



Auchenblae Messenger

Founded in 1999 by Donald B. Rennie

Winter Edition

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From The Editor

Life gradually seems to be returning to the village. Long may it continue. It has been a very odd year but we have managed to survive it somehow. Hopefully there won't be any more storms like Arwen to contend with.

Once again many thanks to all our contributors. If there are any more of you who wish to contribute I will be collecting again for the March issue in February and can be reached at barpollybar@gmail.com or at **01561 320911**

Merry Christmas



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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 Lawn Bowls Club

Auchenblae's bowling green at The Den has been in good shape since its summer major restoration and has received some essential autumnal care preparing it for whatever this winter weather might throw at its young grass! Meanwhile the Bowling Club members look forward to springtime and already there is a claiming date (to be confirmed) in the calendar...Saturday 27th March 2022! Hopefully this can go ahead as the now traditional spring DEN DAY organised by the Parks Committee for preparing the whole den recreation area for a new season. We are all still in wait and see mode aware that the pandemic is far from behind us yet. But the bowlers still face some essential outdoor work around that time tidying up the ditches which border the green because the during winter these get filled with leaf litter & pine cones expelled by the trees growing up the steep bank!

The Bowling Club has a small and fascinating collection of trophies dating back very many years and competed for annually as prizes for winners of various knock-out competitions within the club each season, eg singles pairs, triples, a trophy for novice players – so every member can have a chance of a competition! Sadly for the past two summers the impact of Covid prevented the club playing the usual matches. So the various shields and cups remained unawarded since 2019. Looking forward to 2022 the Bowling Club hopes that the first trophy it can dig out from hibernation might be the historic ANNUAL OPEN MATCH prize to be competed for by visiting bowlers from across the Mearns. But that will depend on whether pre-pandemic life can resume - not least whether the village revives its annual Gala (usually last weekend of May) as the events are hinged together. All the usual stalls duck race & catering of the Gala afternoon are so vital in attracting visiting players who feel free to compete knowing their families have plenty else to enjoy!



Auchenblae Friendship Group



It has been so good to be able to get together again. It is so much better than chats on the phone. We have been and are being entertained by some of our regulars who look forward to joining us again. We are very grateful to the church who have very kindly allowed us to use the inner vestibule for our meetings while the hall undergoes repairs. We can continue up until Christmas, when we will have short break. We hope that the weather will be kind and allow us to resume in January. Our last meeting this year will be a Christmas lunch at The Brae. Many thanks to Linda for putting up with us again.

Remember that we are always there on Wednesday mornings to offer friendship and fellowship to anyone who needs it. For more information contact Barbara on 320911 or any group member.

We wish a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year to you all.

Auchenblae Calendar 2022

It's been two years since we last had a calendar printed, but here we are back again, and already I've posted off quite a few to ex-Auchenblae people. It's good of them to support us year after year, but they just love getting them!



As usual, we've gathered a collection of local scenes taken by local people, so we hope you enjoy recognising familiar places as you turn the pages at the beginning of each new month. Just a reminder to budding photographers to keep snapping, we're always on the lookout for someone else's perspective of our beautiful surroundings.

The calendars are for sale in Billy and Sabz' Shop at Auchenblae, Laurencekirk Post Office, or by ordering directly from me on jennythomson1@hotmail.com



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, sen-
tries 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 mes-
sage of joy ring clear,
Heralding Christmas and a Holy day
drawn near.

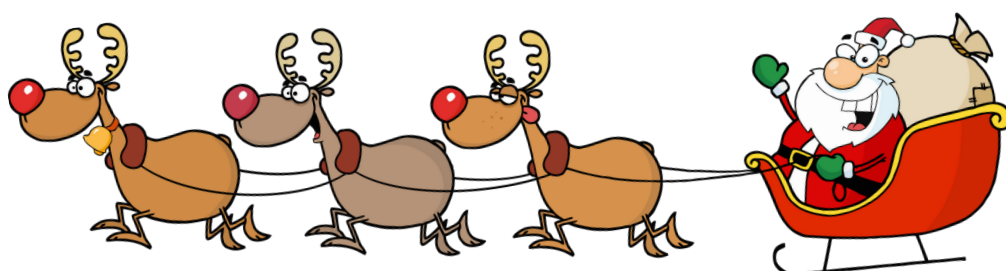
As a child is born, in a stable, in the
still of the night.

© Peter Morriss

YULETIDE PEACE

Across the Mearns, homely
nooks fires set to amber flame,
How still the night lies that clear
star strewn skies acclaim;
The blessed spirit of Christmas
On children's faces given lease,
A landscape in the quietness
of Yuletide Eve at peace.

© Peter Morriss



The Peace and Hope of Christmas

Christmas is approaching and Advent (a time of waiting and expectation) has already begun. Amidst the challenges of the Covid 19 pandemic and new concerns about the Omicron variant how we long for peace and hope. At West Mearns Parish for the next four weeks we are reflecting on what peace means for us as individuals and for our world. You are warmly welcome to join us on that journey, whether in person or on-line at www.westmearns.com

At our services in Fettercairn and Glenbervie Churches on 05 December we will hear about 'Settled Peace', a peaceful mind which comes from knowing that nothing can separate any of us from the love of God. On 12 December our theme at Fettercairn and Auchenblae will be 'Still Peace', and on 19 December we will consider the peace that is possible when we live in a fair and just world – and how we can work for that.

There will be a Carol Service at Auchenblae Church at 6.30pm on Christmas Eve and a Watchnight Service at Fettercairn Church at 11.15pm. All are welcome to join either or both services.

And finally, whatever you do this Christmas, we wish you and all you love Hope, Joy and Peace.

West Mearns Parish

Christmas Pot Luck Quiz (answers on the back page)

- 01 Where can you find the snowflake cluster?
- 02 What is the sweet Italian bread traditionally served at Christmas?
- 03 Which Christmas figure wore green in Victorian England?
- 04 Where was it always winter but never Christmas?
- 05 Which sign of the Zodiac does Christmas Day fall under?
- 06 What did Harry Potter get for Christmas in his first term at Hogwarts School?
- 07 What liqueur goes into making a " snowball " cocktail?
- 08 What Dr. Seuss character steals Christmas?
- 09 Who wrote the song " White Christmas "?
- 10 What animal is Snowball in George Orwell's book Animal Farm?
- 11 The sprig of which plant is traditionally used to decorate a Christmas Pudding?
- 12 What fruity sauce is traditionally served with turkey?
- 13 What do George C. Scott, Alastair Sim, Daffy Duck, Patrick Stewart and Michael Caine all have in common?
- 14 How many horses pull the sleigh in the Christmas song " Jingle Bells "?
- 15 In the Christmas Song "(Chestnuts roasting on an open fire...) what are the folks dressed up like?

Dates for your diary



The
BLAE
your communities social network

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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

Quiz answers. 1 in outer space, 2 panettone, 3 Father Christmas, 4 Narnia, 5 Capricorn, 6 cloak of invisibility, 7 advocaat, 8 Grinch, 9 Irving Berlin, 10 pig, 11 holly, 12 cranberry, 13 Scrooge, 14 one, 15 Eskimos, 16 We Three Kings, 17 Simpsons, 18 Rudolph, 19 mistletoe, 20 Jingle Bells, 21 turkeys, 22 Mexico, 23 Jacob Marley, Christmas past, present and future. 24 Norway



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