



Auchenblae Messenger

Founded in 1999 by Donald B. Rennie

Autumn Edition

VOLUME 24 ISSUE 3

SEPTEMBER 2022

From The Editor

Once again many thanks to all our contributors, to Kevin our publisher and to McPhies for printing copies for people without computers. Without you all there would be no Messenger. We are always happy to find new contributors. The next issue will be at the end of December, to take us into the New Year. (Where has this year gone?) I will be collecting in mid December. If you wish to join us I can be reached at barpollybar@gmail.com



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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

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



"All we can do is to make the best of our friends, love and cherish what is good in them."

We continue to meet on Wednesday mornings in the Church Hall. People keep coming back so we must be having a good time. Many of us say how good it is to be with people again instead of being at home alone. That is the whole purpose of the group, to bring people together.

We have tried a few new additions to our programme this time and so far they have gone down well. We invite all you lonely people out there to join us. We are a varied group with lots of individual interests but with many shared ones as well.

If you want companionship, warmth and fun please note that we are there in the Church Hall on a Wednesday morning from 10.00am to about 12.00pm. We are open to anyone, not just pensioners. Give us a try.

Barbara

"The finest of all things about friendship is that it sends a ray of good hope into the future, and keeps us from faltering or falling to the wayside."

A QUIZ TO MAKE A MEAL OF

SOUP

- 1 I see red when a boy's name is joined to a preposition.
- 2 The end of a beast of burden.
- 3 Begins with an island and ends with a bird.
- 4 A London fog.

FISH

- 1 Not a heel.
- 2 Adorns a lady's finger.
- 3 Cold? Then get the 'ell out of it.
- 4 Every servant should know their's.

MEAT

- 1 A repast while watching flocks.
- 2 A warm container from the North of England.
- 3 What the axe does to wood.

SWEET

- 1 What I do when I see a mouse.
- 2 Not a reindeer but it still has antlers.
- 3 Richard has pimples.
- 4 A mere nothing.
- 5 All in good order.

DRINKS

- 1 Could be essential to golfers.
- 2 Any is welcome in a storm.
- 3 A complaining noise.
- 4 A good place to spend a Devon holiday.

Auchenblae Parks Committee

Urgent message from Auchenblae Parks Committee

At the September meeting of Auchenblae Parks Committee the current Chair confirmed he will be leaving the APC at the next AGM. Following discussions at the committee meeting it was agreed that this is a good opportunity to restructure some of the tasks currently performed by the Chair and Treasurer into new Convenor roles. APC is therefore looking for new committee members to join and fill the following roles. Without these roles being filled the APC will struggle to continue. Note all committee positions are on a voluntary basis and are unpaid.

Chair

Responsible for oversight of the committee, monthly committee meetings, agendas and actions. Ensuring convenor roles are filled and that clear responsibilities and accountabilities are understood for each position. Manage all employees of APC, training and development as required, and recruitment of new/seasonal staff. Manage commitments as laid down in the constitution. Manage operating budget for APC. Overall responsibility for all areas that APC maintain and for ensuring H&S requirements are met.

Health and safety convenor

Responsible for ensuring the health and safety of the public using APC facilities, employees of APC, and volunteers and committee members. Performing safety audits and ensuring suitable documents, procedures and processes are in place as required. Annual external safety inspections from ROSPA and APCs insurance providers. Ensure training is provided as required along with risk assessment as needed. Ensuring that everyone follows the processes and procedures that are in place.

Fundraising Convenor

Compilation and submission of grant funding applications to a diverse range of funding providers to support projects and ongoing requirements of APC. This is a critical role as APC is dependent on a range of successful grant funding applications being made each year. Grant funding normally raises an average of £40,000 per year. Approximately four grant applications are submitted each year.

Golf Course Membership Convenor

Manage the membership of visitors and guests for the golf course. Annual renewal process, payments and queries, ensure maximum membership numbers are achieved. Manage the membership booking system and dealing with the supplier. Manage any queries to do with membership and visitors. Ongoing communications to members throughout the year. Manage the golf course website and Facebook pages. Income from the golf course is critical to the ongoing success of APC as this represents over 90% of the total operating income for APC. Without this income the Den and Football pitch and all associated activities would not be able to operate.

Projects Convenor

This role is to manage both operational and grant funded projects on behalf of the wider APC committee. This role will work closely with the Fundraising convenor to deliver projects once grants are awarded. Depending on the project this will involve dealing with the council for the likes of planning permissions, dealing with and managing suppliers and contractors, updating stakeholders on progress, budget management, health and safety etc.

Auchenblae Parks Committee is a Registered Charity and as such is responsible for maintaining a wide range of recreational facilities in and around the village of Auchenblae. These facilities are used by a wide and diverse group of people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities. Facilities currently maintained include – the football pitch, pump / bike track, adventure playground, outdoor gym, children's play area, bowling green, two tennis courts, 9-hole golf course, various walks and outdoor areas etc. These areas provide Auchenblae with a unique range of facilities for such a small village. All the areas are owned in trust by the committee and managed on behalf of the village and surrounding area. Without the roles advertised here being filled there is a real risk we could lose all of this in our village.

