



NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2009

AUDLEM PARISH COUNCIL

A Summary of Parish Council business – October 2009

AUDLEM WINS 2009 COMMUNITY PRIDE AWARD

For the fourth time in a row Audlem has won the Best Kept Village award for parishes with a population of 1,001-2,500. Congratulations to everyone who has worked to keep the village tidy and attractive over the year, especially our lengthsman, Gavin Davies, and members of ADAS for planting and watering the stunning flower displays.

WORK TO START ON IMPROVEMENTS TO CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND

Work to upgrade the playground is expected to start during November, with completion about 3 weeks later. The old climbing frame will be removed and replaced by modern, more exciting equipment. New safety surfaces will be laid and, at a later stage, Cheshire East Council will lay a path between the car park and playground. The Parish Council is grateful to WREN (Waste Recycling Environmental Limited) for a grant of £11,400, and to the now defunct Crewe & Nantwich Borough Council for a Parish Grant of £17,000. The Parish Council has provided £1,254 match funding as required by WREN. Sincere thanks go to Councillor Peter Morgan who has worked steadily over the past twelve months to acquire funding and see the project through to completion.

SHROPSHIRE UNION CANAL

Parish Councillors have been very concerned at the closure of the canal and the effect this has had on local businesses as well as on the atmosphere of the village. Hopefully repairs will have been completed before the end of October – but it is obvious that Audlem is very dependent upon the canal for much of its trade and vitality. The fear is that the current unwanted tranquillity could become permanent if British Waterways goes ahead with plans to close long term moorings near the village. The Parish Council has already written to British Waterways drawing attention to local concerns. Bill Consterdine and Pam Seddon made representations to British Waterways' at the West Area User Group Meeting on 15th October.

AUDLEM – A LOW CARBON COMMUNITY

On 7th September, the Parish Council voted in favour of participation in the Low Carbon Communities Scheme. This will be a 2 year project, led by the Marches Energy Agency, which is well placed to help Audlem exploit available funding opportunities.

Parish Councillors' Contact Details

Kate Down - Chair 811160

Mike Hill - Vice Chair 811843

Frances Christie 811340 Bill Consterdine 811647

Richard Furber 811598 Norman Huntbach 812768

Peter Morgan 811575 Pam Seddon 811282

Andrew Smith 811969 Irene Stockton 811828

Geoff Stretch 811011 Phillip Bradbury-Smith 811021

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

Parish Council meetings will be held in St James School on Mondays November 2nd, December 7th.

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.

TRANSITION VILLAGE

Creating a Sustainable and Inspiring Community for Our Grandchildren And Beyond

Among threats to our community's long-term vibrancy are climate change and reducing oil supplies. The film "The Age of Stupid" shown in Audlem on 24 Oct, graphically demonstrated a need for action and that's where our local **Transition Group** comes in. The group is part of the wider transition movement to help communities take steps now to adjust to life in the (not so distant) future without oil and lower carbon emissions....before changes are forced

upon us. You don't have to be concerned about oil running out or climate change to join in the Transition Group's activities. We're just as concerned about other threats to our communities' long-term sustainability: lack of local jobs, lack of housing for young families, loss of local shops and services, dependency on distant suppliers of food and energy, loss of self-sufficiency skills and other issues affecting community well-being, like the volume of traffic, especially long-distance heavy goods vehicles. Be part of the change - create a new future.

So, what can we do?

- Have a manifesto and some priority activities. Ideas to date include growing more food locally, shopping locally, reducing waste, reducing traffic, sharing skills and tools, micro electricity generation projects.
- Volunteer for Parish Plan working groups.
- Raise awareness about how national and global issues affect the sustainability of local communities, and learn from other communities' responses.

Contact: Colin Ainley – 812320 cjsa123@googlemail.com or Chris Thornton – 812980 chridthornton@btinternet.com

AUDLEM SPECIAL EVENTS TEAM (ASET)

Audlem Bonfire and Fireworks Night

Saturday 7th November 2009

On November 5th 1605, thirteen men planned to blow up the Houses of Parliament. Among them was Guy Fawkes. The plot was discovered and Guy Fawkes, was caught, tortured and executed. On the very night that the Gunpowder Plot was foiled, November 5th 1605, bonfires were set alight to celebrate the safety of the King. Since then, November 5th has become known as Bonfire Night. Every year it is commemorated with fireworks and burning effigies of Guy Fawkes on bonfires.

The cost of buying fireworks for "back-garden displays" has increased dramatically over the years. There is no doubt that community displays are the safest and most cost effective way to commemorate Bonfire night – not to mention most



spectacular. For the last 9 years Audlem has hosted a traditional bonfire and fireworks display on the village playing fields. Organised by Audlem Special Events Team (ASET), this high quality event has all the trappings of a traditional Bonfire and Fireworks night and more.

