



# Auchenblae Messenger

Founded in 1999 by Donald B. Rennie

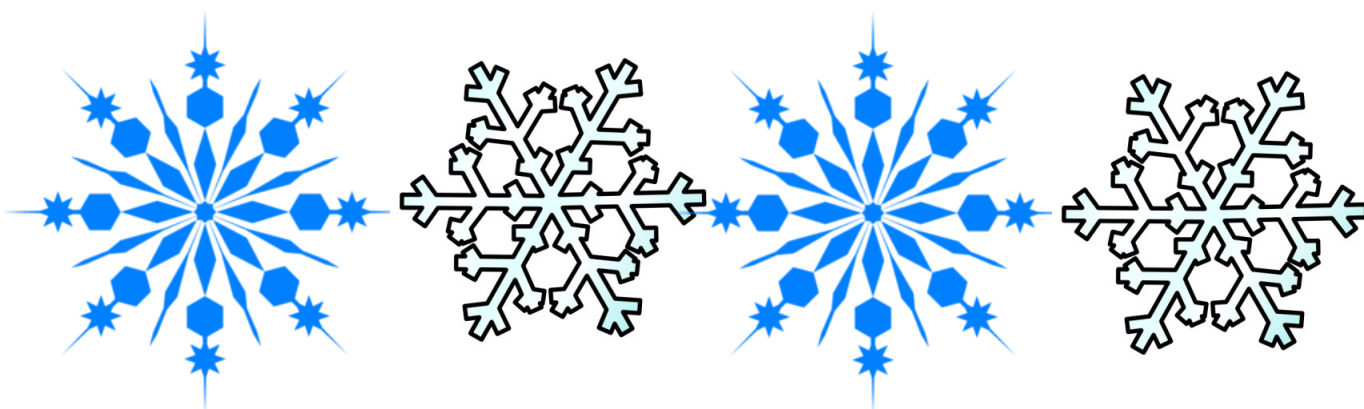
## Winter Edition

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DECEMBER 2022

### From The Editor

We have now come to the end of a very odd year. Parts of it the hottest on record, parts drier than usual, parts wetter than usual and parts colder than usual. In spite of it all, and all the other happenings Auchenblae is still here. There is a real community spirit here, People love to work together. May it continue. Once again many thanks to our contributors, Kevin our publisher and to Macphies for printing a few copies for people who can not see the Messenger on line. A Merry Christmas and a Happy new year to all. I will be collecting for the next issue in March 2023. I can be reached at 320911 or at [barpollybar@gmail.com](mailto: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](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



"From quiet homes and first beginning, out to the undiscovered ends, there's nothing worth the wear of winning, but laughter and the love of friends."

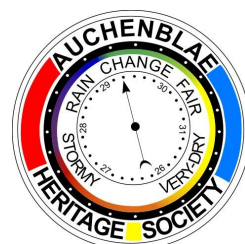
It seems no time at all since I was penning the contribution for the messenger last Christmas. I am happy to report that we are still going strong after about 22 years. We are not a part of any other organisation. Although we meet in the Church Hall we are not part of the Church. We are on a list of Aberdeenshire institutions but the council have no say in our activities. Right from the start we have been totally independent, run by ourselves for ourselves. We have made new friends this year in membership and in entertainers who will not mind me saying that think we are a wonderful group, and who can't wait to visit us again.

There are still people out there who are on their own and who would, I am sure enjoy meeting with like minded people. We start again after the Christmas holiday on Wednesday 11th January, weather permitting. We will be in the Church Hall at 10.00 am. There will be a nice hot cuppie and biscuits. Our charge is just £3 a day to cover all our expenses, hire of the hall, electricity, drinks and food and hopefully at least one lunch a year. We really enjoy friendship and fellowship. If you would like to hear more phone Barbara on 320911 or talk to any member. We will be pleased to help.

We all wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy and healthy New Year.

" Life is nothing without Friendship."

## Auchenblae Heritage Society



We had our delayed summer outing to Fasque Estate in September 2022, with a tour and and talk on the history of the House and Estate. It was also great to see the passion and commitment given to renovating the House, all of the work being in keeping with its history. Thoroughly enjoyed by all.

We have had two talks this session, our first being a talk on Prehistoric Stone Cup and Ring marks (as found at St Paladius Chapel in Auchenblae) and the digital register of these marks in the Scottish Archive. Fascinating to see how a Covid inspired hobby became such a valuable national archive. In December we had a Genealogy talk on Mearns Migration to Canada, covering why so many families felt emigration was their only option, the background to crafting changes in our area and the journeys and lives of the families from the Mearns who created a Scottish Settlement in Canada.

Our next talk will be Auchenblae from the Millennium, and we are hoping to organise a visit from the Sri Lankan High Commission in Spring with a Tea tasting event also.

Please watch local noticeboards, Auchenblae FaceBook Page and the AB30 noticeboards for dates, times and further information. Visitors are always welcomed.

## Auchenblae Parks Committee



## BRIEF ENCOUNTER of a KIND 2

Monday, 25th November, 2019, 10.30am.  
SCOTMID Co-operative, 106 High Street, Laurencekirk.

