



NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2006

AUDLEM PARISH COUNCIL

A Summary of Parish Council business – Autumn 2006

CONGRATULATIONS

Warmest congratulations to everyone who helped keep Audlem so clean, attractive and full of flowers over the summer months. Your efforts were rewarded on 28th September when Audlem was named winner in its category of the 50th Cheshire Community Pride Best Kept Village Award.

ALLOTMENTS

A group of about 20 residents is keen to start an allotment scheme in or near the village and the Parish Council is now investigating likely costs etc. If you are able and willing to help by leasing a suitable piece of land – probably around an acre - please contact the Parish Clerk.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

For some time the Parish Council has been pressing the Borough Council for improvements to the toilet block. Although the future of the toilets seemed to be under threat at first, we are now hopeful that the Borough Council will budget for their complete replacement in the next couple of years.

SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS 2005/06

During the financial year 2005/06, donations were made to the Public Hall, the Carnival and Festival Committees, 5A Company, Funky@audlem, Citizens Advice Bureau Rural Service, ADAS, ASET, and the Youth and Football Clubs. The Parish Council provided portable CCTV for use around the village, bulbs and trees for planting along the canal, new picnic tables and bicycle stands – as well as helping local organisations and individuals supply items and services for the enjoyment of residents, e.g. fireworks, www.audlem.org, new seats on the playing field, and the ADVC celebrations. The following is a brief summary of the accounts:

Receipts

Carried forward	14365
Precept	23065
Rents	818
Borough Council	1055
Interest	404
Donation	2500
Countryside Agency (Parish Plan)	2611
Community Council	1642
Web sponsorship	1000
Competitions	4400
Reimbursements etc	9368
	61228

Payments

Salaries	2860
Expenses, training, admin	728
Newsletters & flyers	516
Insurance & audit	1135
Subscriptions	381
Running costs	2798
Audlem Burial Committee	2838
Grants & donations	10226
Projects	29546
Other	1564
VAT (unclaimed)	1778
	54370

During the remainder of 2006 Parish Council meetings will be held in St James School on November 6th, December 4th. At the beginning of each meeting there is an opportunity for residents to bring matters of particular concern to the attention of the Parish Council. Everyone is welcome to stay and listen for the rest of the meeting.

AUDLEM SPECIAL EVENTS TEAM



BONFIRE & FIREWORK DISPLAY

Including funfair & hog roast

SATURDAY 4th NOV.

At Audlem Playing Fields

Gates Open 4.30p.m.

Bonfire will be lit at 6.30p.m.

Fireworks Start at 7.00p.m.

All Classes £3.00 Under 5's free

AUDLEM VILLAGE TRADERS' ASSOCIATION

The recently formed Audlem Village Traders' Association is open to any type of business based in, and trading in, the Audlem area including: retailers, public houses and catering outlets, accommodation providers, farm services, professional and trades persons and other local traders/service providers.

The aims of the A.V.T.A. are to actively support and promote local businesses through coordinated campaigns and action plans.

The group's primary objectives are:

- To encourage the local population to support Audlem businesses and services.
- To encourage visiting tourists to support Audlem businesses and services.

- Provide and maintain a dedicated directory of Audlem businesses for public use.
- Provide and maintain local employment.

The A.V.T.A. provides a means for local business people to take an active role in ensuring both, local employment and services, are safeguarded for the future – not only for the benefit of A.V.T.A. members but also for the local community as a whole.

The Association is currently looking for any local business operators to join them as general members, or if interested to take a more active role. Membership is currently free. For more information please contact Andrew Smith at Audlem Post Office on 01270-811211 or Judy Benson at Williams Newsagents on 01270 811210.

ADAS

Audlem District Amenities Society is responsible for ensuring the environment of the district is pleasant with all the planting of flowers, trees and bulbs and Open Garden weekends, Christmas decorations etc. The AGM was held on 18th of October at St James School at 19.30. The annual report to members was presented by the Chairman and the Treasurer along with the reports of the ADAS Trust and The Audlem Nursing Trust.

Planning is well in hand for the coming Christmas lights and the Christmas Trees. The big tree has been chosen and is being given by Mr. Paul Williams of Wistaston. This will be cut on December 1st and then erected with a team of volunteers on the 2nd. Lighting will be overseen by Phil Baker of Cheshire Street and the village will be lit up for the festive season - the best display around!

Carol singing around the tree will be on the 22nd December at 7.30pm with Santa in attendance - and mulled wine and mince pies in the newly refurbished Scout Hall. The Lord Combermere will serve free hot soup during the Carol Singing.

New gardens are needed for the Open Garden Weekend - next year on June 23rd and 24th.

Please contact Ralph Warburton for all matters on 812125.

CHESHIRE AGE CONCERN

The Age Concern Cheshire day care and tea club is in urgent need of volunteers to help give our elderly members an enjoyable day. We meet every Tuesday at 10a.m. at Thornton House. Some members arrive in the morning, have lunch and stay for the day. In the early afternoon more members arrive for a quiz, chat or bingo session and tea before home at 4pm.

