



The

AUCHENBLAE MESSENGER

Volume 7 Issue 1

March 2005



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EDITORS COMMENTS

Welcome to the 37th. edition of 'The Auchenblae Messenger', and once again thankyou for your continued support.

Making contact with my usual contributors to your Magazine is the starting point of the production process; and I am always struck by the willingness of those concerned to make their various contributions. It is this 'willingness to contribute' that is the kernel of whatever success the Magazine may have. So, thankyou as usual to all those who by their efforts help in the production and distribution of the Magazine.

May I draw your attention especially, to three articles appearing in this edition. Firstly -- The continued fund-raising success of 'The Friends of A.N.C.H.O.R.' and the resulting 'good works' (Page 2). Secondly -- The recent and much-deserved plaudits that have been received by the Pre-School Group (Page 13). And Thirdly -- The proposed retirement, after 28 years, of Margaret Jamieson and her volunteers, from all their hard work on behalf of ' The OAP Christmas Fund' (Page 7).

All of these achievements, and many others within the Community, are the result of a ' willingness to contribute' in many individual ways.

Now, the future of 'The OAP Christmas Fund' for the Village Community is presently an extremely important consideration. An appeal is being made for your attendance at the forthcoming meeting which Margaret has arranged, to highlight this matter (Page 7). Would you be willing? Think about it.

And finally, I'm sure that we would all wish Margo every success whilst she trains for, and takes part in, the London Marathon (Page 8). This will be a very considerable achievement on her part. (This event will be televised as usual, on Sunday 17th.

April. We may not, however, be able to see Margo herself amongst the many thousands of others taking part!).

'Willingness', it seems then, is indeed the greater part of success.

Meanwhile, I hope that you will enjoy reading your copy of 'The Auchenblae Messenger'.

Ross Muiry

**Please Read The Article on
The OAP Christmas Fund on Page 7**

Letter From Miss Craig

I would like to express my appreciation of all the cards and good wishes I received on my recent 94th birthday. I was quite overwhelmed by the kindness and good will show to me by everyone.

Thank you all very much and a very “special thank” you to Donald.

Mary Craig
Donardo



Cancer Research UK Scotland - Britain's Biggest Breakfast

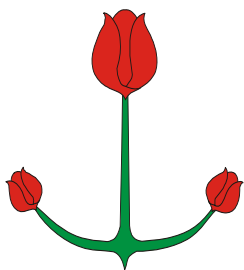
Cancer Research UK has established a 'Britain's Biggest Breakfast' event, to take place during March. The official day is March 4th, but any date in March is acceptable; so it is proposed to hold a 'lazy Saturday' brunch on Saturday March 19th in Auchenblae Village Hall.



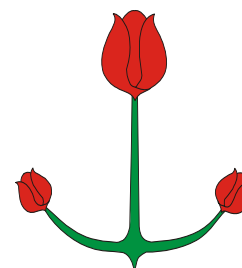
Please see notice board for confirmation of date and details but it is hoped to offer a wide variety of breakfast/brunch dishes, space for lingering over your coffee with the newspapers, plus some 'extra' sale tables and other activities.

Please put the date in your diaries and keep the morning free (from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm) to help support this fund raiser. Ticket costs to be decided.

Auchenblae Friends of A.N.C.H.O.R.



Our 2004 fund raising resulted in the presentation of £1600 to the A.N.C.H.O.R. Unit in ARI. This has been used towards funding an Ultrasound Dissector.



Our efforts are greatly appreciated by all at the A.N.C.H.O.R. Unit ARI, so thank you for your continued support.

Pat, family and friends

Auchenblae SWRI



“For Home and Country”
SCOTTISH WOMEN’S
RURAL INSTITUTE

AUCHENBLAE BRANCH
Thursday 3rd March 2005

“77th Birthday Party and Bulb Show”

The Drumtochty Arms Hotel Auchenblae.
7.00 for 7.30 pm

Bulb Show (all own choice)