Standing at the end of the queue for the checkout  
with a trolley full of groceries,  
Lost deep in thought,  
Thinking *'have I got everything?'*

When suddenly a large bottle of HP sauce was  
placed in my trolley with my other groceries.

Without looking up a lady of senior age who had  
put the sauce in my trolley said-  
*'What sort of sausages did you get?'* She asked  
pointing into my trolley,  
Without looking up *'What sort of sausages are  
those?'*

Pointing to an item in my trolley.  
*'What sort of sausages do you like?'* She asked  
without looking up.

*'I had sausages two days ago, large pork ones'* I  
said.

Still not looking up pointing to several items in my  
trolley,

*'Why did you get these?'* She asked.

Suddenly looking up and with a sheer look of hor-  
ror on her face.

*'Whoops! Sorry! wrong trolley! Wrong husband!  
I'm so sorry!'* She said smiling, *'I thought you  
were my husband!'*

*'You look so much like him from the back'* She  
said.

*'That's no problem, I make similar sorts of mis-  
takes all the time'* I said.

Looking at me straight in the face, laughing she  
said-

*'You are a handsome chap, no wonder I made a  
mistake!'* She said.

Leaning forward she removed her bottle of HP  
sauce out  
of my trolley.

I said to her *'No problem! No trouble! at all,  
You have made my day!'* I said.

At the checkout paying for my groceries I ex-  
plained  
To the checkout girl what had happened.  
Pointing the lady out who was at the self service  
checkout till with her husband,



Laughing, telling her husband and staff  
what had happened.

Laughing, calling out to them from my  
checkout I said-  
*'You have made my day!'*

Thinking out loud to myself-  
*'I should have been carrying a single red  
rose,  
Wow! Now that would have been some-  
thing to remember about this Brief En-  
counter of a Kind 2.'*

The checkout staff laughing said-  
*'Isn't that romantic?'*

Leaving the SCOTMID with his shopping,  
One happy, handsome chap,  
With a spring in his step.

*'I wonder who that lady  
was? he thought.  
I never did ask her name'...*

© Peter Morriss 25.11.2019

## SEA SHADOW

All through the night  
the storm battered ship  
held her course,  
To her creaking timbers  
the storm's fury showed  
no remorse.

Her hold brimming with  
a cargo of contraband,  
destined for the gentlemen  
of the night,  
Through the darkness of the  
storm lashed night she shed  
not a light;  
Riding out the storm with  
sails furled,  
A dark spectral shadow among  
The green sward blown spume  
swirls;  
Waiting...

© Peter Morriss 09.04.2018

## West Mearns Parish Church

Dear Friends,

I have been asked by a few folk in the village about the future of the Auchenblae Church. I think the best response at this point, is to share the information we distributed in our latest issue of our magazine called Jottings, a Parish newsletter. Most people are aware of the significant changes that are taking place in the Church of Scotland, all across Scotland. Many churches are closing and there is a shortage of ordained ministers. In terms of the Presbytery Plan, Glenbervie and Auchenblae Churches are to be closed. Fettercairn church will remain open. However, there is a requirement that we upgrade the Fettercairn church and the hall to make them more accessible and user friendly. Understandably this is a very difficult time for us, and the Kirk Session will be taking a number of decisions in the near future to enable us to continue our ministry as effectively as possible across our Parish.

