



The Newsletter for residents of Audlem and District Autumn/Winter 2019

Audlem Parish Council

Parish Council News, October 2019

Audlem Parish Council has recently been joined by three new Councillors.

Suzie Warren returns to the Council after a break of just over a year. She is very passionate about the environment and the community particularly the sterling work she does for ADAS.

Pat Salt knows the village well as a resident and has many years' experience working in retail and NHS management. Pat volunteers at the local Citizen's Advice and has a strong passion for her local community.

George McLaren-Brown has lived in the village for just over a year and has a strong commercial background running his own companies. He is looking forward to taking part in local affairs.

Unfortunately, Councillor Tim Lawton has stepped down after almost 2 years of service. During this time he was heavily involved in the many elements of the Parish Council's work and we would like to thank him for all his support and commitment. We wish him all the best for the future.

The Parish Council is now looking to co-opt a new Councillor and invites applications from residents who want to help shape the future of our community for the benefit of all its residents. Anyone who would like to know more about the role please contact the Parish Clerk at parishcouncil@audlem.org or Steve Boyes, the Chairman, on 01270 812192. The closing date for applications to the Parish Clerk is Monday 4th November. Please tell us about yourself in writing along with any relevant experience and why you wish to join the Parish Council.

The Parish Council has also realigned its structures so that there are now four working groups reporting to the main Parish Council:

- Finance Sub Committee - Chair Councillor David Higham
- Turnpike Field & Playing Field Working Group - Chair Councillor Steve Boyes
- Community, Business Tourism & Employment & Assets Working Group - Chair Councillor Ralph Warburton
- Housing, Planning, Highways & Environment Working Group - Chair Lynette Hopkins.

Progress at Turnpike Field continues including the recent installation of a number of picnic tables and a new litter and dog waste bin positioned at Grays Bridge.

Following an ecology survey, the Parish Council, led by Councillor Lynette Hopkins, has agreed with Cheshire Wildlife Trust to install three ponds on the field which will provide

wildlife havens for various creatures particularly great crested newts, which are a protected species. The ponds will be fenced off for safety and have the necessary life belts installed. There have also been discussions with local metal detecting clubs about undertaking a survey of Turnpike Field. Plans for a green car park continue to be developed and the next stage in the process will be a pre-planning application submission to Cheshire East Borough Council. This will help to define the requirements of the detailed Planning submission that will need to be made.

Residents will recall that the Parish Council has been in discussions with Cheshire East Borough Council for a number of years to take on the lease for the playing field and adjacent children's play area. It is hoped that the transfer of the lease will take place before the end of this calendar year.



Parish Councillors' Contact Details

Steve Boyes, Chairman - 812192

David Higham, Vice Chairman - 812069

Geoff Seddon - 811282

Lynette Hopkins - 811529

Nigel Mottershead - 811537

Lorna Matthews - 811826

Paul Barrett - 811148

Ralph Warburton - 812125

Suzie Warren - 811086

Patricia Salt - 812758

George McLaren-Brown - 812011

Your Parish Clerk is **Belen Lopez Bloor** - 07432 332857

or email parishcouncil@audlem.org

Parish Council meetings are held in the rooms adjoining Audlem Methodist Church on Mondays. The next meetings are 4th November, 2nd December and 6th January, 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.

A Busy Year for ADAS

On 1st September the ADAS 50th birthday community celebration took place in the Lord Combermere car park. Many thanks to Jo and Allan for their help, and to Cheshire Police Brass Band and Gambler for entertaining everyone. It proved to be a very successful event.



ADAS fund-raising activities have included a quiz organised by Ralph Warburton and a Magical Musical Evening in the church. Some of the proceeds of the latter event were donated to the St James Building Fund.

Donations received by ADAS have included £40 raised by the 11th Hour raffle and a donation from Rob Dickenson in memory of his wife Trish. Many thanks for these.