This year's bonfire and fireworks night in Audlem is on Saturday 7th November and will, once again, feature a bonfire – topped off with a Guy made by the local primary school – and fireworks set to music. The bonfire will be lit by the lucky winner of the competition run in conjunction with the school. ASET has increased the budget by over 30% to bring even more value for money of the £3 advanced entry fee (£4 after 31 October).

New to the display this year will be "Gravity Live" a spectacular fire performance including fire eating, breathing, body burning and more. Also, don't miss the giant chocolate fountain with delicious seasonal snacks on sale.

So, remember, remember Saturday 7th November 2009 and join ASET in Audlem for their traditional bonfire and spectacular fireworks display when, once again, the sky will be lit up with an amazing array of colours, accompanied by some great music.

Gates open at 4.30pm with fairground rides and stalls. "Gravity Live" start their amazing display at 5.00pm. The bonfire will be lit at 6.30pm with the fireworks display from 7pm (all times are approximate).

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE – 29TH NOVEMBER

The Annual Christingle Service will be held in St James' Church Sunday 29th November at 4pm. This service supports the work of the Children's Society. This is the service with the orange and the sweets. If you've never been give it a try, designed for children of all ages, including the young at heart.

REMEMBERING

The three village churches are again organising the two customary November 'remembering occasions':

Memorial Service - Wednesday 4 November at 7.30 pm - names will be read and candles lit in memory of loved ones who have died. It doesn't matter where or when the bereavement occurred, if you would like to celebrate the life of someone who has died then do come along. More info Helen Chantry 811543 Andrew Gunstone 811711 Bill Cowen 811463.

Service of Remembrance - Sunday 8 November at 10.45 am - the traditional service will be followed by the laying of wreaths at the war memorial.

Both services will be held in St James.

Making a splash at the Chapel

Rehearsals have just begun for Audlem Methodist Church's 2010 musical, 'Splash!' by Craig Hawes. This re-tells the ancient story of Noah and his ark - from the point of view of the animals. A large all-age company is again involved, preparing for performances that will be given during the February half-term holiday.

BRITISH WATERWAYS RESPONSE TO MOORING DEBATE

British Waterways have issued the following statement as a result of the debate on Audlem Online and the petition in local shops currently being signed by many residents. They say:

"Canals are enjoying a renaissance. There are more people using the towpaths and more boats on the water than ever before. This turnaround in fortunes is good news and British Waterways' policy is to further encourage boating.

However long lines of boats moored long term end-to-end along the line of the canal itself are not popular and cause practical difficulties for visiting boats. We therefore encourage investment

in offline mooring sites, where a majority of boaters prefer to keep their boat when they're not using them.

Our policy therefore is to reduce (not eliminate entirely) the number of boats moored long term along the waterway. Where a new marina opens, we aim to reduce just one berth on the canal itself for every ten that open. A full copy of the policy is published at www.britishwaterways.co.uk/onlinemooringpol.

As the new Audlem marina begins to fill, new occupants will make regular stops in the village when out cruising or visiting their boats and we expect this to increase rather than diminish business in local shops.

It should be noted that the closure of our long term moorings in Audlem and to the south of the village is currently scheduled to take place on a 'natural wastage' basis – i.e. as and when current occupants of the berths decide to change their long term mooring. Absolutely no one is being forced to leave their existing mooring.

We will shortly publish a national public consultation on our moorings policies. The proposals include working with local communities, boaters, boatyards and other stakeholders to develop mooring strategies which reflect local priorities and which will provide the framework for future moorings decisions."

CHESHIRE CARERS' CENTRE

Cheshire Carers' Centre hold an informal Carers drop in session on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at the Public Hall, Cheshire Street from 10.30 am until 12.30pm. It is open to those who care (unpaid) for a relative or friend who needs their help due to disability, illness or frailty.

Pop in for a coffee, chat to centre staff and other Carers and find out about the services offered to Carers. Some sessions may include activities, events or trips.

For more information about Cheshire Carers' Centre, please call the helpline on 0800 085 0307.

THE 5A's CINDERELLA



The "5A" Company proudly presents their 15th Annual Pantomime "Cinderella" written by Colin Cliffe. Performance dates: Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sat **25th, 26th, 27th and 28th January 2010**, starting at 7.30pm also Saturday afternoon Matinee on the 28th January 2010 starting at 2.00pm. Tickets will be on sale in December.

SOUTH CHESHIRE EMBROIDERERS' GUILD

South Cheshire Embroiderers' Guild meets on the 3rd Thursday of every month at the Scout and Guide Hall with the exception of August and December. Meetings start at 10am with coffee and biscuits and our speaker begins at 10.30am. We hold additional workshops throughout the year and each month's speaker can be found at: www.miniwebs.com/audlemembroiderersguild or for more information contact Jan Aldersay on 01270 619753.