If you wish any further details on these roles, to find out more about serving on the Parks Committee, or to join as an ordinary member, then please contact...
AuchenblaeParks@gmail.com.

Auchenblae Heritage Society

The Auchenblae Heritage Society had its first meeting of the 2022-23 session in early September. Douglas Ledingham gave a fascinating talk on prehistoric stone Cup & Ring Marks, where they can be found, their history and creating a national archive of these monuments. Bill then spoke to us about his use of technology in documenting these stones in 3D and his future projects using drones and 3D printing to create various historical models. His interest was sparked during Covid when he was looking for something to pursue following retirement. A great speaker and a really interesting presentation.

The Society has also recently visited Fasque Estate House to receive a tour of the building and to hear about the planned future renovations. During the tour we heard about the history of the House particularly during the period of the Gladstone's family's ownership. A beautiful building with a rich local history and excellent tour delivered by two local young ladies with a real passion for their jobs. It was a great way to spend an evening.

We are hoping to arrange a visit from the Sri Lankan High Commission to Auchenblae and possibly a tea tasting event. More details to follow once fully confirmed.

Our next presentation is from a local professional Genealogist, Lorraine Stewart, who will be speaking about her research into a number of local families who emigrated to Canada and the background to the exodus from Scotland in this period. The talk is at the Church Hall at 7.30pm on Monday 5th December.

Membership is only £5 a year, and there's tea, coffee and biscuits following our meetings. Visitors are very welcome to come along and see any of the presentations, with visitors paying £3 to attend.

Details of future presentations and talks will be posted on Facebook, AB30 and on the local notice boards.

Auchenblae Calendar 2023

This year's calendar will feature twelve photographs of the village and recognisable landmarks in the surrounding countryside. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this.

This year, proceeds will go to the Pakistan Flood Appeal per DEC **Disaster Emergency Committee**. The calendars will cost £7.00 which is 50p more than usual but printing in colour is expensive and leaves a profit of under £2.50 per item.

This year a photograph taken by Iain Hutchison from Perth will feature. Iain grew up in Auchenblae and attended school both at Auchenblae and Mearns. A few weeks ago he flew his replica Spitfire over The Mearns and, lucky for us, he took a photograph of his childhood home. The result is absolutely stunning. Incidentally I heard the plane circling but had no idea who the pilot was.

As usual the calendar will be on sale in Billy's shop and the post office at Laurencekirk. Thanks yet again, to both for their support.

Jenny Thomson



Auchenblae Lawn Bowls Club



Readers might be unaware that the tranquil setting of the bowling green at Auchenblae's Den has a hidden story of laying and lifting carpets!

Most years the carpets are laid in April - in the ditches on all four sides of the green. This year our members had to hold back on the carpet-laying until mid June when the Den was re-opened to the public after it was made safe by the Parks Committee completing a massive task of removing the dangerous trees toppled or leaning precariously after the storms at the end of January. The Club is most grateful to the Parks Committee for making the Den safe and for maintaining the lawn green surface which has been greatly admired by players and non-players this season following its restoration last summer. Thank you to the skills of the Greenkeeper Gary Tough and to Vince and Mike for their excellent work looking after all the Den areas.

The bowling green's carpets have the purpose to provide a soft protective landing surface for the smooth surfaced bowls which overshoot the boundary of the green and land in the ditch. Of course the bowls landing there have been chasing the 'Jack' - the small white target. And the Jack itself during a game can find itself propelled into the ditch - and out of sight! This situation can make a game very exciting and demands extra skill by players to aim their bowls to halt as near as possible to the Jack and rest ON THE VERY EDGE of the green.... but NOT overshoot to fall next to the Jack in the ditch. Think about it... smoothly ROLLING your bowl to a precise distance!

The Bowling Club welcomed 6 new members this summer season just ended. We look forward to attracting more new members next year to join in the fun of playing and to share in helping with the various roles and jobs that keep the Bowling Club going and keep the sport of bowling accessible to players in Auchenblae.

The late June opening of the green meant that the primary school term was ending - so it was too late for members to host coaching for Auchenblae's Primary 6 & 7 year pupils as in previous years. But the Club hopes to be able to resume this with the school in 2023. However the Club did fit in hosting a come try bowling session for the Scouts and offered hosted sessions to visitors.

As the bowling season ends in September, one of the tasks for the Bowling Club members is yet again to share the task of lifting the carpets, brushing them off before being hosed down as they've collected half a summer's worth of dropped pine needles, leaves and clippings. Then the Club relies on one of its member very kindly storing the clean carpets over the winter, ready to relay for the 2023 season. We shall also lift the metal rink markers and store those safely in the Pavilion for next year.

Anyone interested in joining the Bowling Club next season can contact Anne on 07552 952006 or privately message the Facebook page Auchenblae Bowling Club



Dates for your diary



COMING SOON



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



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