During the summer a bench was installed under the beech tree adjacent to the Co-op. It is intended that two further benches will be provided.

There will be several sessions to remove summer bedding and plant spring flowering bulbs (see Audlem Online). Do please come along and help. For further details see: adasaudlem.org or email adascontact@gmail.com if you would like to be involved.

The Big Switch On will take place on Friday 29th November at 6pm. As usual the shops will be open and Santa will be in his Grotto. On 20th December at 7.30pm Crewe Brass will accompany the annual Carol Singing in the Square.

Finally, all the ADAS activities are funded by your subscriptions. Please return your envelopes to Williams or pay online. Don't forget to add Gift Aid if you are eligible. Your continued support is much appreciated!

History Society

The second of the society's summer outings was a visit to the Middleport Pottery in Burslem. The works, built in 1888 alongside the Trent and Mersey Canal, was considered a model pottery at the time. In the morning, members were taken on a guided tour of the Burleigh Pottery. After lunch, there was the opportunity to visit the heritage centre with its original Victorian offices, steam engine, grade II listed bottle kiln and ceramic design archive.

The autumn season of meetings started on 19 September with a talk by Claire Moores on 'Reading the Landscape'. With lots of photographs, many from Cheshire locations, Claire showed how humans have impacted on the landscape and how we can pick up the signs of human activity even where industrial, agricultural and religious sites have been long abandoned.

At the October meeting, Jeremy Nicholls gave a talk about Nantwich and the railway. Why did the Grand Junction Railway's main line from Birmingham to the north-west avoid Nantwich, the most important town in south Cheshire at the time? What opportunities did the railway bring to the town? Nantwich lost one of its railway lines in the 1960s but the other is thriving. Why? These are some of the issues which Jeremy addressed in his illustrated talk.

All are welcome to attend the meetings which are held in the Scout and Guide Hall on the third Thursday of the month. Annual membership is £12. Visitors: £3 per meeting but free to those in full-time education.

Spot the Cowpat Competition

At 2pm on Saturday 5th October, Lulu the cow was led by local dairy farmer Tim Rees into a carefully measured field at Foxes Bank Farm in Hunsterson, under the gaze of four judges from ADCA. This was the moment, the long-awaited conclusion of the Spot the Cowpat competition that ADCA has run over the past six months, attracting well over 3,000 entries.



Lulu was a late substitute after Daisy sadly failed a late fitness test, as they say in football circles.

Despite all the pressure, Lulu "performed" both quickly and admirably after less than 25 minutes chewing the cud in the field, leaving the ADCA judges to take precise measurements of where her first cowpat landed.

All the winners have been notified and will be receiving their prizes very shortly. Thank you to all who entered and who have helped ADCA to raise £1,341 for the work that the charity does with the elderly and carers in Audlem and district. Also, special thanks to Geoff Clarke and Phil Lloyd who ran the competition, to Lynn and Neil Morear for their outstanding ticket sales performance and to all the Audlem traders who sold tickets for us. For more information about ADCA and our activities and also about volunteering with us, please visit our website - <http://adca.audlem.org/>

Overwater Wheelyboat and Bus Celebrate Bumper Year

The Overwater Wheelyboat has had a busy season, with a 30% increase on last year's bookings. We welcomed new and repeat customers travelling to us from a wide radius, all of whom enjoyed their trip on the canal. The Wheelybus has become a firm favourite with our customers. We look forward to building on its success next year.