This year has held many fabulous meetings including our open day which brought over 250 visitors to the village and caused more than a little disruption! Members have also been able to visit the 'Festival of Quilts' held in August at the NEC and have heard a huge variety of fascinating talks from journal quilts and freestyle knitting and crochet to natural dyeing, felting and even a detective story. We are a friendly and active group so please feel free to come along and join us.

AUDLEM & DISTRICT PROBUS CLUB

Audlem and District Probus Club membership has now reached 60 comprising retired and semi retired professional and businessmen from the area with aged sixty upwards

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 range from local man George Hardy's tale From Audlem to Saltlake City, Chester Uncovered and a festive theme with Puddings, Pomanders and Polish. Trips included a cruise on Lake Windermere and in August a trip to Weston Park House and Gardens in Shropshire. Next years 5 day visit to East Anglia is fully booked. In addition there are the usual lunches and social evenings plus monthly walks.

For further details contact our President Ben Clark on 01630 655052 or Rex Rayner 01270 811896

AUDLEM DISTRICT HISTORY SOCIETY

Thurs Nov 19th: Jon Honeysett - Mitchell and the Spitfire
AGM at 7.30pm

Tues Dec 8th: Christmas dinner at The Croft Woore

Thurs Jan 21st: Pam Minshall - The history of Ruskin Road School Crewe

Thurs Feb 18th: Dinah Andrew - Lord Combermere

All talks start at 8pm prompt. Please try to arrive by 7.45pm.
Membership £10 p.a. Visitors £2 per meeting Tea and biscuit 25p
Contact Celia Bloor: 811260

ADAS (Audlem District Amenities Society)

Audlem in Bloom.

The displays are now coming to the end. The new bed in St James' is well established and we will be looking into doing further such beds. Around 2000 daffodils will be planted by Tollgate/ Whitchurch Road this autumn as a joint venture with Marie Curie. Fresh tulips will be planted in the new wooden tubs and then placed out in position in spring.

November 12th – Public Hall at 7.30p.m. This is when we showcase many of the village businesses and their products i.e. high fashion, jewellery, home baking etc. Wine and savouries will be served and judging by last year's success demand will be high. Tickets are £5 (including a glass of wine or a drink) available from Williams Newsagents or from Ralph on 812125.

November 28th - Sees the erection of the big Christmas tree in the Square as well the installation of thousands of lights on this and other trees to create a festive display for the Christmas Season. Many thanks to all the volunteers.

December 22nd Carol Singing round the Christmas tree, with the Normid Brass Band and free hot soup from the Lord Combermere plus a visit from that Jolly fellow in red!

Any queries on **ADAS matters** to **Ralph Warburton** on 812125 or rjw@notrubraw.com

HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY GIRL GUIDING!

In September 70 Audlem Brownies, Guides, Leaders and Parents (former association members) gathered in Audlem to attend the Launch party - 'STARBURST' - for the Girlguiding Centenary in Congleton Park. There they joined 3,500 other Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Trefoil Guild members (ex Leaders) from across the county to celebrate 100 years since the start of the Girlguiding Association, a fantastic start to a year of extra activities, camps and national celebrations.

Although in 1909 a few girls turned up at a Scouting rally at Crystal Palace and asked if they could join, they were turned away with the retort that 'Scouting wasn't for girls'. When, a few years later, someone asked Lord Baden - Powell who started the Girl Guides, he answered: "They started themselves."

All Unite is always looking for assistance at their weekly meetings. Our leaders are dedicated to their groups, but to guarantee their future more help is required. If you think you

would be interested in helping please contact **Chris Cottrell** on **811454**

HOSPITAL CAR SERVICE

ADAS Hospital Car service is provided for people who cannot get to hospital appointments by other means. The service is manned by a team of volunteers who ask only for a contribution to petrol costs. It is headed up by Irene Pryce contact on 811695.

AUDLEM & DISTRICT BRANCH CONSERVATIVES

Many tributes have been made to the late Councillor Allan Richardson OBE, DL and the Audlem Branch give their appreciation for the help and support he has given over many decades.

Stephen O'Brien has held a further individual surgery in the Committee Room of Audlem Public Hall giving local residents the opportunity to raise issues of concern to them. For further information about the Branch and its events contact Roland Hall (812530) or Alan Cross (811974)

FITNESS PILATES/GENTLE EXERCISE TO MUSIC



Pilates is ideal for strengthening weak muscles and for overall posture, keeping you supple and strong. All ages and both men and women benefit from this form of gentle exercise. Classes will begin in November and be held in Audlem each Friday 6-7 pm with possible daytime

sessions on demand. You will require a mat, water and loose comfortable clothing. Demand will be high. Contact *Lynn* on 01270 663958 for more information and to book your place.