Bowl of Daffodils Bowl of Hyacinths

Amaryllis Bowl of own choice

Please have bulbs for judging to the hotel by 5.30 pm

Competition: Homemade Birthday Card - Any Craft

Thomson Cup: Cot Blanket 24” Square
to be donated to The Neo Natal Unit ARI

Duty Committee Member: Lorna Bey

Auchenblae & District Community Association

SUNDAY 6th MARCH

2-4.30 pm

ANTIQUES ROADSHOW & SILENT AUCTION

TEAS & HOME BAKING

Entry £3.00

Entry Fee Includes 2 Valuations, Tea & Cakes

Further Valuations £1.00

‘Guess My Value’ Item in aid of Tsunami Appeal



SILENT AUCTION: Donations of Quality Items would be much appreciated. The Hall will be open on Saturday 5th March 10 – 11 am to receive goods, or contact Alice Morgan (01561 320081) or Sallyanne Morrison (01561 320650). Arrangements can be made for the uplift of larger items.

FRIDAY 22nd APRIL

8 pm

60s/70s DISCO

AUCHENBLAE VILLAGE HALL

Full details on Posters and Next Messenger/Memo

Gala: 22nd – 28th May

Art Show: 2nd – 4th September

STRICTLY COME CEILIDH

Is happening!!

When: Wednesday Evenings (Starting 23rd Feb)
Where: Village Hall
Time: 7 – 8 pm (right after tennis so hall should be warm (ish))
Cost: £10 for 5 weeks (cost of hall and heating)

So if you're looking for a weekly session with the band where you can:

- *Meet a Dashing White Sergeant, make Virginia Reel, draw a Circassian Circle, watch a St Bernard Waltz and Strip the Willow.*
- *Laugh with the rest of the clumsy clan.*
- *Get a bit fitter.*
- *Enjoy some traditional music.*

come along and join our merry throng...

For more details or to book your place, contact:

Carol Shea (A Ceilidh Coward!) 01561 320748

Auchenblae Golf Club

CALLING ALL GOLFERS!!

We are looking for new members for 2005 at Auchenblae Golf Club. Old or new season ticket holders are welcome to join the club and in doing so can now obtain a full Scottish Golf Union official Handicap.

We meet every Wednesday & Friday evenings at the course at 5.30 pm for a round of golf and a blether!

If you are interested in joining our club and have a full course membership, please get in touch with the secretary or fill in an application form, which you will find in the shop.

We are looking for members in all sections - Juniors, Ladies and Men.

Regards

Muriel Mitchell
Secretary

AUCHENBLAE RACQUET GROUP



We are pleased to report that we are coming to the end of a very successful indoor tennis season. Juniors and adults alike have had great fun knocking six bells out of foam balls within the confines of the Auchenblae Village Hall.

We are about to commence the final 5-week indoor session leading up to Easter and then hopefully the start of the outdoor season. Juniors (5 – 8 years approx.) and Advanced juniors (10 – 13 ish) groups are currently full for the indoor season, but we have a few spaces available on the Adults session (6 – 7 pm on Wednesdays costing £12.50 for five weeks). If you are interested in any, please contact either Gina or Carol and we will be able to let you know of availability.



We plan to commence outdoor play after Easter, hopefully the week beginning 18th April. Days and times to be confirmed. Please watch village notice board or contact Carol or Gina for details. If you would like to register your interest in a place or ask more about the sessions, also contact either of the above.

We also hope to take advantage of the Aberdeenshire Council supported 'Play Tennis' scheme which encourages local groups to offer up to three free 'taster' sessions. Again, watch the local notice boards and press for further details but we hope to offer an early season taster and perhaps a 'Wimbledon' evening or weekend session. We are very grateful to Wendy Byres, our local LTA qualified coach, for her continuing support.

Thank you.

Gina Easter (01561 320269) and Carol Shea (01561 320748)

Mearns Community Centre, Laurencekirk



A First Aid course is running at the Centre on Saturday, 19th March. For details or to book, please contact Susan Robson on 01561 378298.



Various classes are running locally, including Sign Language, Art & Drawing, Yoga, Pilates, Hips Bums & Tums, Computing – and many more. Again, please call Susan for further details.



WEST MEARN'S PARISH CHURCH

Minister : Rev. Catherine Hepburn

The Manse, Fettercairn,

Tel. 01561 340203

Holy Week and Easter Services 2005

March 20th—27th 2005

Sunday 20th March, **Palm Sunday** Services : Fettercairn 9.30 a.m.