We are also recruiting volunteers for both the boat and bus, looking for drivers and assistants. If you are interested in joining this team of local volunteers, please contact:
 Wheelybus: Rod Derbyshire on 01270 625552, email rod.derbyshire@btinternet.com
 Wheelyboat: Rodney Cottrell on 01270 811454, email: rodney@kynsal.co.uk



Full training will be provided, and you can decide which days / hours suit you. We offer a warm welcome, a great deal of fun, friendship, enjoyment, and satisfaction in helping others within our community. <http://overwaterwheelyboat.co.uk/>

A Busy Summer for ADAPT

It's been a busy summer for the ADAPT Food Group, growing and selling produce at the weekly market in the Combermere car park, and several members won prizes at the Woore Show in September. We have visited Attingham Park and a trip to Dunham Massey is planned. We took the ADAPT information stand to village events, including the Hankelow Fete and the RNLI open day at Overwater Marina. We celebrated 10 years of ADAPT with a party down by the canal at The Old Stables. We meet once a month and if you are interested in joining us please contact jane@day-star-theatre.co.uk Please see the Diary Dates section for upcoming events.

Santa is Coming to Audlem

Santa, his sleigh and the hardy band of helpers will be touring the streets of Audlem, Hankelow, Buerton, Kinsey Heath and Cox Bank on the nights of the 7th and 8th December. Last year the event raised the magnificent sum of £1,500 - all for local deserving groups here in our community. The Youth Club, ADAS, indoor bowling club, Cubs, Audlem Saints and more shared in the bonanza.

We need help on the two nights so if you would like to be a part of this very happy Christmas tradition, contact Ralph Warburton on 07813 820157 or email rjw@notrubraw.com Our huge thanks to Crewe and Nantwich Round Table for the sleigh and the very skilled driver!

Crowds Turn Out for RNLI Festival Fun

Overwater Marina and Touring Park recently hosted its 9th annual fundraising festival. The weekend, attended by over a thousand people, kicked off with the Overwater Big Fish 'n' Chip Super Quiz night, and the following evening the crowds were entertained by the fabulous vocalist Lucy Barlow and the uplifting Funky Choir. The weekend culminated in the family funday Sunday with the very popular Leonard Brothers dog show. Throughout the day, everything from ferret racing to fishing kept the crowds busy as well as the Audlem Community Marquee and the very popular artisan market. This year saw the return of the hotly contested raft race. Eight rafts took to the water to battle it out to be first past the

winning line. The large crowd were particularly amused by the unplanned sinking of the Rhyl RNLI raft who were fortunately rescued by the RNLI safety boat. The race was won by the young crew led by Harry Cottrell, grandson of the festival's founding organiser - Rodney Cottrell. Marina owner Janet Maughan said "A huge thank you must go to all the volunteers, visitors and moorers who made the festival such a success, but particularly on behalf of all those groups, a very special thanks must go to the crew of the Rhyl Royal National Lifeboat Institute station who not only made our weekend so special but who put their lives on the line to save others every time they launch."



It's Christmas Time Again with Audlem Voices

Now that we have all returned fully refreshed from our Summer holidays, Jenny Collis-Smith, our Musical Director, has got us rehearsing for our Christmas Concert on Friday 13th December, at 7pm in St James Church. Jenny has chosen some old favourites, some new pieces and, of course, a few carols. Tickets (£8) are available from choir members or on the door.

Calling New Members - Some long-standing members have recently retired and so we are looking to add some new recruits to our lively mixed Community Choir. We are a friendly bunch of all ages. We sing a wide variety of classical, modern and popular songs. Our musical diversity appeals to all. Ability to read music is NOT a requirement!

So if you are looking to make new friends, or want to try singing, why not come along and listen to us at one of our rehearsals? We usually meet on Tuesday from 7.30 till 9.30 in St James' Church, but in the winter months we opt for the warmth of the Audlem Methodist Chapel (opposite the Co-op). You would be warmly welcomed. More information is available on our website: voices.audlem.org



Audlem Methodist Church

Autumn began busily for us, with a very successful Barn Dance and Ploughman's Supper filling the Public Hall. Much fun was had by all and over £1,100 was raised for our building project. Many thanks to those who attended or who helped, particularly our local Crofters Ceilidh Band. The annual Harvest Service saw a beautifully decorated church and extra offerings for our ongoing collection for Nantwich Food Bank, followed by a meal. Donations given for World Mission Fund amounted to £190.

