another Messenger on the way. A big thank you to all who keep contributing. I know from feedback that there is still a place for the Messenger in Auchenblae. Many thanks to Kevin who does such a good job sorting it all out and making it into such an attractive publication. I will start collecting in mid September for the next issue. If you wish to contribute send to [barpollybar@gmail.com](mailto:barpollybar@gmail.com)



#### Inside this issue

##### Page

2. Heritage

2. Friendship Grp

### 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

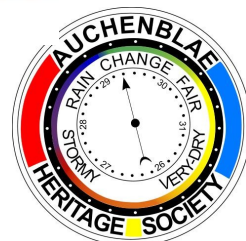


Due to very severe hay fever this year I have been more confined to the house than usual and it has made me realise just how much I have missed being able to meet with other people. I am sure that there are other people living on their own in the area who would really benefit from joining with others even if only for an hour or two a week. Whatever we have planned each meeting a lot of the time is spent just talking and newsing. You don't have to live in Auchenblae. You don't have to be a pensioner. We welcome anyone who would care to join us in the Church Hall, on Wednesday mornings at 10.00 am.

We will soon be taking our summer holiday but once we are back in the autumn we will have an exciting new programme. There is always something to suit everyone. You don't have to come to every session if there is something that you are not so keen on but most of us find that most sessions are very enjoyable. Please ring me, Barbara, on 01561 320911 to find out more about us. We stand for Friendship, Fellowship and Fun and have done so now for about 23 years. We must be doing something right.



## Auchenblae Heritage Society



Our last meeting of the 22/23 year we had a fantastic talk and slide show from Jenny Thomson covering Auchenblae from the millennium, it's amazing what's happened to the village in such a short period of time,

This was followed by our annual summer outing which was to Stonehaven Tolbooth Museum, followed by a visit to the Feein Market and a high tea - thoroughly enjoyed by all.

The 23/24 session will start in September with dates and speaker information to follow. We will have 4 talks this year, and we also hope to digitise the history of the village over the coming year, and hope to involve the wider community in the project.

## SHOPPING TROLLEY BLUES OF A KIND

Thursday February 20<sup>th</sup> 2020 11.15am

Returning home from shopping at the supermarket,  
Looking bruised! battered! and shattered!

*'What on earth happened to you?'* She said

Placing the shopping bags on the kitchen table,  
*'I'm gasping for a cup of tea!'* He said

*'From the state you are in it looks as if you could  
do with something stronger!  
What on earth have you been doing to get into  
that state?'* She said

*'You won't believe this- I've been molested with  
shopping trolleys in the supermarket;  
It was packed out with people shopping.'* He said

*'Molested with shopping trolleys, what on earth  
are you rabbiting on about? Explain!'* She said

*'I've got bruises where you wouldn't show  
your mother!'* He said

*'Try me!'* She said

*'Well! I was busy doing the shopping at the  
supermarket, minding my own business.'*

***Continued on next page***



## THE CALL OF THE WILD

There's a stirring in my heels,  
A restlessness in my feet;  
For me the wild ways  
under their epic skies  
once more to meet.

The sighing winds are calling,

The broad leaf trees are call-  
ing,

The rushing burns are calling,

The quiet hills are calling,

The lonely trails are calling-

For me to roam once more.

© Peter Morriss 15.05.2020

*'That's a first!'*

She said

*'When I was struck with not one but three shopping trolleys, one after another!'*

He said

*'Well! the first trolley half full of groceries, was turned around at speed by this woman who was not looking where she was going. The front edge of the trolley struck me in the buttocks!*

*It brought tears to my eyes I can tell you! She then made off at speed with the trolley seemingly unaware of what she had done. Leaving me battered! and bruised!'*

He said

*'A few minutes later another trolley's front wheel struck my left foot.*

*The chap pushing the trolley who's front wheel struck my left foot was completely oblivious to what he had just done!*

*He went away as though nothing had happened.*

*The next trolley driven by a woman that ran into me, was pushed into my right side.*

*It brought tears to my eyes I can tell you!*

*When I looked up, she'd gone, it was like she was never there.*

*It was like being on the dodgems at the fair!*

*People rushing around it reminded me of the end of food rationing after the war.*

*Next time I go to the supermarket. I'll wear steel toecaps, and a car tyre inner tube around my waist, and a tin hat!*

He said

*'What a plonker! You'll look! Just like the Michelin Tyre Man.*

*You won't be able to reach to get the products off the shelves wearing an inner tube!'* She said

*'That's no problem! I'll take my hand grip jaws with me, and I've got grandad's fog horn he used to use on the railway to warn his workers there was a train coming.*

*I'll use it on my trolley'*

He said

*'I'm surprised you don't go the whole hog and have a flashing hazard warning light on your trolley as well.*

*You've really lost the plot this time!'* She said

At the supermarket all the trolleys groaned.