Auchenblae 11.00 a.m

Thursday 24th March **Maunday Thursday Communion** 7.30 p.m. Glenbervie

Friday 25th March **Good Friday Ecumenical Service** Fettercairn 7.30 p.m.

Sunday 27th March EASTER DAY FAMILY SERVICES

9.30 a.m. Fettercairn Church and 11 a.m. Auchenblae Church

In each of the churches on Easter Day there will be an informal Celebration of Holy Communion to which all are warmly invited.

NOTE : The Stated Annual Meeting of West Mearns Parish Church will take place in Auchenblae Church at the close of a United Service to be held in **AUCHENBLAE CHURCH on Sunday 13th March** at 10.00 a.m.

AUCHENBLAE GUILD

Having got off to a flying start at the very enjoyable Christmas Lunch in January, after which Mrs. Sherriffs of Stonehaven gave an absorbing talk and demonstration of spinning, the Guild then, at their February meeting enjoyed a talk given by Graham Milne on his work with Grampian Police Force.

Next on our syllabus is a trip to Luthermuir to hear the Rev. Alan Campbell, an American minister, who is president of the National Bible Society of Scotland. Then on March 4th, the Annual World Day of Prayer Service is to be held in Drumlithie Village Hall and hosted by the ladies of Glenbervie Guild. In March our guest speaker will be Mrs. Judith Walker, President of the Kincardine and Deeside Guild Council, who is to talk on the Guild Theme for 2004-05, "*Dare to Care with Compassion*".

On Easter Sunday evening, 27th March, we hope to hold a Celebration for Easter in the Church at 6.30 p.m. to which everyone is invited.

OAP
Christmas
Fund



**After 28 years Margaret Jamieson
is to retire from the O A P fund.**

**A public meeting will be held in the
Drumtochy Arms Hotel
On the Tuesday 22nd March 2005.
At 7 pm**

**If any younger people have any new
ideas on how to raise funds for the
O A P Fund
and be willing to assist in doing so
PLEASE COME ALONG AND JOIN US.**

The Venue, High Street, Laurencekirk



The Venue community hall has now been officially operational for over three months and is being used by a wide range of community groups. If you missed any of the Open Days and would like to see round the premises, you can call either Linda or Shelagh on 01561 378298 for further details. Or drop in for a cup of coffee any Friday afternoon from 2.30 to 4.30 pm – when the centre is open and operated by Cath Rae and her group of willing volunteers from the local Crafty Ladies group.

A Drop-In Youth Café is held at the Venue each Friday evening for teenagers aged 13 and upwards. Volunteers are always needed, so if you would like to help out one evening, please contact Natalie on 01561 378298. All volunteers would, of course, have to undergo the regulatory police check.



London Marathon Charity Run

In April this year I'm to embark on the biggest challenge of my life - I'm to run the 26.2 miles of the London Marathon! I've chosen to run for the Lady Hoare Trust (LHT) which provides support to children who suffer from childhood arthritis, and to their families. This illness, most commonly associated with the elderly, has a devastating effect when it strikes the young. I have selected this charity because a very special little girl in our community suffers from this debilitating illness. Unfortunately, there is no cure. At present, there is limited help and support available, and the money I raise will go towards increasing the resources accessible to families throughout Scotland.



I have a target of £1200 which I need to raise for the Lady Hoare Trust, but would love to raise more. Can you please help me reach my goal and make all the hard work worthwhile?

Training for the marathon has meant a complete change in my way of life. I am following a training plan provided by the London Marathon and at the moment it involves running 6 days out of 7, and covering approximately 40 miles a week. It is sometimes hard to keep motivated, but knowing that I am running for such a good cause, gives me the much needed encouragement to get my trainers on and hit the road.

There are **sponsor forms** in the Post Office and Metelski's Shop, and I always have one in my pocket – of course! Donations can also be made securely via the internet at www.justgiving.com/auchenblae. To learn more about the Lady Hoare Trust visit www.ladyhoaretrust.org.uk.

I would like to thank those who have sponsored me already and to those who have started giving me encouragement while I am out running, it really does make a difference.

