

# AROUND AUDLEM



The newsletter for residents of Audlem & District

Autumn/Winter 2018

## Audlem Parish Council

### Parish Council News, October 2018

#### Green Lane Field

The Parish Council is delighted to confirm that their bid to purchase the field was successful. At the recently held Open Meeting an update on the purchase of, and next steps for, the 11.5 acre field was given.

The clear feedback from residents at the two meetings held in April and the questionnaires submitted was to ensure that the field was not sold to a developer, thereby losing this important green space for ever.



The main points mentioned at the meeting are noted below.

- Before submitting its bid, Councillors had been advised by two professionals that the likely amount to be successful would be considerably above £200,000.
- The successful bid was £227,500, but also having to pay land charges, the vendor's costs and its own minimal legal fees, meant that the total cost was £237,939.32.
- A loan from the Public Works Loan Board of £250,000 over 40 years had been secured at a fixed interest rate of 2.82%, meaning £10,463.66 will be repaid each year.
- The Parish Council's element of Council Tax will increase by approximately 25%. For a Band D property this equates to between £10 and £12 per year, depending on how quickly the new houses currently being built are occupied.
- The Parish Council is not going to rush into doing things with the field.

The plans for the next 12 months are to:

- **set up** a Working Group of Councillors and volunteers who are Michael Cookson, Steve Elliott, Judy Evans, Neil Goodyear and Ralph Warburton;
- **create** a temporary access to the field from Shropshire Street.

Unfortunately this will not be wheelchair friendly due to the height of the field above the pavement;

- **draw up** plans to create a permanent pedestrian access from Shropshire Street and green car park by improving the current access on Green Lane;
- **hold** another Open Meeting in February next year to report on progress.

#### Three Councillors have left

Heather Jones has resigned following her move back to South Wales and is a sad loss. Over the last eight years, the last four of which as Chairman, Heather has worked tirelessly for the village and her experience, dedication and input will be sorely missed. During her Chairmanship, amongst other things, she successfully led the bid for the Green Lane field, the completion of the Neighbourhood Plan and the revision of all the Council's policies.

Due to work commitments both Suzie Warren and Jenny Carlin have also had to resign from the Parish Council. Once again, their input and enthusiasm will be missed.

#### Proposed new housing sites in Audlem

Cheshire East's Local Plan Part 2 includes proposed development areas in rural areas. There are two sites in Audlem, both on the north side of the village:

- **Bird's Nest**, the field opposite the Anwyl and McCarthy & Stone sites (20 properties)
- **East View**, the field bordered by the Bird's Nest site, Witton Close and Monks Lane (22 properties).

#### Parish Councillors' Contact Details

**Geoff Seddon**, Chair - 811282

**David Higham**, Vice Chair - 812069

**Frances Mary Christie** - 811340

**Dave Siddorns** - 811012

**Tim Lawton** - 811899

**Steve Boyes** - 812192

**Lynette Hopkins** - 811529

**Nigel Mottershead** - 811537

**Kate Down** - 811160

Your Parish Clerk is **Belen Lopez Bloor** - 07432 332857 or email [audlemcpc@gmail.com](mailto:audlemcpc@gmail.com).

Parish Council meetings will be held in the Meeting Rooms adjoining Audlem Methodist Church on Mondays, 5th November and 3rd December 2018, starting at 7.30pm. At the beginning of each meeting, residents have the opportunity to bring matters of concern to the attention of the Parish Council. Everyone is welcome to stay and listen for the rest of the meeting.



## Audlem Lass – Eight Successful Seasons

The 8th Season for The Audlem Lass began on a very wet and cold Easter weekend - but things got better, and we have had the most successful season ever. We have carried over 5,400 visitors so far in 2018, not forgetting 450 dogs, with one month still to go. The weather has been in our favour and mid-week charters have been much in demand. Over these eight years The Audlem Lass has carried in excess of 36,000 passengers between Overwater Marina and Audlem. Our team of volunteers has increased to 39 and we continue to encourage new volunteers.

