



AUTUMN 2007

AUDLEM PARISH COUNCIL

A Summary of Parish Council business – October 2007

AUDLEM SCOOPS TWO AWARDS IN SHELL UK 2007 “COMMUNITY PRIDE” COMPETITION

Audlem has picked up two major Cheshire Community Councils awards at the Cheshire Awards evening held at Congleton Town Hall on 4th October. Firstly, congratulations to the “Audlem Action for Youth” team, joint winner of the 2007 Youth & Children’s Award. The team’s success with their FUN-KY WEEKEND was recognised on 4th October at the 51st Annual Community Pride awards evening. The event was co-ordinated by Cheshire Community Council on behalf of Shell UK, the main sponsor. Then the village went on to retain its award for ‘Best Kept Village’ with a population of 1,001 to 2,500. While there are awards for different size communities, Audlem was the only community in the whole of the Crewe & Nantwich Borough area to pick up a Community Pride award makes this a great achievement and a credit to everyone who works so hard to keep the village tidy. This was the second year in succession the village has won! Parish Council chairman Richard Furber was presented with the Community Pride plaque which will be an addition to the growing collection of awards won by Audlem in recent years, all of which are displayed on a wall in the Square.

AUDLEM YOUTH COUNCIL

The Parish Council is grateful to staff from Brine Leas School and officers of Cheshire’s Integrated Youth Service who have helped during the final stages of setting up our Youth Council, which will meet for the first time on 5th November. Through the Youth Council, Audlem’s youngsters will have a formal voice in civic affairs and will be empowered to make things happen for themselves. The Parish Council anticipates that links will be established with other organisations (e.g. the UK Youth Parliament and The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme) to provide a broad and valuable experience for young people who participate.

NEW “KISSING GATES” TO BE INSTALLED

Cheshire County Council recently invited us to suggest places where kissing gates would improve access to footpaths for walkers with mobility problems, or for families with pushchairs. Up to 15 kissing gates were available for each Parish, and Audlem Parish Councillors were more than happy to provide their wish list. As a result kissing gates will be installed in the near future on Footpath 17 (The Parks), Footpath 24 (Salford), Footpath 9 (Moss Hall) and Footpath 13 (Audlem Road to Hankelow Mill). The Parish Council thanks the land owners concerned for giving their consent, and also the Probation Service – by providing

free labour they have helped the County Council purchase additional kissing gates.

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

Parish Council meetings will be held in St James’ School on November 5 & December 3.

Dates for 2008 will be fixed in December.

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.

CHANGES TO COMMUNITY POLICING IN THE VILLAGE

The police were out in force at the Parish Council meeting held on 1st October. Along with PC Ken Maple, two recent appointees were welcomed to the meeting. They were Inspector Bob Hassall (replacing Inspector Brierley) and Police Community Support Officer Nick Jarvis (replacing Sharon Jones).

Inspector Hassall outlined his views on policing in Audlem and explained why regular Community Action Meetings were no longer necessary or appropriate. To general agreement, he stated that these meetings had served their purpose in that the issues that concerned residents were being acted upon and Ken Maple and the PCSOs were now fully integrated into the community. It was agreed that in future single issue community meetings could still be held if they were felt to be absolutely necessary – but generally speaking Inspector Hassall would attend Parish Council meetings so that he would be fully aware of issues as they arose and could deal with them quickly. He also pointed out that “Impact Days” - which are a new initiative where police and PCSOs conduct extra high visibility patrols throughout the day and evening and offer crime prevention advice and literature - could be offered, by arrangement with the Parish Council.

Finally, Inspector Hassall’s offer to speak at Audlem’s next Annual Village Meeting, due in May 2008, was warmly accepted as was the offer from PCSO Nick Jarvis to attend meetings of the Youth Council which is currently being set up.

HOW MANY SIGNS CAN WE FIT IN THE SQUARE?

Yet more signs have gone up in the centre of Audlem. As the village’s building boom continues, every new

development gets its new yellow sign! There are now eighteen signs around the memorial.

