

The Auchenblae Messenger

Volume 11 Issue 4

December 2009

Founded in 1999 by Donald B. Rennie



Contributors this Issue

Auchenblae Guild	2
Metelski's Stores	2
APSG	3
Drumtochty Social Group	3
Mearns Community Council	3
Auchenblae Community Assoc.	4
Indoor Bowling Club	4
Auchenblae Calendars	4
ASPG	5
Auchenblae Parks	6
Friendship Group	6
Auchenblae Brownies	7
Auchenblae Guides	9
Auchenblae Heritage Group	11
Digital UK	12
Mearns Community Transport	13
Inverbervie Post Office	13
Denmill Picture Framing	13
Auchenblae Walking Group	14
Rev. Catherine Hepburn	14
West Mearns Parish Church	15

**Deadline for next issue is
15th February 2010**

Please submit to
a_blaemessenger@btinternet.com

Corny Joke Corner

Two snowmen standing in a field.

One says to the other

"Funny, I smell carrots too".

From the Editors

As you may be aware Eddie is having problems with the printers, hence the lateness and the format of the last Messenger. We can only work with the equipment we have and as you will appreciate it takes a long time to print and collate some 375 copies of the Messenger (4000 sheets) each quarter. Eddie has done this for some 10 years now—a mammoth undertaking.

Eddie is taking a well earned break from May next year so Kevin has very kindly offered the printers a home at Auchterhouse. This is a big commitment and very much appreciated.

Ann Rennie is responsible for the Memo—she collects the information, and prints the Messenger, 260 copies each time.

Ann Anderson and her dedicated distribution team also do a sterling job in making sure we all get our copies.

We had our AGM last night, and agreed to put in a funding bid to Awards for All very soon in the hope that we can purchase some new equipment.

The Committee are:

Chair	Kevin Newstead
Secretary	Susie Brown
Treasurer	Annie Thow

Messengers will be published 4 times per year—December, March, May and September. Deadline for submissions the 15th of the previous month.

Memos (printed subject to submissions) will be published in January, February, April, August, October and November.

The Messenger team would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a good New Year.

Susie and Annie

Auchenblae Guild

The Auchenblae Guild has had a successful start to the new season. We have welcomed back long standing members and have welcomed new ones.

On Friday 4th December we will be holding our popular celebration, "Carols, Candles and Christmas Pies" This will be in the church at 7.30pm. This is always a happy occasion, just the thing to get you in the mood for Christmas. All are most welcome. A collection will be taken in aid of Guild and Church Funds.

Our December meeting will be a lunch at the Crown in Laurencekirk. More details to follow.

In January our meeting will be on the 10th of the month in the church hall and will take the form of a "Scottish Lunch". There will be an opportunity to reminisce about Christmas and New Year.

Guild members do not simply turn up to be entertained, a lot of thought goes into guild projects, six charities are nominated, and members decide which to support for the next 3 years. Our choices are likely to be The International Justice Mission who work in Cambodia rescuing girls who have been trafficked to work as prostitutes and the HIV/AIDS project which helps people in the Third World to grow foods to ensure the medication they take will be effective.

We welcome you all to our meetings and remember, quite a few men are now joining the Guild.

Barbara Strouts

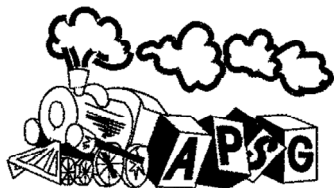
Everyone at

Metelski's Shop

would like to thank all customers for their support during the past year and look forward to continuing to serve you during 2010

**Happy Christmas and a
a Prosperous New Year to
everyone!**





Get in the Christmas Spirit with APSG!

Christmas Carolling round the village; meet at the Square **5pm Thursday 17th December** to sing some carols before heading to the village hall for Mulled Wine, Mince Pies, Hot Chocolate.

Adults £2; Children £1.

Senior Citizens Christmas Party at Drumtochty Castle

Organised by Drumtochty Social Group

Invitations are now out

As part of the Homecoming Scotland celebrations Auchenblae Christmas Lunch Celebrates it's 35th Anniversary at Drumtochty Castle on Wednesday 9th December

(bus leaves Village Hall at 12 noon)

Funded by a grant from the *Awards for All* consortium

Thank you to all who helped with the application

Any special transport requirements or other questions please call Brenda Forbes Tel : 320131

Hope everyone attending has a lovely time!

*****Extra parking available at Albert Fyfe's yard *****



Mearns Community Council



As always the Community Council continue working for all residents of the Mearns area. Recently they have been involved in putting together the new Community Plan for Kincardine and Mearns. This will look at what targets are set for the area in the forthcoming years.