The 'Lass completed its 2018 season at the end of October but it still has one important duty to perform ... bringing Santa along the canal into the village for the Big Switch On. This takes place on 30th November, with Santa and his Helpers arriving at the Wharf, near the Shroppie Fly, at 6pm, with the Audlem Lass bedecked with colourful lights and festive music playing. All of this is preceded by the sale of Floating Wish Candles, raising funds for the RNLI.



## Audlem Charity Shop Thrives

Audlem Charity Shop continues to thrive thanks to the generosity of people making donations. Opening times are 10am to 12.30pm Monday to Saturday.

The shop will be open on 30th November for the Big Switch On with a wonderful assortment of Christmas goods, jewellery and new items. Many thanks to all our customers for their support. We donated £28,000 last year to local charities and with your continued donations and shop sales we hope to be able to do the same or more next year.

And finally, just a gentle reminder that we cannot accept large items of furniture (mainly due to the lack of space) or children's pushchairs / prams, medical equipment (zimmer frames, wheelchairs etc) as we cannot verify their safety. Also, we cannot sell electrical items as we cannot PAT test them, however, they can be taken to St Luke's Hospice as part of the monthly collection we have from them.

## ADAPT highlights

The Food Group has been very active. The Saturday market stall on the Lord Combermere car park was very popular throughout the growing season. At the Overwater Marina RNLI Festival we demonstrated apple pressing and Chris Lewis gave expert advice on the "Gardeners Question Time" panel. People from all around the area brought apples for pressing at the sessions held in September – the

younger generation were very helpful with this strenuous activity! A social highlight was a canal-side summer party, and the social side continues with the group's monthly meet-ups.

This year the increasing number of members of the Lock 15 Gardeners Group have kept the plots looking cheerful with plenty of flowers and abundant vegetables.

In 2019 ADAPT will mark 10 years of finding ways to enjoy living well today while safeguarding the future. We welcome new members to our activities: Food, Gardening, Woodland, Energy, Transport. <http://adapt.audlem.org> or email [adapt2009info@gmail.com](mailto:adapt2009info@gmail.com)



## Events at the Methodist Chapel

Our traditional Harvest Service was held in September in a beautifully decorated church, with donations of non-perishables to the Nantwich Food Bank. At the following Harvest lunch a collection was taken for "All We Can" (formerly Methodist Relief and Development Fund).

On Saturday 3rd November, 10am - 12.30pm, we are holding a charity fair, with many local fund-raising groups: St Luke's, RNLI, Bloodwise, the Charity Shop, and Donna Louise Hospice, with refreshments in aid of the chapel.

For those who enjoy happy, tuneful singing we welcome back The Grove Singers Choir to a concert at 7.30pm on Saturday 17th November. Tickets at £7 are available from Julia Parton (811761) in aid of church funds, to include cake and tea/coffee.

Our social events for the year conclude with a Festive Coffee Morning in the Hall on 8th December, at 10.30am, with stalls and seasonal refreshments, and all are invited.

## Audlem and District History Society

A founder member of our Society, Celia Bloor, stepped into the breach at the last minute for our September meeting to give part 2 of her talk on "What We Know of Audlem's History". Amply illustrated with fascinating photographs Celia showed us some of the black and white buildings still existing in and around the village including Moss Hall and Highfields and the virtually identical buildings of the Crown Hotel and The Phoenix (latterly the old Co-op) by the local architect William Baker. She told us about our local poorhouse before its closure when the residents were transferred to the Barony in Nantwich and highlighted several events in the village including the visit of the Duke of Wellington. An informative and entertaining talk.

For details of our upcoming events please see the Diary Dates section. Even if you are not a member, you are very welcome to attend any of the meetings.

## Audlem WI

Our July meeting provided us with an entertaining musical soiree by The Grove Singers. The wide variety of pieces sung was eclectic with songs ranging from Blue Moon to Catch a Falling Star, then switching to African and Blue Grass pieces with ease. It was a delightful evening.