With the cycling signs, pointers to the toilets, the Baptist Church – and why haven't the Methodists got one, or indeed the chip shop? – drivers and even pedestrians will have to stop for five minutes to absorb the information. Soon we'll need a Google button on the Memorial to research the 'sign' database.

In the Independent recently, there was an article about a German town that has removed all its directional signs and given equal priority to vehicles and pedestrians. Local traffic through the small town speeded up and it appears most of the long distance lorries heard about the change and found alternative routes. Finally, does anybody know of any other Cheshire junction with as many signs? *You can post your views on this topic at **Audlem Online** now accessible in Williams' Newsagents – see stop press for details.*

AUDLEM SPECIAL EVENTS TEAM (ASET)

Autumn is now well underway and plans have been finalised for our last major event of the year, **BONFIRE NIGHT - SATURDAY 3RD NOVEMBER**. This year, the fire work display will cost over £2.500. Other attractions include a funfair, hog roast, burger bar, ice creams, teas and coffees as well as our own ASET stall selling light sticks. The Public Hall will also be open to accommodate children and adults of a nervous disposition. Gates open at 4.30 p.m. with the bonfire being lit at 6.30 p.m. Firework display commences at 7.00 p.m. Admission £3. Under 5's free of charge. **STRICTLY NO SPARKLERS** please. Further information available from 811211 (office hours).

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ROAD?

Local MP, Stephen O'Brien, has received a letter from the Transport Minister following representations to have the A525 through Audlem de-primed to reduce the number of long-distance HGVs passing through the village. The Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Transport, Jim Fitzpatrick MP, says:

"Dear Stephen

Thank you for your letter of 24 July enclosing correspondence from (your constituents) regarding the A525 through South Cheshire. I am replying as I have Ministerial responsibility for this issue.

I am sorry residents of Audlem living along the A525 are experiencing difficulties caused by heavy goods vehicles using this route. They suggest the solution is 'de-priming' the section of the A525 that forms part of the Primary Route Network (PRN). Audlem Parish Plan Steering Group should pursue this issue with the

local highway authorities responsible for managing the A525, (Cheshire CC and Shropshire CC).

The Highways Authorities would then consider whether there is a case for de-priming part or all of the A525 that remains within the Primary Route Network, including an assessment of future levels in the area. Suitability of alternative routes (including those suggested) to take unrestricted traffic should be considered alongside other changes including necessary route re-signing. A formal submission is required from the Authorities to Government for the North West.....which would make a recommendation to the Department of Transport's Strategic Roads, Projects and Operations Division."

The Parish Plan team that pulled together the submission will now consider the next step. This will initially involve unraveling the mystery of who actually makes any decisions – is it the Transport Minister; Cheshire County Council; Shropshire County Council; the Government Office of the North West (who, of course, do not cover Shropshire, which is in the West Midlands); the Highways Authority; or the Strategic Roads, Projects and Operations Division of the Ministry of Transport. And doubtless, as in the past Staffordshire County Council have had a major say in this issue, they will be involved too!

More on this as we attempt to unravel the mystery.

THAT CERTAIN CHEMISTRY



It will be 24 years next April since John Wilkinson took over the chemist shop from Derek Smith. John, was brought up in Winsford and went from there to university in London and qualified as a pharmacist in 1977. After working for among others, Boots and Eric Preston in Crewe, he began to look for his own premises and didn't hesitate when Derek Smith offered him the opportunity to buy the shop here in Audlem. He says he has enjoyed working in Audlem and finds his customers to be generally friendly folk who treat him and his staff very well. He added that many of his inner city colleagues envy his working environment in more ways than just the location. Some of them have horror stories to tell of shops being fire bombed etc and can't quite believe how different John's experience is in Audlem.

In terms of his business, he feels that very little has changed in that time with the exception of an increase in prescriptions due to a greater focus within the NHS on preventative medicine. A good example of this would be the much higher numbers of patients being prescribed drugs for high cholesterol, something unknown to most of our parents! He also expects the advent of extended hours pharmacies in supermarkets to have some impact in the future on his ability to find

locum cover during his absence. Besides things like holidays and sickness, John is required by law to stay up-to-date within his profession and must attend regular seminars and courses to enable him to do just that.