Volunteers are invited to help at the group on a rota basis during the day, preparing lunches and teas, help with activities and to chat with members. Also volunteer drivers are required to help with transport; bringing members into the group in the morning and returning them home in the afternoon. If you think you could help please contact Veronica Briggs on 01270 219484 or 07917638809 or e-mail

crewe.admin@ageconcerncheshire.org.uk

AUDLEM BRANCH CONSERVATIVES

The Branch held a very successful 'Music and Canapés' evening with music by local Irish Band COSA DOMHSA at the Brookfield Golf Club on Friday 28 July 2006

The visit to the House of Commons planned for Tuesday 31 October 2006 is fully booked. Hosted by our MP Stephen O'Brien it will include a tour of the Palace of Westminster followed by lunch in the private dining room overlooking the Thames, and a visit to the Jewel Tower. For further details about the Branch and its events contact Roland Hall (812530) or Alan Cross (811974)

AUDLEM & DISTRICT PROBUS CLUB

The Audlem & District Probus Club continues to thrive under the leadership of our President Jim Winfield with a full programme of speakers and social activities. The Club meets at the Brookfield Golf Club on the 2nd and 4th Thursday each month (except August) commencing 10 am for coffee followed by a guest speaker. The autumn sessions started with an outstanding presentation on the History of the Toilet by Terry Woolliscroft from Twyfords. Forthcoming programme includes History of Manchester Ship Canal, The Great Comedians, Campaign to Protect Rural England and First Aid. Recent visits have included The National Memorial Arboretum at Arlewas and Marstons Brewery Burton on Trent, A guided tour of Combermere Abbey with the owner Sarah Callander Beckett, and lunch and tour of the JCB factory at Rocester. Still to come we have a Quiz and Fish and Chip supper, Christmas Lunch and an Antiques Roadshow.

Following on from the successful trip to Dorset we now have a 5 day visit to the Isle of Man booked for May 2007

Membership is open to all retired or semi retired professional men and women who live in the locality. For further details contact our President Jim Winfield 01270 812909 or Roland Hall 01270 812530

AUDLEM MUSIC & ARTS FESTIVAL.

The 2006 event was not a total success with a financial loss being incurred. The 2007 event is now being planned to see if there is support for this very popular

weekend and I am hopeful that it will go ahead. It involves some 25 or more bands playing in the street, the open spaces and in the Church and in the pubs, plus workshops for the young and displays of arts and crafts. We've had lots of support in the past from our local shops, businesses and pubs and I will be meeting with all to see if the plan being formulated can succeed. The Carnival will go ahead as normal and at this stage I feel we will be able to add the Music & Arts Festival. I have a good number of very willing volunteers who wish to help me and again we will meet soon to determine our action. Watch this space as they say!

Contact Ralph Warburton on 812125.

AUDLEM CUBS

We are a thriving pack with 24 lively and fun loving cubs. We meet on Wednesday evenings 6.30-8.00p.m. during term-time at the Audlem Scout Hall. Our pack is well equipped but we really do need some more adults to help us continue.

If you are over 18 and think you may be interested give us a call and then come along to join us at one of our meetings. Contact Pack Leaders: Rosie Slavinska – 811103 or Suzie Poole – 811224

SCOUTING IN AUDLEM

A number of our enthusiastic cubs are coming up to the age when they would go on to join a Scout group. Unfortunately we have no such group in the village and are looking for a committed person who would be interested in helping to restart scouting in Audlem. The group would meet during term-times on a weekly or fortnightly basis. For more information please contact the District Commissioner, Colin Germaine on 01270-211480 or the Audlem Cub Pack on the above numbers.

AUDLEM HISTORY SOCIETY

Nov 16th 7.30 pm AGM – Followed by Mike Tiddy (subject to be announced)

Dec 12th Christmas dinner at Brookfields Golf Club

Dr A. Carter A Herbalist of Nantwich

Jan 18th **George Hardy** “Job Wellings: An Audlem settler in the USA, and other local families”



'THE QUEEN' COMING TO AUDLEM

The Public Hall Committee is delighted to announce that they have now finalised the date for 'Reels on Wheels' to

show 2 major films at Audlem Public Hall. This will be on Saturday 11 November 2006 when at 5.00pm 'The Hood' will be screened (we are told it will very much appeal to the younger generation!). Then, at 7.30pm the award winning 'The Queen', starring Helen Mirren, will be shown. This film has attracted very positive reviews on its recent release.

Details will follow but it will be exceptional value and villagers should make a note in their diaries to see top films on their doorstep! If successful, cinema will be a regular feature in the Public Hall.

'THEM WITH TAILS'

'Them with Tails' show was an outstanding success, report T.A.V.A (Touring Arts Visiting Audlem). The event, held at St James' school, was really well attended with over 100 people, some of whom had traveled long distances. The highly talented theatre company succeeded in performing a play which had just as much appeal to the adults in the audience as to the children - some of the audience would say of more appeal to adults! It was a truly family show in every sense of the word.

