



# Auchenblae Messenger

Founded in 1999 by Donald B. Rennie

## Christmas Edition

VOLUME 22 ISSUE 3

DECEMBER 2020

### From The Editor

It is such a relief to have managed to put together another edition of the Messenger. Many thanks to all who have contributed again. We couldn't do it without you. Let us hope that in 2021 we can get back to a more normal sort of life. I will be collecting in mid February for the spring edition and things should be up and running again..

I can be reached at [barpollybar@gmail.com](mailto:barpollybar@gmail.com)

I wish you all a Happy Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year.



### Auchenblae Memo

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

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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 **Joanna Fraser and Alastair Macphie.**

All the best,  
Kevin (Publisher)

## Auchenblae Calendar

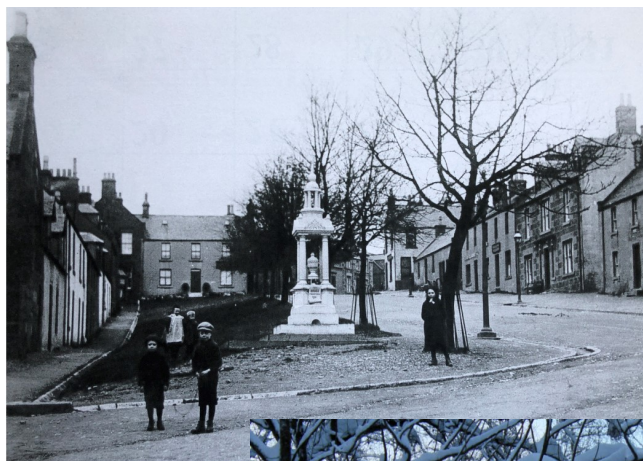
Just a reminder that there won't be an Auchenblae Calendar this year. Sorry about that, I know many of you send them to relatives. We'll be back next year though.

As you know I sometimes use photos from my postcard collection but 2022 will be shots by local photographers of scenes in and around Auchenblae, so get snapping!

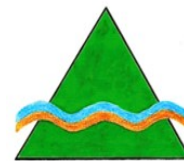
I notice the Rotary Club are selling a calendar this year and it's available at Billy's shop, so hopefully it will be popular.

So, we'll soon be back with more Auchenblae scenes, but in the meantime here's a wee selection from previous calendars.

Jenny Thomson







## Auchenblae Parks Committee

After a very unique and challenging year, Auchenblae Parks Committee would like to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and we look forward to welcoming everyone back in 2021.

### Den Clear Up Day

We have provisionally pencilled in Saturday 20th March for a Den Clear Up day. However, due to current restrictions, we're looking at the possibility of sharing a task list for the whole of March, where people can come at a time of their choosing to do specific jobs. We'll keep everyone updated nearer the time.

### Auchenblae Golf Course

Our current promotion is proving to be very popular for those who enjoy golf. Maybe you have a family member who would like this as a Christmas gift....

And finally, a festive funny....

Why did no one bid for Rudolph and Blitzen on eBay? Because they were two deer!

## Auchenblae Guild

It is hard to believe that we have not been able to meet together face to face since March but we have been able to stay in touch by other means.

Hopefully come Springtime we may be able to reconvene?

May I through the Messenger send Greetings and Best Wishes to Guild Members and to all readers in our Community.

Margaret Muiry



## A Christmas Quiz—Just for fun!

### Which Pantomime?

- 1 Buttons/Fairy Godmother/Stepmother
- 2 Friar Tuck/Little John/Maid Marian
- 3 Mr Firzwarren/King Rat/Tommy the Cat
- 4 Wishee Washee/Genie of the Lamp/Abanazar
- 5 Princess Aurora/Briar Rose/Prince
- 6 Doc/Wicked Stepmother/Happy
- 7 Woodcutter/Stepmother/Witch
- 8 Giant/Mother/Daisy the Cow
- 9 Miller/ Princess/Cat
- 10 Nana/Lost Boys/Captain Hook

