



Auchenblae Messenger

Founded in 1999 by Donald B. Rennie

Autumn Edition

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SEPTEMBER 2020

From The Editor

What a truly amazing year it has turned out to be.

Once again the people of Auchenblae have rallied round, as they always do. Many thanks to all the contributors who make the Messenger what it is. If All goes to plan I will start collecting for the Christmas edition in mid November. I can be reached at barpollybar@gmail.com

Best wishes to all and stay safe.
Barbara



Auchenblae Memo

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



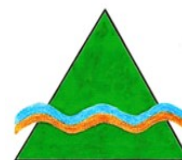
The Messenger— e-Newsletter

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) p.s— hope you like the new look!

Auchenblae Parks Committee



It's been a very strange this year with all the Covid 19 restrictions in place but I'm delighted that things are very slowly returning to a new normal.

Auchenblae Golf Course

It's been great to see Auchenblae Golf Course reopening, with appropriate restrictions in place, and the new online booking system has proved very successful.

As things stand, we will only be allowing members (and their guests) to use the golf course. This is due to the Test and Trace programme that will allow us to identify and contact members, if the need arises.

It's not too late to become a member of the golf course; why not take advantage of the promotion Auchenblae Golf course is offering from 1st October (details opposite)

Auchenblae Den

A huge thank you to everyone for following the Lockdown rules, it wouldn't have been easy explaining to young children why they couldn't use the swings etc!

However due to the relaxing of lockdown, the Den play areas have been busy with families during the last few weeks; it's been lovely to see and hear children back in the Den.

We have been very fortunate to secure funding from Tullo Community Fund for a brand new Basket Swing at the Den. This has proved to be a popular addition to the area.

Thank you to everyone who has visited the Den and cleaned up after themselves, it really does make a difference to see the area clean and tidy after busy days.

Dogs in the Den - we've received a note of concern from residents about dogs running around the Den and not being kept under control or on a lead.

Dogs are very much welcome at the Den but please understand that not everyone feels comfortable around dogs and can feel anxious if a dog approaches them unsupervised.

Please keep your dog under control at all times when visiting the Den, not only will this help people's anxieties but also stops dog poo from going unnoticed!

The toilets in the Den will be reopening in the very near future, with cleaning procedures in place, either at the end of the day or beginning of the day.

The pavilion will remain closed until further notice.

Clare Ptaszek
Auchenblae Parks Committee
Correspondence Secretary



Auchenblae Golf Course is delighted to offer membership options for the remainder of the 2020 season.

This allows unlimited play until 31st March 2021

Membership Type:	Original Price	Late Summer Offer (from 1 st August)	Winter Offer (from 1 st October)
Full	£195	£170	£75
Senior (65 and over)	£185	£160	£75
Youth (18 – 21 years old)	£100	£85	£45
Junior (8 – 17 years old)	£45	£35	£20
Parent & Junior	£220	£190	£85

If you are interested in becoming a member, please get in touch by email - auchenblaegolf@gmail.com



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.

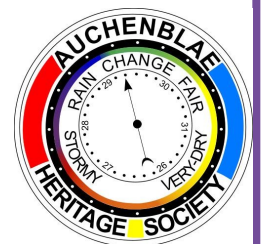
Listen....

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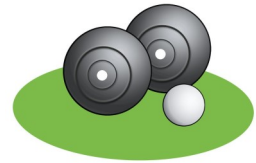


Auchenblae Heritage Society

Like everywhere else we had an interesting, action-planned programme lined up for 2020 - 2021 but, of course, we have been unable to go ahead. We hope to pick things up sometime in the new year and that we will see all the old familiar faces (and maybe even some new ones) in 2021!



Auchenblae Bowling



Keeping up Auchenblae's Bowling Green amenity

It is over 100 years since Auchenblae Bowling Green was created. At one time the Bowling Club membership was so large that the players needed to book time slots to get a game on any of the 5 rinks, as it was such a popular pastime and sport. Alas in the last 2 decades club membership dwindled to just 8 by 2014 although by last year recruitment efforts had nearly doubled membership as new first-time players discovered the fun and gentle exercise of the game.