The drama workshop completely sold out. The children had a ball expressing themselves, and produced a kind of still life show at the end of the workshop. To facilitate a workshop which had such a wide range of ages (3 to10) - and to keep all the children completely engaged showed real skill and talent, and was a joy to watch.

Support for the production was provided by the Cheshire Rural Touring Network, Audlem Parish Council, Crewe and Nantwich Borough Council and the Cheshire County Council. Without their support, the event would not have been possible.

Would you like to become involved in helping T.A.V.A? It's an informal and friendly group which very much relies on help from local people. This can include helping to publicise events, taking flyers about forthcoming shows to local schools, baking for the events, helping on the day and helping to organise the events. If you are interested in helping in any way, please do get in touch with Anne Burrows on 01270 812442 or anne@burrows895.freeserve.co.uk or Janet Warrington 01270 811250 or by email on randjvilla@aol.com

TRYING TO TACKLE THE HGVS THROUGH AUDLEM

Last year's Parish Plan showed that the local residents' major issue was the large number of Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) passing through the village. The Plan proposed, as a first step, trying to de-prime the A525, a view supported by local MP Stephen O'Brien. A detailed letter has been prepared which is to be presented to Government via Stephen O'Brien. It describes how, in Audlem, the A525 is so narrow that two cars have difficulty passing. The Primary Route status, particularly since satellite-navigation became widely used, attracts many hundreds

of long-distance HGVs, regularly blocking the road, posing a massive threat to pedestrians and other road

users, causing accidents, hitting houses and causing damage to historical buildings.

Local residents and Audlem Parish Council have campaigned for over thirty years for the ever-worsening problem to be tackled effectively. It is recognised there will never be a by-pass and the police oppose weight limits because of a lack of resources to enforce a weight limit.

An experimental signaling system has been tried but sometimes doesn't work for months on end, thus worsening the situation. Unofficially, the authorities say it needs deaths before anything can be done!

After thirty years of successive Governments' failure to act, Audlem Parish Council is now urging the Minister to take action now as the problem is worsening month by month. The planned increase in HGV weight limits will be catastrophic for Audlem on a prime route with narrow, winding roads. De-priming the A525 is the vital first step that will protect Audlem from even worse problems in the future. Article 8 of the European Convention providing for the right to respect for the home has been incorporated into domestic law by the Human Rights Act. De-priming will help ensure residents' rights under that Act are upheld.

A MILKMAN'S LOT

Stuart the Milk has been bringing milk to our doorsteps for the past 45 years during which time he has seen quite a few changes. He believes that a milkman's life is not for everyone – he starts his round at about 12.30a.m and finishes in Audlem around 11.00a.m. His hours of work and his sleep pattern are quite disruptive for his family and social life and Stuart says he has never really got used to his work pattern! As if this wasn't enough Stuart was also a part-time fire-fighter for 35 years!! He tells of one story where, on a very hot summer day he was called to a hedge fire at the home of one of his customers. After dealing with the fire the lady and her husband of the house gave the fire crew of six men a cup of tea. As it was very hot Stuart removed his helmet and tunic at which the lady loudly exclaimed "Oh! It's you Stuart. I didn't recognise you with your clothes on." He says he is still trying to live that one down!

The Milkman's job has been in steady decline since the arrival of supermarkets. When Stuart started his round every house had milk delivered to the doorstep 7 days a week (not all homes had a refrigerator in the early days). We are lucky to still have the services of a milkman in Audlem. In many areas in towns such as Crewe and Nantwich, milk delivered to your doorstep

is not an available option as the rounds are no longer viable.

Like many milkmen, Stuart has been a great help to his customers and others. Besides the usual day to day assistance like changing light bulbs, removing a bat from a bedroom, Stuart also acts as a general neighbourhood watch, alerting people when he hasn't seen someone for a few days and he has reported more than one burglar going about their business in the early hours. He also delivers various information leaflets around the village on a voluntary basis – so all in all "Stuart the Milk" is a very valuable member of our community.

Problems with public toilets/grounds maintenance

Report to Crewe & Nantwich Borough Council's STREETWISE on 0800 387491

Problems with highways – pot holes, pavement and street lighting –report to Cheshire County Council on 0845 2450558, or e mail engcn@cheshire.gov.uk. If you are reporting street lighting faults, remember to have the lamp number (printed on the face of the standard) to hand.

Parish Councillors' Contact Details

Richard Furber (Chair) 811598

Kate Down (Vice Chair) 811160

Frances Christie 811340 Bill Consterdine 811647

Mike Hill 811843 Norman Huntbach 812768

Ken Jones 811532 Peter Morgan 811575

Pam Seddon 811282 Andrew Smith 811969

Geoff Stretch 811011 Irene Stockton 811828

Your Parish Clerk is Jean White 01948 871383 or parishcouncil@audlem.org

STOP PRESS

Check out your village web site www.audlem.org. It's packed full of news and views. Try the 'forum' where you can express your views on a wide range of topics of particular local interest. Or simply read any of the many news items which are updated daily. If you don't have access to a computer you might be pleased to know that the Parish Council has agreed to fund 2 computers to be placed in Williams Newsagents. They should be ready in the very near future. So 'Watch This Space'