Margo Titmuss The School House

New Year Village Fireworks



Pictures by David Hutchinson

Auchenblae Brownies and Guides



Brownies

Every year lots of brownies come to Auchenblae and they ~~and~~ should because Auchenblae brownies are really good. It starts at 6.00 on a Monday and finishes at 7.30. We play games and draw, do badges and more if you would like to be a brownie all you have to do is turn up and you will get the information you need.

by Isabelle Hogg muscall
age 10



Auchenblae Guides once again delivered Christmas cards in the village, this raised over £50.00 for funds and also gave the girls the opportunity to provide a service to their community.

Working in the 'sorting office' at my kitchen table are from left to right; Lynsey, Allana Ellie, our super sorter Muriel and Mafalda.

Any queries about Brownies or Guides please give me a call.



Evelyn Richardson 01561 320362

And the team ..Laura, Emma S, Kathryn, Aileen, Claire, Carol and Emma M.

Auchenblae School PTA

At the end of last year the school had a successful visit to the Theatre to see a pantomime and they also had a Christmas party. The School sang a Christmas Carol on T.V. The Christmas Church service had an unrehearsed nativity play (due to lack of nursery space) which was good fun and enjoyed by all participants. We were also lucky to have recitals from **Jamie Hendry** (fiddle) and his daughter **Lucie** (Harp) which sounded wonderful.

After Christmas there has been a 'Dress as you Please Day' which raised around £150. The Blue bags scheme ran smoothly and thanks to all for saving your clothes and shoes. We will be doing another in the future so please keep saving.

The annual '**Recitation of Scots Verse P5/6/7**' was recently held and the winners were:

Primary 7: First **Sarah Gallanders**; Second **Adam Milne**; Third **Craig Watson**.

Primary 6: First **Alanah Mills**; Second **David Roberts**; Third **Ross Milne**.

Primary 5: First **Lucie Hendry**; Second **Luke McCormack**; Third **Brian Grant**; Highly recommended **Jack Sellar**

Coming up shortly the School will have a **Barnados Appeal**. The Children will be sponsored by their families and close friends to colour in a variety of projects. There is also to be a Book Fair for **National Book Week** and a team of children will be entered for the **Rotary quiz**. Some of the older pupils in the school have organised by themselves a charitable event to raise money for the **Tsunami Relief** (see advert below).

Dates for the diary:

Next PTA meeting (all parents welcome) May 5th at 7 pm

School Fair Saturday 18th June Theme 'Go Green'

Any ideas, raffle prizes or support for stalls would be appreciated. The theme is an environmental one.

Refreshments and Entertainment in aid of Tsunami Relief

will be held in the School Hall on a date to be announced

Devised and organised solely by the Auchenblae P7s
Please support their thoughtful efforts.
time tba.

LATEST AUCHENBLAE FOOTBALL NEWS

Friendly game with Glenbervie
Auchenblae 7 Glenbervie 2

Next game

Gourdon v Auchenblae 10 am, 19 February

Request to allow the team to do ball boy duty at Celtic Park sent away.



Local Puppet Festival

A variety of **Puppet Workshops and Puppets shows** will take place in Stracathro Hall, Inchbare. This is a great opportunity for children and adults of local villages to take part in projects normally held in cities and at greater cost.

They have been organised by the **Charity Angus Arts** and there will be **7 different shows and companies** and 4 workshops (limited places) that will run from March 28th to April 3rd. Details and prices are on posters at the Post Office and the Village Shop.

LIGHT HOUSE NEWS

Light House has been hectic (and great fun!) so far this term. We need more girls aged 4 to 12 - are there any out there who enjoy stories, games, singing, drama and occasional treats? We could also do with more young leaders (teens or twenties) who like a laugh and love children. Why spend Sunday morning in bed when you can get a free work-out?



Since the last Messenger, we've all had a good break, which included joining the Sunday School to present a Nativity story at the Children's Christmas Service on Christmas Eve. It was a great success, mainly thanks to the Minister, Catherine Hepburn, for producing such a lively tale of three stars. Some of our children, having rehearsed the previous day, were stuck at home on the night because of bad weather; but their parts were bravely taken at the last minute by others, and with a bit of last-minute shuffling around, no-one was any wiser!

Now we're looking towards the celebration of Easter, the most important event in the Christian calendar. And there's much more to it than chocolate.....

Charles and Bren Gordon (Tel. 320371)

Auchenblae Over Sixties Friendship Group

We are now well into our winter programme. As usual we have tried to provide various activities for the entertainment of our members. If any of you have any ideas about things that you would like us to include please let us know.



