



# Auchenblae Messenger

Founded in 1999 by Donald B. Rennie

## *Autumn Edition*

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### From The Editor

It is good to get another edition off to print. Once again thanks are due to all our contributors, to Kevin our publisher, to Macphies for printing copies for our non digital readers and to you, our public for still wanting to see the Messenger. I will collect again in mid-December for the next issue. I can be found at [barpolly-bar@gmail.com](mailto:barpolly-bar@gmail.com)

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



"One of the most beautiful qualities of true friendship is to understand and to be understood."

.I have recently been shown what friendship is all about again. Right out of the blue I found myself in hospital. I had so many good wishes from friends round about, that they really perked me up Many thanks to all my friends.

While there I was telling people about our group. Many said that they wished they had something like it. We are envied in quite a lot of places in this part of the world. To all of you who haven't yet joined I say "Why not?" WE already exist. We are not expensive and we have fun. Wednesday morning, Auchenblae Church Hall, 10 o' clock. Come and give us a go.

"Friendship is a word, the very sight of which in print, makes the heart warm."

Barbara



## LITTER-LITTER EVERYWHERE



There's-

Litter in the gutter  
Litter in the verge  
Litter in the market  
Where crowds of people surge.

There's-

Litter on the bus  
Litter on the train  
Litter among the leaves  
Blocking up the drain.

There's-

Litter on the pavements  
Litter in the park  
Litter along country lanes  
Where litter louts leave  
their mark.

And as I tinker busy at my  
rhymes, I hasten to a grin,  
As I think to myself, a place  
free of litter we all could  
be living in,  
If all the litter louts as if  
by magic would disappear with  
the rubbish in the bin...

© Peter Morriss

## DOWN TO THE WOODS

We must do to the woods again little Ro-  
sie and I.

To wander the winding ragged paths  
where the handsome beech whose  
branches

sweep their open sky

Down to where the rippling burn over

The pebbles chatter to Rosie and I

We must down to the woods again

where the shivering aspen leaves shake  
to the breezes sigh

To stroll beneath the feathered wings  
ever watchful eye

To embrace the quiet peace of the wood-  
lands once more

We must do to the woods again little Ro-  
sie and I.

## Auchenblae & Dist. Community Association

It's been a while since we've featured in the Messenger although we hope to make a regular appearance from now on...

Our village hall remains well used and well loved if a little chilly over winter months – we have plans to improve that, read on! We are still home to Auchenblae Pre-School Group (APSG) who run Auchenblae toddlers group in the main hall on Friday mornings, Two's group upstairs in the mutual hall weekdays from 9am to 1pm and Pre-School weekdays from 9am to 3pm. This wonderful group also uses the old curling rink for outdoor education for 2 – 5 years olds. This is an amazing facility to have in our village and it's not an overstatement to say Auchenblae Pre-School Group is vital for the younger members of our community and in keeping our hall functioning.

We are also home to our warm and welcoming Auchenblae Community Café, open to all on Mondays from 10am to Noon. The hall is also utilised by Scouts, Cubs and Beavers, Auchenblae Tennis Club and Nemesis Kick Boxing. The hall plays host to many community events with eyes down for Bingo on the last Thursday of the month as well as regular fundraisers and private events. Our cinema club is planning to deliver more film nights and our committee is looking for party planners to help with the fun stuff, fundraisers and community nights out. Please get in touch if you can spare some time, for more info or if you are interested in hiring the hall for your group or special event.

We're pleased to have reopened Auchenblae Community Fund following our review and have received 16 applications with several from groups who have not previously benefited from the fund. Sadly, we only had 3 people apply to sit on the panel rather than the 7 initially required. In the absence of enough willing volunteers, our committee and the 3 volunteers have agreed to operate as a group of 5 including Kate Matthews and Sandy Noble. The fund total stands at £75,815.86 and we will assess applications over the coming weeks. We will present a full funding report at our AGM in February although information will likely be available prior to that.

The hall gets chilly.... is a bit of an understatement. Let's be blunt, it's Baltic and costs a small fortune to keep warm. Our committee are at the preliminary stages of an ambitious project to improve the energy efficiency of the hall as well as making it a warm and welcoming venue for all our community needs. Our goal is an ambitious renovation which will ensure the future of the hall for the next 100 years. We have applied for funding for a feasibility study and design and planning costs and look forward to engaging with the wider community about how we can improve the hall to serve your needs.

Our committee meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm at the hall. All are welcome to attend to find out more about what we do. More information can be found at [theblae.org](http://theblae.org) or on our facebook page and village noticeboards. We represent our community as you need us to as well as being custodians of the village hall - Committee members can often be found at the community café if you want to have a chat about anything.

Auchenblae Christmas Market – November 24<sup>th</sup> 6.30 – 8.30 pm run by Auchenblae Pre-School Group

Santa's Grotto and Christmas Lights Switch On – a lovely partnership between the comm assoc, APSG and the school Parent Council – December 3<sup>rd</sup> – time to be confirmed – see posters for details.