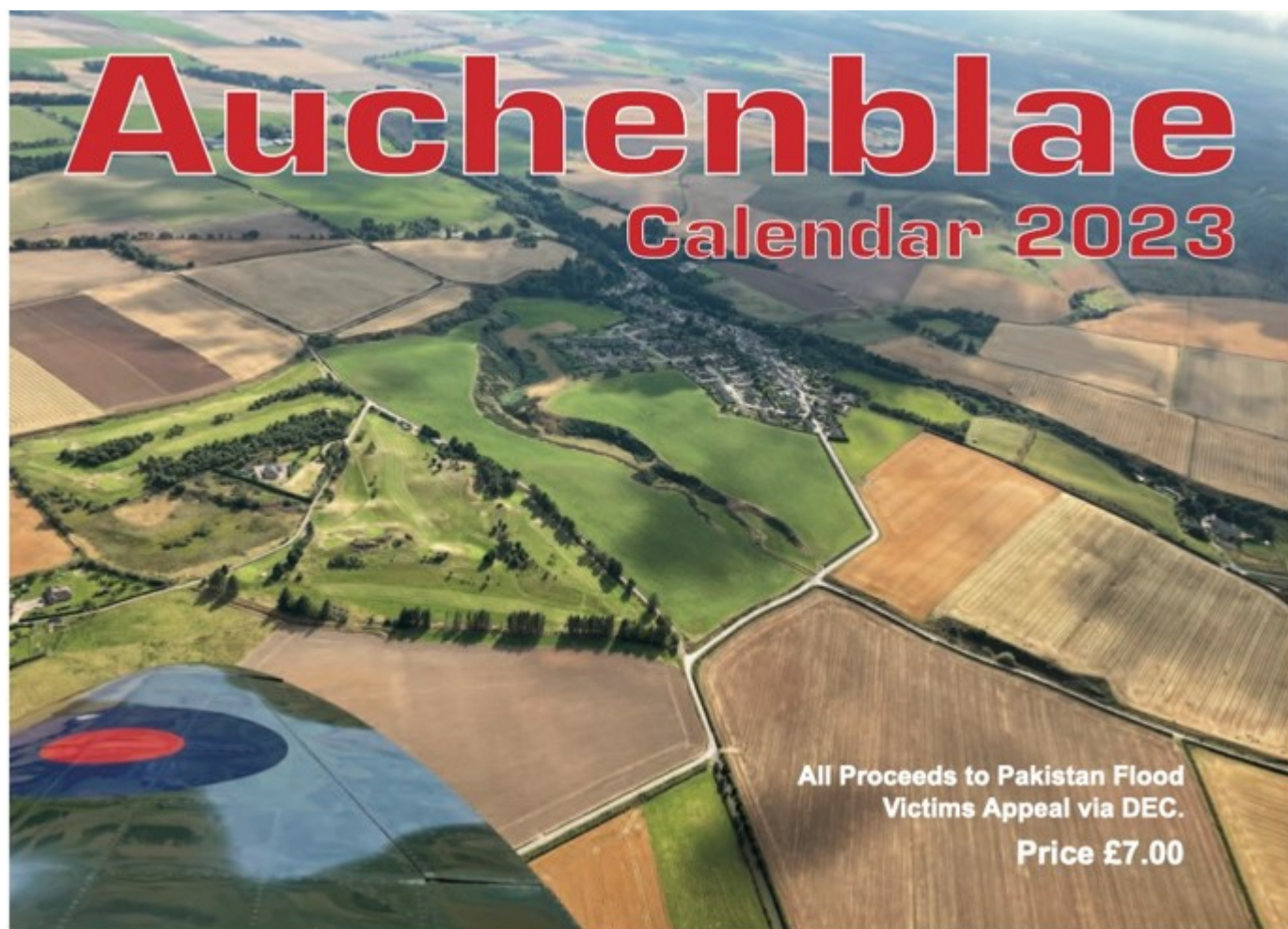
In terms of ministers, the future scenario is that there will be one minister to cover the Parishes of West Mearns, Laurencekirk, Aberluthnott and St Cyrus. Clearly this is a very difficult scenario and the Kirk Sessions of the above Parishes have met to consider a way forward. What has been agreed to is that we start working towards a team ministry which includes both Lay and Clergy so that the mission of the church remains viable. This would include looking towards forming a Union or Linkage.

I have been asked the question about the timing of all of this. The Presbytery Plan covers the next five years beginning the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2023. There will be an annual Presbytery review to monitor progress and as yet we have not received any guidelines as to how and when the buildings will be disposed of. So, in short, we don't know the specifics. Our understanding is that we have use of the buildings until such time and that could take a number of years. If you have any questions, please contact me at [Bsmith@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:Bsmith@churchofscotland.org.uk). If you are making plans for your Christmas weekend, take note of our Christmas Services and remember all are welcome.

Blessings and Peace  
Brian







JANUARY



FEBRUARY



MARCH



APRIL



MAY



JUNE



JULY



AUGUST



SEPTEMBER



OCTOBER



NOVEMBER



DECEMBER

Cover - Village and Golf Course from Spitfire by Iain Hutchison

### A Christmas Quiz

- 01 On what day was the snow "deep and crisp and even
- 02 Who had a Christmas No. 1 with "Mistletoe and Wine"
- 03 How many maids were dancing in the song
- 04 Who is said to have introduced the Christmas tree to Britain?
- 05 King Wenceslas was a real person. True or False?
- 06 "Peace on earth and mercy mild" is a line from which carol
- 07 What were originally made with meat but are now made with fruit?
- 08 Which of Santa's reindeer is not mentioned in the poem "the Night before Christmas"?
- 09 A sprig of which plant is used to decorate a Christmas Pudding?
- 10 Which fruity sauce is usually served with turkey?
- 11 How many horses pull the sleigh in the song "Jingle Bells"?
- 12 In Germany they sing "Oh Tannenbaum." What do we call this carol?
- 13 What was marched in great numbers from Norfolk to London prior to Christmas?
- 14 What, according to the song, was the gift on the fifth day of Christmas?
- 15 For whom was "White Christmas" his greatest ever selling song?
- 16 What happened on Christmas Island in the 1960s?
- 17 Who wrote the music for the Christmas Ballet, "The Nutcracker"?
- 18 Which seasonal type of theatre traditionally features cross dressing?
- 19 Who wrote the song "White Christmas"?
- 20 Who "sat in a corner eating his Christmas Pie"?
- 21 What music by Handel is performed globally at Christmas?
- 22 Which king of England was crowned in Westminster Abbey on Christmas Day 1066"?
- 23 Who first had a hit with "Mary's Boy Child"?
- 24 Eat one on each of the twelve days of Christmas and have a lucky 12 months. What?

# 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)



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