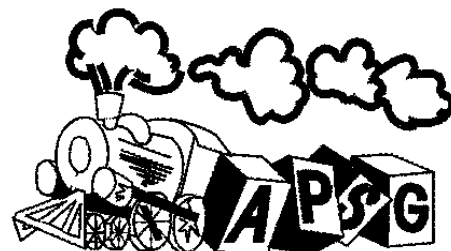
We have had two very enjoyable lunches at the Clatterin' Brig. On behalf of us all I would like to thank George for the delicious food, and for looking after us so well.

If you are over sixty and are not already a member do come along on Wednesday mornings to the Church Hall at 10:15 am. We are a "Friendship Group" and you will be made to feel very welcome. Should you require, we can arrange transport for you.

Barbara Strouts

Auchenblae Pre~School Group

Everybody involved with the Group was delighted with the report prepared by **the Care Commission and Her Majesty Inspectorate for Education (HMIE)**, and published in late December 2004.



Whilst the report identified key strengths within the Group, we were particularly delighted with the comment from the Inspectors that the report was one of the best delivered within Scotland in recent times.

This is a fantastic accolade and highlights the hard work, commitment and teamwork of the Playleaders, and Committee, and we can but thank everyone for their fantastic effort, and the mums and dads for their continued support.

In a small, rural environment such as Auchenblae and surrounding areas, we all know the importance of ensuring the quality of education facilities for all ages in the Community, to keep our Community as vibrant and welcoming as possible.

Both Mike Rumbles, MSP West Aberdeenshire and Kincardineshire, and Mr George Swapp, Local Councillor, have added their hearty congratulations to the Group.

All of us involved in the Group are committed to ensuring that the high standards we have achieved are maintained and built upon for the future.

Our thanks once again to everyone who has contributed to this fantastic success.

The Race Night was held in November 2004, and was a great success, which was enjoyed by all of those who took part. MC for the evening was Grampian Television's Chris Harvey, who entertained everyone throughout.

The Group would like to thank all of the kind local people and businesses for the many donations of prizes.

The Valentine's Day Raffle proved extremely popular with a wide and exciting range of prizes to winning tickets which were drawn in Metelski's Shop in the Village on Valentine's Day.

Once again the Group would like to thank everyone who contributed with all of the kind and generous prizes which were received and very much appreciated by the winners.

All of these events and others which have passed, or are planned for the future, are instrumental in raising the much needed funds which allow The Group to maintain its high standards of pre~schooling for the youngsters of Auchenblae and the neighbouring areas.

More on Glenfarquhar Castle

Glenfarquhar Castle still remains a mystery. It is amazing how a probably important place of residence with all its stories can disappear, leaving only a hint of what once was. It is a reminder how important organisations such as the Auchenblae and District Heritage Society are in recording our historical heritage.

There is a connection between the Laird of Kintore in Aberdeenshire and Glenfarquhar. It appears that one of the sons of the Kintore estate acquired the Mains of Glenfarquhar estate. These were the Falconers. This could be why the Castle is referred to as Kintore Castle by some. There are records of Falconers being born in the area, but the title for the estate became extinct in the early 1700's. There are some interesting records related to cases that came before the Privy Council during the reign of William and Mary. During the late 1600s the remarried widow of Sir David Falconer was asking maintenance for her 7 children because the 'Laird of Glenfarquhar' had not made any provision for them!

Perhaps we can conjecture that he might have gambled away the estate or died young before he could build up his family fortunes from a previous setback?? (It is interesting to note that one of the daughters of Sir David Falconer gave birth in 1711 to David Hume, who went on to become a celebrated Scottish Philosopher.

The search continues to tie up these facts into something more substantial.

A Joint Churches Celebration

CALLED

TO

SERVE

At

Mearns Academy

27 February

At 3 pm

All Welcome

Involves churches from Marykirk, Luthermuir, Laurencekirk, Edzell Woods, Fettercairn, Auchenblae, Glenbervie, Drumlithie, Fordoun, Arbuthnott, St Cyrus, Inverbervie, Gourdon & Johnshaven

Profiles of Clubs and Societies of Auchenblae. Auchenblae and District Heritage Society



The Society developed out of a range of ideas to celebrate the Millennium. It was felt that Auchenblae and its surrounding area had such a rich and interesting diversity of history that there was a need to record and preserve the data for future and new inhabitants as well as providing a resource for existing villagers.