All members would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone

A Merry Christmas



Auchenblae Community Association

Auchenblae Christmas Card 2010

It is planned to have a new Christmas Card available by the **10th Anniversary Art Show** in September 2010. Hopefully the coming winter will provide many suitable photo opportunities – entries in the spring/early summer – date to be advised.

Burns Supper – Friday 22nd January 2010

A traditional three course Scottish meal followed by an evening of entertainment – tickets on sale in December, see posters.

Curry Cookout – Saturday 6th February 2010

For further details and how to enter please contact Jacqueline Humphrey 320539 or e-mail: tasteth-ecurry@googlemail.com

Flower Tubs

Thanks to all who kindly watered, and cared for the flower tubs close to their homes – it is very much appreciated.

Thank You

The Community Association wish to thank all who contributed to a most successful year and wish everyone a **Merry Christmas and a Healthy, Happy New Year.**

Auchenblae Indoor Bowling Club

The club will resume on 11th January 2010 at 1.30 pm. in the village hall.

Former members & and potential new members will be very welcome. Bowls are provided.

For further information contact Bill Barry on 01561 320749.

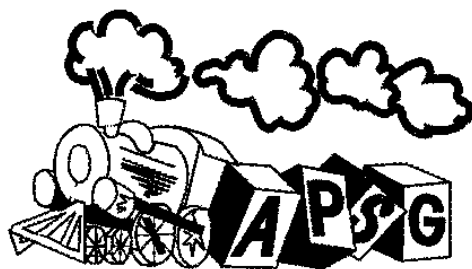
Come on—give it a try!

Auchenblae Calendar

Sales of the 2010 Auchenblae Calendar are going well and further copies have been ordered.

£2.00 from each calendar will go to the church fabric fund. Grateful thanks to Angela and Ludi for allowing us to sell them from their shop.

Orders can also be placed with Jenny Thomson on 320245.



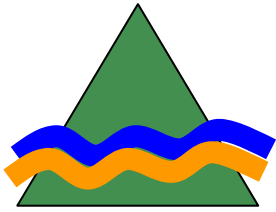
PARENT AND TODDLERS GROUP

Meets FRIDAYS
9.15 – 11.15 am
In the CHURCH HALL

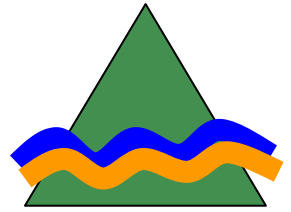
**Expectant mums, babies and toddlers are all
welcome**

**Why not come along for a
coffee and home-baking.
You will be very welcome.**

**For more information please contact
Christine Thow on 01561 320087**



Auchenblae Parks Committee



As many of you will have noticed, the dam area and lade in the den did not escape unscathed during recent heavy rainfalls. Work to help prevent further damage has already taken place and the worst of the gulleys filled in to avoid accidents. However, we ask you all to exercise care when walking in the den, until spring-time when the paths will be fully restored.

Meanwhile work is in progress at the golf pavilion which is getting a bit of a make-over! Last year we fitted wonderful new toilets and this year it's the turn of the shop and reception area. Despite the pavilion's tiny proportions, a very busy 'golfers cafe' is run here during the summer months.

In December, Kenny Morgan is retiring after twenty years as greenkeeper. During this time he has been a very well liked member of golf course staff and we'll all miss his cheery smile and friendly wave. We take this opportunity to wish him well in his retirement.

The new greenkeeper is Martin Dodds who comes to Auchenblae with very good credentials. We are sure our golfing members will make him welcome and hopefully see him settled in well before the new season starts in April.

Jenny Thomson



Auchenblae Friendship Group

We will soon be coming to the end of another session during which we have been entertained by some old friends and some new ones. It's good to see our members keep coming, but we still have room for more. Do come along if you are at a loose end on a Wednesday morning. We meet in the church hall between 10.00 and 12.00pm. We try very hard to produce a varied programme to suit all tastes.

Thanks are due to all who help in any way to keep the group going, whether by helping to set up before we start, helping with the clearing away and washing up and those who help with transport. A special mention to Adelaide for the delicious birthday cakes. The group couldn't manage without you.

Our last session before Christmas will be on the 16th December and we will start up again on January 6th 2010.

All members of the group wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year,

Barbara Strouts



Auchenblae Guides and Brownies

Auchenblae Brownies

This year we have started to celebrate 100 years of Guiding and Auchenblae Brownies joined with other members to launch the year of at Crathes Castle in September. We took part in dance, nature trails, a magicians act and then we finished off with the inflatables.