On 5th October the Winterley Methodist Brass Band entertained many from our village with a varied programme. It was great to see so many young players in the group. The evening made £344 for the Marie Curie Cancer Care Charity.



Looking forward to Advent, we shall again be hosting a showing of a modern film version of the Nativity, jointly with the other churches in Audlem, and accompanied by supper. Details of upcoming events can be seen in the Diary Dates section.

Thank you from St James Church

A huge thank you to all those who have given so generously towards the essential repair work to St James. Hopefully by the time you read this the scaffolding will be down revealing the building with all its history and beauty. We still have more work to do but that will not be scheduled before 2020. Thanks to all those who supported the 'Chilli and Puds' night at the Scout and Guide Hall to raise money – the age range was from 6 to 90, we ate well with great company and raised over £1,000.

Our next fund raiser is on Saturday 2nd November - Eric Newton's Jazz Band at 7.30pm in St James Church. Tickets £10, this includes a glass of wine and nibbles, they are available from Williams the Newsagents.

On Sunday 3rd November at 4pm we have our annual Memorial Service - a service to remember and give thanks for those we have loved and lost. This is organised by the Baptist, Methodist and St James Church all working together. All are welcome to join us.

On Sunday 10th November our village Remembrance service takes place at 10.15am.

The Christingle Service – the one with the orange and the candle – will be on Sunday 8th December at 4pm – a service for people of all ages. See Diary dates for Christmas services.

Audlem Lass – 9th Successful Season

During the 9th season of the Audlem Lass we have ferried a total of 5,670 passengers and 607 of our 4-legged friends; a small increase on passenger numbers compared to last year, and we still have three weekends to go. Overall the Audlem Lass has carried in excess of 43,000 passengers between Overwater Marina and Audlem since its inception. All of this is thanks to the unstinting support of our volunteers. New volunteers continue to join our team, and interest is always welcome as we hope to continue with the Friday sailing during school holidays which was trialled for the first time this year and was successful.

The next excitement is the Big Switch On (29th November) with Santa arriving on the boat at the Wharf near the Shroppie Fly at 6pm. The RNLI will be holding their annual event of floating candles that evening from approximately 4.30pm. This year Audlem Traders will hold a Super Santa Saturday on the 30th November to continue the excitement around the village. Weather permitting, The Audlem Lass will be offering rides on the Shropshire Union Canal around the Wharf area that day.

Late Night Shopping at Audlem Charity Shop

Audlem Charity Shop continues to go from strength to strength. We have had a very successful year so far, thanks to the many donations for which we are most grateful.

We will be open for late night shopping in the village on 29th November from 6pm. It's a great opportunity to buy all your Christmas decorations and presents at a bargain price, whilst supporting your local good causes.

Many thanks to all our customers.

Diary Dates

Nov

- 2 Charity Fair at Audlem Methodist Church with refreshments from 10am to 12.30pm.
- 2 & 9 Apple Pressing under the Buttermarket. Bring your apples for juicing!
- 21 History Society Meeting at 7.30pm in the Scout and Guide Hall. 'Betley's history reflected at St Margaret's Church' by Reverend John Whitehead.
- 30 A musical version of Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, sung by the Grove Singers, plus an accompanying percussion group at Audlem Methodist Church at 2.30pm. Tickets: Julia Parton - 01270 811761. Please note this is an afternoon event.

Dec

- 7 Festive Coffee Morning in the Methodist Hall from 10am to 12.30pm. Proceeds in aid of the building Fund.
- 7 ADAPT 'Homemade Christmas' event. Seasonal crafty ideas!
- 24 Crib Service at Audlem St James Church at 4pm. First Communion of Christmas at St James Church at 11.15pm.
- 25 Family Communion at Audlem St James Church at 10.30am.

Jan

- 16 History Society Meeting at 7.30pm in the Scout and Guide Hall. 'The Shropshire Union Canal from 1967 to 2019' by Ian Wilson.