### Christmas Songs

- 11 Which is the best - selling Christmas single of all time?
- 12 Bob Geldof produced " Do They Know It's Christmas? " in partnership with which Scottish musician?
- 13 Who proved to be very valuable on a very foggy Christmas Eve?
- 14 In 1973, who did Slade wish " Merry Christmas "to?
- 15 Who was seen kissing Santa Claus?
- 16 Which unlikely duo had a hit with " Peace on Earth/Little Drummer Boy "?
- 17 Aled Jones sang about doing what, from the film " The Snowman "?
- 18 Who sang about a Lonely Pup in a Christmas Shop?
- 19 Chestnuts roasting by an open fire are the first words of which song?
- 20 Where did Santa Claus get stuck?

### Which Carol?

- 21 " All is calm, all is bright "
- 22 "Earth stood hard as iron. Water like a stone. "
- 23 "And his shelter was a stable. And his cradle was a stall."
- 24 " Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay. "
- 25 " Hark now hear the angels sing - A New King born today "
- 26 " Come sailing in, on Christmas Day in the morning. "
- 27 " Got to keep on plodding onward with your precious load.
- 28 " Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by. "
- 29 " Come and behold Him born the King of Angels."
- 30 " Joyful all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies. "

Enjoy

## CHRISTMAS OVER THE MEARNS



A stumbling mist cradles brooding hills,  
gaunt peaks shoulder their tired skies,  
Ragged winds scatter fallen remnants of  
autumn, under frosts tenacious grip a cold  
earth sighs.

To a snow cast landscape the holly's blood red  
beacons burn bright,  
Advent candles turn the gloom from darkness  
to light.

As a child is born, in a stable, in the still of the night.  
Throughout the Mearns tall majestic beeches  
parade with naked bough,  
'Tis the harbingers of Christmas that echo  
across Kincardineshire now!  
Frost borne winds tease Cairn O' Mount's  
heather lined ridge,  
Drumtochty Forest evergreens extol in  
silvered foliage;  
Fettercairn's merry burns banter to their  
rippled notch,  
On Yuletide's eve sombre pines, sentries of  
the slopes keep silent watch.

As a child is born, in a stable, in the still of the night.  
As nature scribes winter's chapter to season's  
book,  
Festive lights a'twinkle spread cheer across the  
Mearns homely nooks;  
On Christmas day, church bells message of joy  
ring clear,  
Heralding Christmas and a Holy day drawn  
near.

As a child is born, in a stable, in the still of the night.

© Peter Morriss

## A CHRISTMAS STORY OF A KIND

At Pitnamoon grandad was in a sweat!...

'Twas the day before Christmas;  
Doing last minute shopping everyone was  
rushing around,  
In the kitchen the steady ticking of the clock  
was the only sound.

When daughter came in to say '*A Christmas present  
is missing, nowhere to be found!*  
*And to find it could dad have a good look around?*'



Santa in his workshop with all the elves gathered round,  
Said *'Of all the chimneys across the world, his chimney  
is a hard one to climb down!  
I wonder just what he has done with that present?'*  
Santa said with a frown.



All of the Christmas presents neatly placed under  
the tree,  
Rushing around grandad cried out loud *'I've mislaid a  
Christmas present, what shall I do? Where on earth  
can it possibly be?'*  
Busy turning out all the cupboards, drawers and  
searching through the spare room the air turned a little blue!  
Saying to himself *'If I can't find it what then shall I do?'*  
Thinking to himself *'Where can it be? What have I done?  
If you've lost it, you had better go on the run!  
For if you don't find it Christmas for you won't be much fun!'*

*'To make things worse the person who's present you have  
lost only lives next door!  
And why is it he asks that every time when you are speaking  
to me, you are looking down at the floor?'*

*'Now there was nothing left to do but to confess,  
To tell him the truth, to own up! Oh dear! What a mess!  
There's only one thing for it'* he muttered as once again  
for the present he searched all the cupboards and drawers,  
The dust sent flying in the spare room, kneeling on all fours!  
*'I can't find it!'* from under the spare bed, legs sticking out  
came an almighty muffled roar!