John feels quite strongly that the people of Audlem need to use the local shops more in order to prevent Audlem from becoming yet another dormitory village. Lots of people move to Audlem because we have shops such as the post office, chemist, butcher etc and then don't use them. He is sure that if villagers spent just 10% of their general grocery bill in the village it would make a huge difference.

Finally, John wanted me to point out that he does provide emergency cover. His telephone number is on the door for anyone who has a REAL emergency out of hours, including Christmas and Bank Holidays.

Margaret Roberts



THE CHURCH CLOCK

The Church Clock was installed in 1911 to commemorate the Coronation of King George V and Queen Mary. It was paid for by the people of the Village.

Over the years it has been wound and the hours adjusted by the Bellringers on Thursday evenings after practice. The Bellringers have recently made a proposal that, in time for the Clock's centenary in 2011, an appeal fund is launched to have the winding mechanism automated. Currently quotes for the work have been requested from companies who specialise in Tower Clocks. Various options will be quoted but it must be stressed that the automation is an addition to the existing mechanism - everything else will be unaffected. These quotes will be given to Helen Chantry to discuss with all the relevant bodies.

When and if permission is granted for the work an appeal fund will be launched - it is the intention that this work will not involve the Church in any extra expense. Any surplus funds raised would be used for the future upkeep of the clock.

Any queries please contact Christine Johnson on 811744 or Ruth Kemble 811887 and **WATCH THIS SPACE!**

And from Audlem Online.....

There does remain the question of the name of the campaign - The Audlem St James' Church Clock Automatic Winding Mechanism Fund Raising Appeal, or even the acronym ASJCCAWMFRA, seems a little long-winded. We suggest something pithy such as Wind-Up, although the vagaries of the English language mean that could sound like a new campaign

against the planned wind farm, or worse, the brand name of a product to help babies burp.

So, get your thinking caps on and come up with a name, or acronym, we can pass on to the appeal's organizers. The winner will be able to enjoy a conducted tour of the church tower and, yes, the opportunity to help with the 275-weekly wind-ups. ***Those of you who do not yet have/use a computer see our Stop Press announcement - have a go, it's really easy.***

AUDLEM WI ANNUAL SHOW

The above show held in the Parish Hall on Saturday 22nd September was a great success. The whole thing went with a swing and a good time was had by all. There was jam - but alas no Jerusalem - mincemeat, chutney, cakes, handicrafts, paintings, photography, floral art and all the other exhibits which make a village show successful. There were 40 exhibitors and 250 exhibits in all, including 17 from Blakenhall, Bridgemere and Burleydam W.I.s. 60 Gold stars were awarded.

One very popular exhibit stand was that of "What Granny made" - the winner being a sampler dating back to 1866 worked by the grandmother of our longest standing member - Joan Vernon. The men only section was well supported and displayed a superb selection of artistic creations including 2 large model airplanes - a Lancaster and a Mosquito, along with some fine examples of wood turnings and 4 atmospheric paintings.

The judges thought it was an excellent occasion and thanks are due to the army of WI helpers including the kitchen team who provided refreshments and especially to the two organizers Ann Watson and Christine Plume.

AUDLEM HISTORY SOCIETY

November 15th at 7.30pm: AGM followed by J. Popley "Vernacular Architecture"

Tuesday December 11th: Christmas Dinner at Brookfields

Thurs Jan 17th: David Hayns "From Nantwich to Chester Town"

Contact: *Celia Bloor (Secretary) 811260*

AUDLEM DISTRICT AMENITIES SOCIETY (ADAS)

November 15th sees the Brat Fashion Show with around 30 children from St James School modeling clothing on the catwalk. A great family night and one the children enjoy immensely.

We will be putting all the Christmas trees and lights in place over December **1st & 2nd** weekend. A new set of lights will be purchased for the big tree making it once again a really superb show.