August is our favourite month as we hold our annual Garden Party. Joyce Clydesdale offered us her beautiful garden as a venue and each table was presented with a pot of tea, mouth-watering sponge cakes, scones and sandwiches, all delicately arranged on cake stands.

September saw our speaker Hazel Wallace give us a talk on "Beanstalk". Hazel explained the difficulties that teachers face in finding time to read with every child, especially when English is not their first language. Twenty-one percent of children are dyslexic and need extra help whilst there are over 240 different languages spoken by ethnic minorities in this country. More volunteers are needed for this worthy charity.

On 25th October we are all looking forward to our Fish & Chip Supper Quiz, hosted by Ralph Warburton BEM, and following this we will begin making preparations for our Centenary Celebrations next year. Watch this space!

## The White Lion roars again!

After years of neglect and threat of demolition, The White Lion in Hankelow has been rescued from the brink of extinction.



Investors from Hankelow and its surroundings have succeeded in their efforts to buy their village pub, saving it from demolition. The initial 34 investors who have formed a limited company, The White Lion Community Pub Hankelow Ltd, completed the purchase on 14th September 2018. An agreement has also been reached for part of the site to be developed by a local company, which will be mutually beneficial.

The pub will now undergo extensive refurbishment and investment. It will in time reopen as a Freehouse serving as a community hub. This is a very exciting venture for the community; further investment and support will be needed to make it a success. The next stage is to begin a further phase of fund-raising to meet the costs of repair and restoration. The possibility of obtaining community grants will also be explored.

A reopening timescale cannot yet be set, as this very much depends on the success of fund-raising ventures and the building work to follow. This is fantastic news for our village. The White Lion has been saved and is on the road to recovery!

If you are in any way able to help us raise funds to restore the pub, then please get in touch. One of our directors will be happy to meet you and discuss options. Contact us: [www.whitelionhankelow.com](http://www.whitelionhankelow.com) or on 01270 811574.

## ADAS News

This year's summer bedding displays have been much admired. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped with the planting and watering during the exceptionally dry summer. The tubs and beds have now been planted with pansies and bulbs to provide colour in the early spring. Again the Beavers and Cubs have helped with this task. Also during the autumn volunteers have been busy clearing and weeding the pavements in the village which had become very overgrown.

In October the Lord Combermere hosted a very successful Quiz Night to help boost ADAS funds. Thanks to Jo and Alan at the Lord Combermere, our quizmaster Ralph as well as the many local donors who provided prizes for the raffle. All money raised will be used to fund our village projects.

As Christmas approaches the Committee are busy making preparations for the Big Switch On which will take place on Friday 30th November. Santa arrives at the Wharf and after the lights have been switched on he will be in his Grotto. If you would like to help with decorating trees and lighting it would be much appreciated. If you would like to sponsor one of the small trees please take your donation to Flower Divas. The shops will be open until late so come along and do some Christmas shopping. It promises to be an evening of festive fun!

Following the success of this year's event, ADAS are hoping to hold another Open Gardens weekend on 15th/16th June 2019. If you would like your garden to be included please email: [adascontact@gmail.com](mailto:adascontact@gmail.com) for details

Finally, if you have not yet returned your subscription envelopes please take them to Williams Newsagents or Flower Divas as soon as possible, claiming gift aid if you are eligible.



## Audlem Public Hall

Audlem Public Hall was built in 1904 and in 2017 completed a significant expansion by adding an Annexe. There are now a wide variety of modern amenities available to all local residents. A new Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) has been formed and a small group of trustees tasked with ensuring that the premises meets the needs of the rural community.

The Town Hall has a sprung wooden dance floor, a large stage and seating capacity for up to 200 people. There is a licensed bar and fully equipped kitchen. The hall is regularly used for club meetings and for bingo, badminton, table tennis and bridge. It is home to the 5A's drama group and is used periodically to show the latest film releases. It can be booked privately for business meetings, weddings and celebrations. Zumba and Yoga classes are a regular feature. Also available for hire is a well-maintained snooker room and a small Committee room with kitchen suitable for Board Room type meetings of about 12 people.