Our group enjoys celebrating the environment - so we have made a few visits to the Den. Pond dipping is always a favourite with the Brownies and we always manage to find interesting creatures. We held a sing song there despite the efforts of the midgies. In the autumn we had a visit from Christina Oliver who showed us how to use natural materials to make houses for the fairies and other little people who live in the bottom of the trees. Thanks to Margo for letting us use her garden. We also took part in the Changing the World programme and looked at the plight of the orang-utans due to palm oil use.



We would love any old photos of girlguiding (which we could scan and return) and stories, which we could use for our record book of 100 years of Guiding. When Evelyn and I told a story of our early days the response from one brownie was - "That must have been a loooooonnnngggg time ago!".



More Brownie Pictures



Auchenblae Guides

Auchenblae Guides joined the Centenary Launch part on the lawn at Crathes Castle. A great time was had by all ages. We did jazzercise, games, inflatables, and a Ceilidh band with Scottish dancing to finish. During the next year there will be lots of Centenary events for the girls to take part in.

Although Brownies and Guides are very strong and active, we have not had Rainbows for a lot of years. My personal Centenary Challenge will be to try to start Rainbows again in Auchenblae, this is our youngest section for girls age 5-7 years. We need 1 Adult Leader to every 5 girls for this section. I will call a meeting after Christmas holidays of any interested parents (or potential leaders - age 18+) - please watch noticeboard for date or give me a call to register your interest - 01561 320362

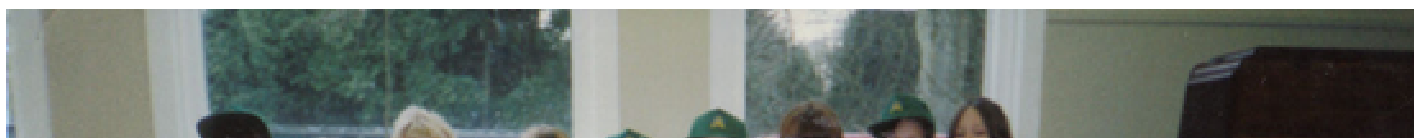


Photo of first Rainbows in Auchenblae - think they are all at uni now

Christmas Card Delivery

Auchenblae Heritage Group's excursion to Benholm Kirk and walking tour of Johnshaven.

The 6th of June was a beautiful sunny afternoon when 17 people went to Benholm Kirk and were immediately given a welcome cup of tea and biscuits before listening to a detailed and informative history of the kirk by local resident, Geoff Lawrence. Then it was off to Johnshaven where inside the renovated life boat shed, Don Marr of Johnshaven Heritage Society, gave us a short introduction of the work already done and of proposed future ideas of their Society. Aided with a well designed map we were taken on a walk-about tour of the village ending with a very civilised afternoon tea in the Ship Inn. A splendid time was had by all and hopefully Auchenblae Heritage Society can return the favour to Johnshaven folk in similar style?

Next year's Heritage programme of speakers, which always takes place in the Church Hall at 7.30 pm is as follows -

Monday 7th December: **“Schooldays at Drumtochty Castle”**

Talk by Fraser McCrae

Monday 1st March **“Our Nissan Huts”**

Presentation by Malcolm McCoig & David Addison

Annual Membership £5 or £3 unwaged. Visitors £1.50



Help Scheme is at hand for you to switch to digital TV

Older and disabled people living in North Scotland are being offered help to switch to digital with the Switch-over Help Scheme.

The Switchover Help Scheme has been set up to help eligible older and disabled people to make the change to digital on one of their TV sets in their home.

People are eligible if:

They are aged 75 or over, or

They have lived in a care home for six months or more, or

They get (or could get) disability living allowance, or attendance or constant attendance allowance, or mobility supplement, or

They are registered blind or partially sighted

What's on offer?

For a one-off payment of £40, eligible people will be offered:

- easy-to-use digital equipment to convert one television set in their home;
- home delivery and installation if you wish;
- an aerial check and replacement if needed, where we can
- a helpline and returning advice
- a 12 month digital TV aftercare service

Eligible people will be written to directly and will get help in plenty of time before switchover. The letters will explain how they can get extra help to convert one TV in their home to digital.

Details about how to apply, an explanation of all of the available options and prices are clearly set out in the pack.

Most people will be asked to pay £40 towards the standard offer of help. For eligible people who are also on pension credit, income support, income based jobseeker's allowance or employment and support allowance, it's free.

The Help Scheme is run by the BBC and has been designed around the needs of older and disabled people. Equipment has been chosen to be easy to use, and contact centre, delivery staff and installers have all been trained to understand and respect older and disabled people. All installers are vetted, carry identification and will never call without having made an appointment.