The next event will be the Annual Carol singing around the big tree on **December 21st** with the brass band

playing and leading the singing. Father Christmas will attend as will the Mayor & Mayoress.

SHROPPIE FLY QUIZ NIGHTS

Quizmaster Tony Lynch and landlords Kate and Andy Griffiths invite you to compete in the Tuesday night quizzes at the Shroppie Fly when they start again at 8.00 pm on Tuesday 6th November for a run of 6 weeks before Christmas. The quizzes then recommence on Tuesday 8th January and continue until 18th March which will be a special Charity Quiz Night, with all proceeds going to a local charity.

To join in the fun, get a team of four together, find a suitably silly name and turn up at the Shroppie in good time for an 8pm start. It only costs £4 per team entry so why not give it a try.

DIORAMAS UPDATE

The two dioramas – large illustrated maps showing where Audlem's sights, shops and facilities are – were installed during October. One placed near the entrance to the car park in Cheshire Street, the other on Audlem Wharf between the Shroppie Fly and the Canal Shop. These will give visitors to the village more information and so encourage them to see as much of the village as possible. While everyone local knows where the canal is, for example, to anybody driving on to the car park it's not so obvious. Similarly, visitors arriving on a narrowboat, may not know where the Post Office is. The dioramas, which were suggested as part of the Parish Plan, have been paid for by the Parish Council out of the money awarded to the village for its success in the 'Calor Village of the Year' and 'Defra' competitions two years ago. Their design has been supervised by Pam Seddon and they are being installed by a small team led by Bill Consterdine.

AUDLEM BRANCH CONSERVATIVES REPORT

The Music and Canapés Evening at Brookfield Golf Club in July 2007 was well supported with MP Stephen O'Brien attending. Betty Goodwin, the Branch President, has kindly agreed to host a lunch time drinks reception at her home, Kynsal Lodge, Kynsey Heath, Audlem. This will take place on Sunday 24 February 2008 more details available later in the year.

Contact Roland Hall (812530) or Alan Cross (811974)

MP's Surgery

Audlem's Member of Parliament, Stephen O'Brien, will hold an individual surgery in the village on Friday 23 November 2007. This will take place in the Committee Room at the Public Hall from 5pm.

Villagers who want to raise a matter privately with Mr. O'Brien should contact Jenny Owen at his Tarporley Office to arrange an appointment. The telephone number is 01829 733243 or email: eddisbury_ca@btconnect.com

AUDLEM & DISTRICT PROBUS CLUB

The Audlem & District Probus Club continues to thrive with a varied speaker and social programme under the guidance of President Peter Ellis.

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. Future talks include The Crown Prosecution Service, Working with the Homeless and My Nine Lives. In November there will be an evening of indoor games and supper at Adderley Village Hall and a coach party will be going to the Halle New Year Concert at the Victoria Hall, Hanley. The club's Annual Luncheon will be at Brookfield Golf Club in January 2008.

For further details contact our President Peter Ellis 01270 812227 or Derek Rooke 01270 66811

*******STOP PRESS*******



AUDLEM ONLINE

Audlem Online can now be accessed from two terminals installed in Williams' newsagents in the Square.

They are situated in the Tourist Information section of the shop and are free to use This doesn't mean there's an internet café in the village: the machines are only connected to Audlem Online and very easy to use for even the most computer illiterate among us. This means that everyone in the village who can access the shop can now have their say via the "forum" on a number of issues raised on the website and take part in the vote polls

So, please pass this information on to anyone who may want to use the new facility. Hopefully, it will also be of benefit to the many visitors to Audlem. And, we hope, it will increase Audlem Online's readership even more.

HAVE YOUR SAY

If you would like your views in the Newsletter or on the Website contact:

Newsletter editor Margaret Roberts on 812942 or newsletter@audlem.org or post your item in the box situated in the Post Office

Website Team on webteam@audlem.org or 'Contact Webteam' on the website.

The closing date for items for the next issue is Monday 14th January 2008