Then suddenly a light switched on! His brain went into  
gear *'Eureka! I think I know what I've done and where  
it will be!  
I think I know where it is, yippee!'*

Inside an envelope marked Happy Birthday another  
sealed envelope stirred,  
When the outer envelope was opened and a voice suddenly declared!  
*'So that's where he put it! Well I'll go to the foot of our stairs!'*  
The envelope containing a fishing tackle voucher thought to itself-  
*'I could have been the one that got away!  
Now that would be a fishy tale I could tell every day!'*

And so it came to pass-

Christmas night Santa came down the chimney with the present  
In his sack!

All of the Pitnamoon chimneys smiled and said-  
*'Nice to see Santa back!'*

In his bed grandad snored!...

© Peter Morriss 25.12.2019



## Auchenblae Lawn Bowls Club

Auchenblae Lawn Bowling Club members kept rolling during this pandemic year 2020 season - enjoying some fun and exercise while ensuring compliance with public health guidance and government-imposed restrictions for social distancing to prevent transmission of infection.

The Club this year had only 12 subscription members - a slight reduction on last year. Nonetheless, members ensured the Club contributed its usual 'Green Fees' payment to Auchenblae Parks Committee for grass cutting and green maintenance, sustaining this wonderful community-owned asset fit for future generations of players.

After the 'Lockdown' period was eased at the end of May, national guidance enabled some outdoor group sports including bowling. So Auchenblae Bowling Club members started up bowling, adopting protocols published by the national sporting body Bowls Scotland. These managed safe social distancing on the green and safe handling of equipment.

Needless to say all the usual annual seasonal fixtures between various clubs were abandoned but it was possible to organise methods for individual players to have a fun game within the guidance's limiting numbers of players. Auchenblae has 5 rinks so it was possible to allocate 2 of the rinks for play, ensuring the minimum 2 metres space between the rinks. The players themselves ensured the 'wide berth' between each other!

The normal rules of play were adapted so that only one designated player handled and positioned the mat and only one designated player handled and positioned the target 'jack'. Within these 'rules' members found challenge and fun. A number of 'hat' play sessions were held - as traditionally - on Tuesday afternoons and Friday evenings in this way.

Auchenblae Bowling Club has reached out via its Facebook page to inform anyone interested in trying out bowls that future membership is open - even if this year we were not able to function as normal. Within the public health guidelines, chairman George Wilson arranged 'have a go' session for a couple of inquirers. We hope that these expressions of interest will translate into new members joining in 2021 - with fingers crossed something near normal bowling can resume.

Auchenblae Lawn Bowling Club has become the official custodian of the stock of small 'Indoor Carpet Bowls' originally acquired many years ago by Auchenblae's Indoor Carpet Bowls Club that used to play in the village hall. These small size bowls are ideal for children to use to learn how to play outdoor bowls. There has been an informal arrangement in recent years allowing the Lawn Bowlers to 'borrow' these small bowls each summer for teaching sessions in collaboration with Auchenblae Primary School, enabling children to try out bowling. The children have greatly enjoyed this and so have their teachers - and the Bowling Club 'tutors'! Sadly this pandemic year, of course, the sessions couldn't happen. Because the Carpet Bowling Club has not played for some years, its members have now gifted these small bowls to Auchenblae Lawn Bowling Club for the benefit of youngsters' training in future seasons.

The Bowling Club AGM is due to be held in February 2021 and further information on how this will go ahead will be publicised in due course.  
Anne Matthews, Bowling Club Treasurer



## **Drumtochty Castle from a rare view point**



Photo courtesy of Paul Stenton



## Auchenblae Friendship Group



"We are not primarily put on the earth to see through one another, but to see one another through."

This year in particular I have come to see the truth of the above quotation. It has not been an easy year for any of us . I know that many of you are hoping that it won't be too long before the "Clubbie" can start up again.