On the shelves all the products smiled...

© Peter Morriss 07.03.2020

## HILLS OF STEEL OR A SUPER HIGHWAY OF POWER OF A KIND

Through the highlands they're planning to build monolithic monsters of steel, They're tearing up the countryside to build their hills of steel.

Through the highlands landscape the monolithic monsters of power their ugliness cannot be concealed. For it is the sheer beauty of the landscape these ugly metal monsters steal!

While the people against the destruction of these beautiful highlands and property **Shout out!** To cease! This monstrous act is how they feel, And to bury the steel cables of power underground... Is the basis for their appeal.

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Author's footnote and cunning plan...

If all the people's homes down south were issued with a static push cycle with a fitted dynamo and connected to the grid.

At set times of the day everyone could pedal and produce power for the grid. Benefits of this system would be-

- 1/ People would be fitter.
- 2/ Lose weight.
- 3/ Help employment by making push bikes and dynamos.
- 4/ Most of all- Free power for the grid.

Courtesy of Councillor George Carr

## **Aberdeenshire Council seeking more feedback on household recycling centre trial**

Aberdeenshire Council is seeking more feedback on its trial of changes to household recycling centre bookings, which has been ongoing since November 2022.

Aberdeenshire residents can [have their say online via the council's engage platform](#).

As well as the online survey, paper copies can be requested from household recycling centres to ensure that as many people as possible are engaged, and all feedback is gratefully received.

Any complaints or compliments throughout the trial are included among the criteria for its assessment—as is car counting data, the tonnages of materials deposited, the cost of the materials being disposed of, and feedback from additional customer surveying such as this.

There will be a review of all the data with a report due before committee in the autumn.

The survey will run until Sunday 6th August 2023 and any queries should be sent to [recyclingcentrepermits@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:recyclingcentrepermits@aberdeenshire.gov.uk).

The booking system was first introduced as a traffic management tool and as a protective measure for customers and staff when centres opened after the covid lockdown in March 2020. Since then, the booking system has been used to implement the permit system that was approved by committee before covid—by applying limits to the number of times trade type vehicles can access household recycling centres in a year.

You can learn [more about the trial on the Aberdeenshire Council website](#).

The booking system trial can be summarised as...

No booking is required for any vehicle at any time at Alford, Banchory, Fraserburgh, Huntly, Macduff, Peterhead, and Portsoy household recycling centres;

No bookings on Wednesdays or Saturdays for cars, pickups, camper vans, and mobility adapted vehicles at Ellon, Laurencekirk, Portlethen (not open on Wednesday), Stonehaven, and Turriff. Please note, booking is still required for vans and trailers;

Booking is always required for Inch, Inverurie, and Westhill.

Regardless of the trial, residents should check the website before visiting a recycling centre in case of closure, information or alterations to what is accepted, and opening times: [bit.ly/AbshireHRCs](https://bit.ly/AbshireHRCs)

Pedestrian access is removed at times when the booking system is not active at a site as they can no longer be safely separated from vehicles.

# Auchenblae Church

We warmly invite you to join us for worship at Auchenblae Church every Sunday at 11am, where we come together as a community to celebrate our faith.

Our church provides a welcoming and inclusive environment for all individuals seeking spiritual nourishment and fellowship.

Please note that on the first Sunday of each month, our service is held at Glenbervie Church, also at 11am.

## AND FOR WEEK AHEAD:

“Getting involved in an argument that is none of your business is like going down the street and grabbing a dog by the ears.”

Proverbs 26:17

God Bless.

## Gaita Medieval Music Ensemble



### ARTHUR'S COURT ~ THE ROMANCE OF FERGUS an Arthurian Tale from Scotland

Gaita medieval music ensemble present a performance of music from the High Middle Ages, interwoven with the story of the poor knight Fergus and his adventures around Scotland.

**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2023 ~ 7:30pm**

Auchenblae Parish Church  
Auchenblae, Laurencekirk, AB30 1WQ

Tickets on the door ~ £10

#### Contact

Chris Elmes  
07999 533 634

info@gaita.co.uk  
www.gaita.co.uk

# Dates for your diary



COMING SOON



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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)



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