The Annexe provides facilities for a senior citizens and carers' club (ADCA), a youth club and changing facilities for the Audlem football teams. There are a number of rooms available for hire including a small hall with kitchen, tables and seating for 40; a treatment room for medical professionals; a Youth Room, ideal for children's parties and the Thornton Lounge more suitable for adult celebrations. In addition there is a fully equipped gym with changing rooms and showers. Gym membership is on a monthly or annual subscription basis; admission by private key fob from 6am to 9pm. Application forms are available in the foyer to the Annexe and from the website. For more details see [www.audlem.org](http://www.audlem.org). If you would like to help with running the hall please contact Roland Hall (01270 812530)

## ASET – Get Involved!

Audlem Special Events Team (ASET) is a not for profit organisation run entirely by local volunteers dedicated to making Audlem a vibrant village. Since 2001 it has staged three annual events: Party in the Park (early July); Festival of Transport (late July); and Audlem Firework Night (November). To date over 120,000 people have enjoyed these events, organised to the highest professional standard.



There are a number of ways that you can get involved.

**Volunteer:** We are a small team so we rely heavily on volunteers to make our events happen. Volunteers are needed to help with anything from publicising the events to erecting marquees and many more “hands on” jobs. If you have time to help set up these events, please get in touch.

**Advertise:** We produce an event programme for both the Party on the Park and Festival of Transport. These are printed and given out free to a target distribution of over 7,000. If you have a business you want to promote, this is an ideal way to do so.

**Sponsor:** We need sponsors to help fund the costs of staging these events. Sponsor packages range from full “headline” sponsorship to gazebo and advertiser packages. Tailor made packages can be arranged.

So if you can help us and would like to get involved, please get in touch. We are a very informal and friendly group and are always open to new ideas and suggestions. Contact us: [info@audlem-aset.org](mailto:info@audlem-aset.org) or 07708 354135.

## Audlem & District Community Action (ADCA)

An important part of what ADCA does is to support carers by providing regular breaks as well as coffee mornings. We now support over 80 local carers. The good news is that ADCA has been successful in obtaining a Carers' Choice Grant from Cheshire East Council in September 2018. We were successful in obtaining £9,360. Local carers have also benefited this year from a £1,500 grant from Audlem Parish Council which has supported breaks including a canal boat trip and afternoon tea at Combermere Abbey.

We also run the Audlem Carers Support Group, which meets at the Lord Combermere between 9.30am and 11.30am for coffee, chat and information on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. All carers are welcome to drop into the Support Group. For more information on our Carers' Breaks, please contact ADCA's Assistant Co-ordinator, Lynn Morear, on 07376 070586.

ADCA is also looking for more volunteers to help run our services assisting people to be socially active and independent and to access health services. We are looking for more volunteer drivers to bring people into our Tuesday Club, to help with running our Medical Transport Service by staffing our office in the Public Hall Annexe on a Monday or Thursday morning or to become a volunteer within our growing befriending service by visiting housebound people.

When you volunteer, the time you give is up to you. ADCA will arrange for the DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) clearance, which all ADCA staff and volunteers have, and appropriate training and support will also be given. Please contact Tracey Humphries on 07845 495973, or email [tlhumphries@outlook.com](mailto:tlhumphries@outlook.com)

## Diary Dates ...

### November

- 15 History Society Meeting at 7.30pm in the Scout and Guide Hall. AGM then “Cheshire in Film” presented by Jeremy Nicholls.

### December

- 9 ADAPT's Homemade Christmas event, 2pm to 4pm under the Buttermarket. Sharing and showing ideas for festive season fare and decorations that you can make at home.
- 12 History Society Christmas Lunch at The Hind's Head, Norton in Hales: 12.30pm for 1.00pm.
- 21 ADAS annual Carol Singing in The Square at 7.30pm, accompanied by Crewe Brass.

### January

- 17 History Society Meeting at 7.30pm in the Scout and Guide Hall. Speaker: Alan Paterson on “Baptists and Buttons”.