I have really felt the friendship that you give during a difficult time. The cards, phone calls and help that you have given have really helped to keep my spirits up when at times I have been very down.

I am hoping that I will very soon have some outdoor shoes and will be able to get about more. Other than that i am now fitter than I have been for years, no medication! I am able to do odd jobs about the house cook and generally look after myself again.

I have been really well looked after and can't thank the doctors, nurses and carers enough.

I really look forward to meeting you all again very soon.  
Roll on the day.

As Peter always reminds, keep the chuckle muscles working. Laughter is definitely the best medicine.



If you need a boost this Christmas,

# AUCHENBLAE COMMUNITY LARDER

is here to help



The Larder is very pleased to offer a Christmas Hamper containing some traditional essentials. There will be the usual goodies such as mince pies and Christmas pudding, as well as other festive treats.

The hampers will be **FREE OF CHARGE** and **AVAILABLE TO ALL WHO NEED THEM.**  
**NO QUESTIONS ASKED.**

As always, this service can be anonymous. To book a hamper simply contact Margo or Gina, or one of the Auchenblae Support Group volunteers by **Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December.**

You can find the volunteer details on the flyer which was shared to all households in the Spring. If you would like a new copy of the flyer, please call or message Margo.

Please remember the Community Larder is open every Tuesday from 11am to noon, for food parcels or just to pick up a few bits and pieces.

Auchenblae Support Group	<a href="mailto:auchenblaesg@gmail.com">auchenblaesg@gmail.com</a>
Margo Titmuss	07527 585327
Gina Easter	01561 320269

# Auchenblae Friendship Group



"We are not primarily put on the earth to see through one another, but to see one another through."

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## West Mearns Parish Church

Dear Friends

To say, "Christmas is going to be different this year", is an overwhelmingly understatement. From the church's perspective we are gutted. We are limited in numbers as we have been since opening. The maximum seating is 50 but with social distancing, Auchenblae Church can accommodate just over 30 people depending if couples, singles, or families arrive AND we are not allowed to sing. We understand the need for all of this, and we want people to come to church, to feel safe in doing so and to stay safe.

### **WELL WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR CHRISTMAS?**

**We are offering a number of options and invite you to join in where and when you can.**

#### **ADVENT PAUSE**

Rev Fyfe Blair will be hosting a midweek Advent Pause on ZOOM. Starting on Wednesday the 02<sup>nd</sup> December at 7:00pm, Fyfe will lead us in a 30 min time of reflection. This will happen every Wednesday up until Christmas.

*The login details will be posted on Facebook on the Monday and Wednesday, so that you can simply "click and go".*

#### **SUNDAY SERVICE**

Our next Sunday service in Auchenblae is on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 11:00pm

#### **CHRISTMAS EVE**

Now we know there will be different activities happening in the village on this day and we are extremely excited to be able to offer the following:

##### **The Church will be OPEN from 3:00pm to 6:00pm**

This is to offer a space for anyone at any time during the opening times to come to the church and spend a moment in prayer and reflection. There will be carol music playing and some guidelines on the screens. From 5:15 to 6:00pm there will be a guided prayer and reflection led by one of the ministers.

There will be a cleaning regime in place with volunteers so we can keep the space safe.

##### **WE WILL SING!!**

**AT 7:00pm we are going to have a ZOOM family Service for 30 min. PLEASE JOIN US! We will be singing carols in the comfort of our homes (on mute) – so you can really belt it out! AND there will be a short, animated Christmas story for the children and maybe even more!**

*The login details will be advertised broadly a few days before.*

#### **CHRISTMAS DAY**

Our service on Christmas day is at Glenbervie at 11:00am

You are warmly invited to join us at these services and zoom events. It will be lovely to see you.

Rev Brian Smith

West Mearns Parish Auchenblae Church



# 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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The words "Merry Christmas" are written in a large, red, cursive script font. The letters are thick and have a slight shadow effect, giving them a three-dimensional appearance. The background is a light gray.

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