Club members internal fund-raising mini-raffles has built up some precious funds and we were planning in 2020 to invest in some professional coaching sessions open to everyone from primary school upwards to have a go and learn how to play.

Alas Covid-19 pandemic forced us to postpone such ideas and we are now back down to 12 members trying to ensure the future of Auchenblae's Bowling traditions - not least the fun of the Gala Day open competition match which attracts players from the wider district.

Our club savings guaranteed our payment of the Green Fees contribution: paying towards essential maintenance of cutting and maintaining the green, overseen by the Parks Committee. We have kept up contact with the local Bowling league organisations (which was forced to cancel all the usual bowling fixture matches) so that Auchenblae will be included in 2021 when hopefully a season might return to normal in 2021

When late July brought easing of lockdown restrictions and national guidance on how to manage safely 'socially distanced' games, a few members even managed to get one or two games on Auchenblae's green. Our chairman George Wilson organised a safely distanced 'try-out' session for 4 people who might be interested to join Auchenblae Bowling Club next year.

The Bowling club's hardy dozen members thank Auchenblae Park Committee for continuing the maintenance of the precious bowling green. We look to 2021 positively but we shall need to ask Auchenblae villagers more widely how they would like to be involved to help - keeping up the bowling green amenity for future generations.

This amenity belongs to everyone - and to future generations - so there is a question among us dozen bowlers how we should seek and invite public fund-raising support to revitalise bowling in Auchenblae. We see this including investing in professional tuition so that new players can learn the game and - as in any sport - learn safe good technique for a physical game which certainly promotes health and well-being.

Anyone who would like to help the club in these aims please contact treasurer Anne Matthews at anne.am.am@gmail.com phone **07552 952006** or via the Club's Facebook page and chairman George Wilson on phone **01561 321174**.



Auchenblae Friendship Group



"Friendship is fit for serene days, and graceful gifts and country rambles, but also for rough roads and hard fare, shipwreck, poverty and persecution. It will survive all that life throws at it."

I'm sure that we are all wanting to get together again but due to social distancing we are not able to do that yet. As soon as we can I will be in touch and we can start to enjoy a cuppie and a blether again. Very best wishes to all.

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

Barbara

West Mearns Parish Church

West Mearns Parish

Church of Scotland

Sunday Services for September

<u>6</u>	Glenbervie Church	11:00am
<u>13</u>	Fettercairn Church	09:30am
<u>20</u>	Auchenblae Church	11:00am
<u>27</u>	Laurencekirk Dickson Hall	11:00am

Services for October TBA

Online Resources: www.westmearns.com

Our churches are open for private prayer by arrangement.

Please contact Rev Brian Smith **01561 340203**

Community Food Larders are run from the Church halls in Fettercairn and Auchenblae.

Please contact local convenors for more information.

Musings on lockdown

Early March, home from hospital and looking forward to eye test and appointment for bespoke shoes. Lockdown. Not to be.

Moved to Kirkclodge for respite care. The care was fantastic but confined to one room for 11 weeks. They were virus free and determined to stay that way. Tested for virus. Throat swab not very pleasant. Made me gag. Hooray. All staff and residents clear

Home again. Waiting for hospital bed to arrive. Too late. Legs ballooned again. Marvellous carers from Crossroads to help me to bed. Slow progress. Can walk well with zimmer. Eyes finally tested. Should soon be able to read again. Recovery in sight. Very much helped by all the cards and messages of goodwill from so many friends in the village.

Barbara

Dates for your diary



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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



Messenger Production Team—Barbara Strouts, Kevin Newstead, Eddie Cairns
Memo Production— Lindsay Cochrane
The publisher for this issue was **Kevin Newstead**