Committee meetings – 7.30pm November 7<sup>th</sup> & December 5<sup>th</sup>

Community Café - Mondays 10am to noon

# Auchenblae Church

Whilst everyone is warmly welcome and invited to join our service on Sundays at 11am, please note specifically the following dates:

|                                 |                |   |
|---------------------------------|----------------|---|
| <b>OCTOBER 15<sup>th</sup></b>  | <b>11am</b>    | <b>Harvest Festival Celebration</b><br>Rev Dr Fyfe Blair          |
| <b>NOVEMBER 12<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>10:45am</b> | <b>Remembrance Sunday</b><br>Rev Brian Smith / Mr David Middleton |

**(Please note the time – this is to accommodate the 2min Silence at 11am)**

## Auchenblae Church Update

Whilst the Auchenblae Church is on the Church of Scotland list for eventual closure, it will not be happening anytime soon.

### A wee story...

#### **BUSTER AND WHISKERS**

In a quaint countryside church, where the pews were polished to a sheen and the hymnals were well-thumbed, lived a church cat named Whiskers and a church dog named Buster. Every Sunday, they found themselves in a delightful ritual of their own – a conversation about the day's church proceedings.

One Sunday morning, as the sun peeked over the hills and the congregation began to gather, Whiskers and Buster found themselves sitting by the church's front steps, ready to engage in their usual theological chit-chat.

Whiskers, with an air of superiority typical of cats, flicked his tail and mused, "Buster, do you ever wonder why they call it a 'sermon'? I mean, it sounds a bit too close to 'serpent' for my liking."

Buster, a jovial Labrador with a heart of gold, wagged his tail and chuckled. "Well, Whiskers, I don't think they're trying to snake their way into our hearts. It's just a way for the pastor to share some wisdom and get us thinking."

Whiskers narrowed his eyes, feigning deep contemplation. "Hmm, wisdom, you say. Then why is it that whenever the pastor starts speaking, some folks' eyelids start drooping like a curtain at a puppet show?"

Buster laughed heartily. "Oh, come on, Whiskers. People might just be having a moment of reflection!"

"Reflection? More like nap time," Whiskers retorted, flicking his whiskers dismissively.

As the church bells began to ring, signalling the start of the service, Buster's ears perked up.

"Ah, here we go! Time for the hymns. You know, Whiskers, I've always found it curious that some humans sing so off-key. Are they trying to communicate with the squirrels?"

Whiskers arched his back, his eyes glinting mischievously. "Oh, I think they're just serenading the heavens, Buster. It's their way of saying, 'Hey, Lord, forgive our musical trespasses.'"

Buster let out a hearty bark, and a few heads turned towards them. He whispered, "Well, at least they're making a joyful noise, right?"

The congregation settled into their pews, and the pastor took the podium. Whiskers and Buster exchanged knowing glances.

Whiskers couldn't resist a jab. "Buster, have you ever noticed that the pastor's gestures resemble a conductor leading an invisible orchestra? I half expect to see violins and trumpets floating in the air."

Buster chuckled, wagging his tail. "You have a point there, Whiskers. But hey, if it helps get the message across, I'm all for it."

As the pastor delved into the sermon, Whiskers leaned in conspiratorially. "You know, Buster, I've always wondered why they call it a 'pulpit.' I mean, it's not like the pastor is juicing fruits up there."

Buster burst into laughter, earning them more side-eyed glances from the congregation. "Oh, Whiskers, you have a way with words. But you've got to admit, the pulpit does add a touch of



## Auchenblae Church (cont)

drama."

The service progressed, and as the congregation rose for the final hymn, Buster nudged Whiskers playfully. "You know, Whiskers, whether it's hymns or sermons, church days always bring us together. And I think that's what matters most."

Whiskers glanced at Buster, a soft smile tugging at the corners of his whiskers. "You're right, Buster. Despite our jokes and observations, there's something special about this place. A sense of community and connection."

As the final notes of the hymn echoed through the church, Whiskers and Buster gazed at each other, their banter momentarily silenced by the reverence of the moment.

With a satisfied nod, Buster whispered, "See you next Sunday, Whiskers."

"Count on it, Buster," Whiskers replied, his eyes gleaming with a newfound appreciation.

And so, amidst their light-hearted conversations and shared laughter, Whiskers the church cat and Buster the church dog discovered that while their viewpoints might differ, the spirit of togetherness and the joy of fellowship were what truly made their church Sundays special.

**Blessings**  
**Brian Smith**



# Dates for your diary

**Auchenblae Xmas Market – 24/11 6.30 – 8.30 pm - Hall**

**Santas Grotto & lights on 3/12 - time TBC—Square**



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

**Memo Production**— Vacant

The publisher for this issue was **Kevin Newstead**