For more information, please visit helpscheme.co.uk; or to find out when your area switches, log onto: www.digitaluk.co.uk/postcodechecker



Mearns Community Transport

Hi, I joined Mearns Community Transport as Project Worker in June this year and would like to take this opportunity to remind local community groups and their organisers about the local Community Bus.

The minibus is available for hire to all community groups and organisations in the Mearns and can be used by these groups for outings or events, etc.

The hire charge for using the minibus is 75p per mile for the first 100 miles and then 65p per mile for subsequent mileage. This is the only charge and includes all fuel, insurance cover, breakdown assistance.

In addition, **did you know that Aberdeenshire Council has changed the licence requirements for all drivers of council minibuses?** From 1st October 2009 all community groups hiring a minibus from the Council will have to use a driver who has successfully completed a MiDAS course.

Mearns Community Transport provides MiDAS Training with our qualified Trainer and Assessor, Pete Babbs.

For booking the Minibus or to book a MiDAS Training session and/or further details please contact me, Jacky Niven at Mearns Community Transport on:

01561 377 000

Mearns Community Transport

44 High Street

Laurencekirk

AB30 1AB

mearnsct2@googlemail.com



Inverbervie Post Office

Hugh and Jane thank all Post Office customers for their support and wish you all a

Merry Christmas

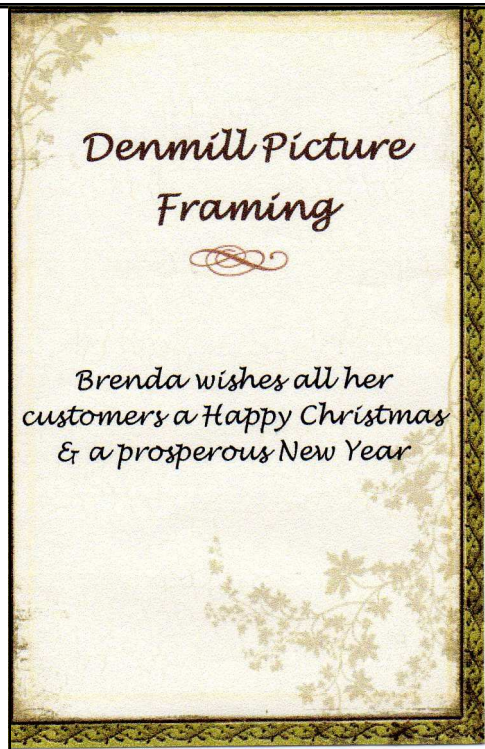
and a

Happy New Year

*Denmill Picture
Framing*



*Brenda wishes all her
customers a Happy Christmas
& a prosperous New Year*



AUCHENBLAE WALKING GROUP

Early this summer a meeting was held to discuss the possibility of starting a walking group in the village. Around a dozen people attended, and it was agreed that we should go ahead and arrange walks on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month for the following three months.

We then had 6 walks - a local Auchenblae walk, Fettercairn, Inverbervie to Benholm, Glen Dye, Stonehaven and Glen Esk with distances of up to about 8 miles. During that initial period the overall number of walkers was in the mid-30s, with an average of around 20 on each walk.

The opinion of those who joined in is that this is a great way to meet up in a very informal environment, we see bits of the countryside that we may not otherwise get the chance to see, and we might even manage to lose a millimetre or two from our waists if we walk quickly enough!

A programme for the next number of walks has now been drawn up, so if anybody has not yet joined us, but would like to, we meet at the Square in the village at 9.30am on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month. Transport arrangements are decided on when we meet, and we pay a nominal 2.00 per walk (drivers don't pay), the proceeds contributing to our Christmas lunch, or for a cup of tea and a jeely piece if we feel we need it! The weather can be inclement just ask those of us who walked in Glen Dye - and it is advisable to have suitable waterproofs and boots otherwise you might end up getting affa weet. There is no restriction on age, only the ability to get there and back. The youngest walker was 17. The oldest? Let's just say wonderfully mature.