Do people know they might be living in the old hat shop, the chemist or the Taylors? In 1892 there were 16 shops in the village. Most people know where the Bank and the Baker's were because they were still visiting them until relatively recently, but in the future this could just be speculation.

The Society wants to promote and sustain the historical and cultural interest. They collect and record documents and archives and are working towards encouraging young people to be aware of the heritage around them.

They arrange meetings, talks and excursions. At their last meeting they had a speaker discussing original deed records of Auchenblae. On the 7th March Jenny Thomson will be discussing the Alleyways and back gardens of Auchenblae. This will be a fascinating talk thoroughly researched and will be illustrated with old photographs.

So why not come to one or more of the evening meetings and learn something about the history of the village and the surrounding area.

Diary of Events

7th March Church Hall
'Behind the Scenes' by Jenny Thomson (followed by AGM)

4th June Excursion Walk and Picnic Herscha Hill.

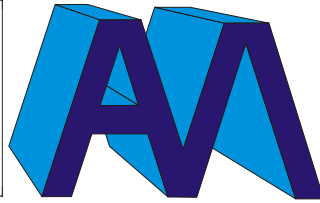
Sponsored Slim.

I am in the process of organising a '**Sponsored Slim**'. This will be designed to offer an added incentive to those of us trying to shed some pounds (lbs) whilst raising pounds (£) to support 'Angela Metelski's son, Janek fund his place on an expedition to climb Anna..... in the Andes by special invitation in support of Whizz Kids Charity. You may remember Janek successfully reached the summit of Kilimanjaro in 2003. Very few are invited to this most strenuous climb.

The event will be spread over three months and will be supervised and supported by a number of organisations. If you are interested please contact Carol on 01561 320748 and leave your name. More details soon.



THE AUCHENBLAE MESSENGER
THE NEWSLETTER
FOR THE
AUCHENBLAE COMMUNITY



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"Keeping you informed"

**The Publisher of this issue was
Eddie Cairns**

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Copies of the Messenger can be collected from the local shops, Drumlithie Post Office .

**Auchenblae Messenger Supplement
MONTHLY MEMO**

2005

Wednesday 23 February	Strictly Come Ceilidh	Village Hall 5 weeks	7:00
Sunday 27th February	Joint Churches Celebration	Mearns Academy	3:00
Thursday 3rd March	SWRI	Drumtochty Arms	&:30
Friday 4th March	Annual World day of Prayer	Drumlithie Hall	
Sunday 6th March	Antiques Roadshow & Auction	Village Hall	2:00 4:30
Monday 7th March	Heritage Society	Church Hall	7:30
Sunday 13th March	United Service & Stated Annual Meeting	Auchenblae Church	10:00 a.m.
Saturday 19th March	Big Breakfast	Village Hall	10:00 1:00
Saturday 19 th March	First Aid Course	Mearns Community Centre	
Sunday 20th March	Palm Sunday Service	Auchenblae Church	11:00
Tuesday 22nd March	OAP Fund Meeting	Drumtochty Arms	7.00 p.m.
Thursday 24th march	Maunday Thursday Communion	Glenbervie Church	7:30 pm
Friday 25th March	Good Friday Ecumenical Service	Fettercairn	7:30 pm
Sunday 27th March	Easter Service	Auchenblae Church	11.00 a.m.
Friday 22nd April	60s 70s Disco	Village Hall	8:00
Thursday 5th May	PTA	Auchenblae School	7:00

ALL INFORMATION FOR INCLUSION IN THE **MARCH MEMO**
SHOULD BE GIVEN TO ANN RENNIE, 'MERNIS HOWE' Tel. 01561 320622
BY 15TH MARCH 2005

Please note that the **May edition of 'The Messenger'** will be published during **April 2005**. The closing date for inclusion in this edition will be **Friday 15th April 2005**.

If you have access to e-mail please send to: **themessenger@mearns.org**

Otherwise, hand to Donald Rennie Mernis Howe. If you have access to a word processor, a floppy disc version (PC only) would be appreciated.

Thanks from all the team!

We're on the web!
<http://www.mearns.org>