We are not affiliated to any national group such as the Rambler's Association, we do not have any form of group insurance - we all walk 'at our own risk', so if you fancy it, you are welcome to join us when

From the Minister

Looking forward to that lump in the throat moment of Christmas wonder and joy? Dreading the stress of shopping, exhausted children and family argument? Uncomfortable with the amount of money, gifts, food consumed and, somehow, a corresponding lack of good will? Then, please, let me refer you to two Christmas campaigns, both Christian based but with plenty to offer anyone, believer or unbeliever, who seeks Christmas peace and joy: www.buynothingchristmas.org, and www.adventconspiracy.org (with www.rethinkingchristmas.com) Both campaigns explore giving rather than getting as the true celebration of Christmas, and giving that is more human and loving and less shopping based. "Nobody wants a Christmas worth forgetting – give presence" runs the tag for Advent Conspiracy: "worship fully, spend less, give more and love all". One mum in this campaign put an empty box covered in Christmas wrapping paper in her living room through advent and encouraged her young children to put in toys they no longer played with "for Santa". On Christmas morning her children woke her up, thrilled and excited – not with their stockings which they had not noticed - but because Santa had been and taken away the box to distribute the toys in it to children in need. For the past few years I have distributed an Alternative Advent Calendar at West Mearns Church from the Buy Nothing Christmas Campaign. Each day it asks you to count a blessing/privilege: hot water taps, beds, pairs of trousers, soaps, flush toilets.... And for each blessing/privilege you put a "fine" into a jar, e.g. 10p for every hot water tap in your house. After Christmas you send the money thus collected to the charity of your choice working to overcome poverty. I know not everyone has access to the internet to look up these campaigns. If you would like more information about them and/or a copy of the Advent Calendar, please contact me at West Mearns Manse, Fettercairn AB30 1UE; Tel: 01561-340203

And I wish you and yours a blessed and happy Christmas.

Catherine Hepburn

West Mearns Parish Church

Services

Fettercairn—9.30am every Sunday
Glenbervie—11.00am the first Sunday of every month
Auchenblae—11.00am the other Sundays in the month
Sunday School for the children at all three churches

Special Events and Services

Carols, Candles and Christmas Pies

Friday 4th December—7.00pm in Auchenblae Church

Sunday 6th December

“White Gift Sunday”

Gifts wrapped in white paper for children & adults in need , are welcome at services

6.30pm—Carol Service in Fordoun Hall

Wednesday 16th December

Auchenblae Primary School Christmas Service
9.30am in Auchenblae Church

20th December

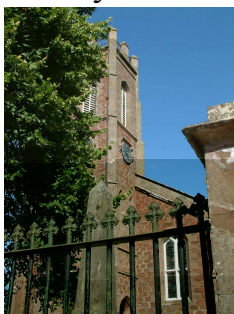
Christmas Family Services with Nativity Play
Manger gift for Christian Aid’s appeal for the children of Bethlehem

24th December

6.30pm—Auchenblae Children’s Carol Service
11.15pm (for 11.30pm) Watchnight Service at Fettercairn Church

25th December

United Christmas Day Service at Glenbervie Church



Dates For Your Diary

December

4th Carols, Candles and Christmas Pies
 6th Carol Service Fordoun Hall
 7th Heritage Group
 16th School Christmas Service
 17th Christmas Carolling
 20th Christmas Family Service/Nativity
 24th Children's Carol Service
 25th United Service at Glenbervie

January

6th Friendship Group resumes
 11th Indoor Bowling resumes
 22nd Burns Supper

February

6th Curry Cookout



Messenger Distribution Team

Ann Anderson, Sheena Auld, Carol Nelson,
 Anne Caird, Sheree Caird, Therese Hendry,
 Ann Rennie, Trish MacEachern, Margaret
 Muiry, Lois McCormick and Moira Hutchison.

Messenger Production Team

Susie Brown, Annie Thow, Eddie Cairns,
 Kevin Newstead

Memo Production

Ann Rennie

**Copies of the Messenger can be collected
 from the local shops and the Drumlithie
 Hotel**

Stop Press

* * Volunteers Needed * *

to help with the Flood Relief Centre in Stonehaven

The Centre has been set up based at the MRI Centre, Stonehaven Harbour and is open from 11.00 - 5pm, Monday to Friday. The main advice and counselling will be given by an expert in flood recovery. There may be a need for a little admin work and to listen to people who are waiting to see Paul Hendy from the Scottish Flood Forum. There will be advice leaflets etc to give providing answers to standard questions.

They are looking for volunteers willing to give a few hours each week to

- Help at the reception desk and give out information.
- Various office duties
- Operate the phone line
- Meeters and greeters to make tea and coffee and generally listen to people whilst they are waiting to see Paul Hendy, Scottish Flood Forum.

Also required is an admin person /s who is computer literate and able to provide some office / admin assistance.

If anyone is able to help could they please contact

Paul Hendy on the Stonehaven Flood line - 01569 778077

The Flood Relief Centre is expected to be open for at least 6 months.

There is also a need for furniture and household items, especially beds—please think before you throw anything out—can this be of use to someone?

The furniture store is situated in Cowie Lane. Items can be uplifted if necessary. Please call 01569 765030 if you can help.