NEW SHOPS OPEN IN THE VILLAGE CENTRE

The following new shops have opened in the village adding to our already well established village centre.

AUDLEM DRYCLEANERS: Run by Sevi who has very close connections with the village. Sevi has been in the dry cleaning business for over 20 years and will offer a comprehensive hand finished dry cleaning service, including a delivery and collection service. Tel: 811593

THE FLOWER COMPANY

Established by Sue Poole, lecturer in the art of floral design at Rease Heath, and gold medalist at the RHS Flower Show, Tatton. The opening of The Flower Company took place on Saturday 31st October 2009 when the team of designers, Sam, Mandy & Rachel, welcomed visitors to view first hand the imaginative style of floral design, products and services available for all those special occasions. Opening times Monday to Friday 9.00am – 5.30pm, Saturday 9.00am – 4.00pm.

Tel: 812942, email: sue@theflowercompanyuk.co.uk or visit: www.theflowercompanyuk.co.uk

The Bicycle Shop – opening soon for cycling enthusiasts everywhere. Run by local couple Tim and Nikki Ball.

And recently opened – **Chesters** unisex hairdressers providing all the usual hairdressing services, cuts, styling, perms and colouring. Open Tues to Saturday Tel: 811500

AUDLEM PRACTICE PARTICIPATION GROUP

The Audlem Practice Participation Group met recently. As well as the patient representatives, Dr Peter Leftwick and Practice Manager Helen Matthews represented the Medical Practice and Brian Bowles also attended to talk about the local hospitals.

Brian Bowles, an Audlem resident and Patient Governor of Mid Cheshire Hospitals Foundation Trust, spoke about his role as a Patient Governor. He stressed the close connection between primary and secondary care that the role of Governor is to make sure the Trust do what they say they will do and that they are

responsible to their local population. He was asked about Mid Staffs hospital type issues and how they were monitored at Leighton. Brian confirmed that Governors were involved in key sub committees with Directors and Non Executives, including discussions on clinical governance and audit issues. They also meet patients and monitor standards.

Brian was also asked about 'death rate' data comparisons. This has been followed up since the meeting. It shows the local hospitals have a mortality ratio similar to the national average.

Hospital car parking charges were discussed including the recent increases. Brian confirmed that weekly passes could be purchased for £5 but it was noted that relatives of in-patients didn't necessarily know how long people would be in hospital.

Turning to other issues, an Audlem Patient Participation Group leaflet will be distributed in early November and a link on Audlem Online to include Medical Practice general information is to be prepared.

Dr Peter Leftwick said that the Practice's existing telephone call activity is to be monitored with view to then purchasing a new system in the New Year. The electronic booking in system was working very well in freeing up receptionist time to better deal with phone calls.

It was reported that the Wednesday afternoon surgery opening had gone down very well with patients including for those with chronic conditions. It had also reduced pressure on routine appointments. The question of Saturday opening was raised and it was agreed that extended opening would be kept under review.

A patient complaint about difficulty in obtaining an appointment was discussed. The Practice has also responded directly to the complaint.

The Group was briefed on discussions currently taking place with Cheshire West Primary Care Trust and the Practice's current links with Central & East PCT.

There was a discussion about the Practice's links with Carers. Peter Leftwick plans to attend a local Carers meeting shortly.

FIRST RESPONDERS/AMBULANCE SURVEY

There was an excellent response to the Ambulance survey. Below are details of the survey results which will be taken forward in discussions with the North West Ambulance Service. The figures are the number of actual responses - % have not been used. The Parish Councils would like to thank Margaret Roberts who has analysed the 337 questionnaires in detail.

Many thanks to all those that completed and returned the forms. This will have a strong impact in discussions with NWAS. The next meeting with senior managers and directors of the ambulance service is scheduled for 27th November.

1. Do you support the Parish Councils' campaign to get ambulance response times to 8 minutes or less when attending life threatening calls in rural areas?

Yes 323

No 8 (Don't Know 6)

Comments mainly focused on arguments that rural areas deserve the same level of support as urban areas. A number, however, doubted if that's possible. Others asked about cross-boundary support from Market Drayton.

2. Do you support the campaign to get ambulance response times to 19 minutes or less when attending calls which are serious but not immediately life threatening?

Yes 329

No 4 (Don't know 4)

There was near unanimous support for the 19 minute target being met. The chief executive of NWAS personally promised

Audlem representatives a year ago that virtually all emergency calls (Red and Amber) in Audlem would be met in 19 minutes.

The current performance, based on NWAS' own figures, is under 40% of ambulances arriving within 19 minutes and just 4% (2 out of 52 calls) of ambulances arriving within 8 minutes for life threatening emergencies.

3. Do you think First Responders should attend a wide range of assistance and care until an ambulance arrives?

Yes 326

No 11

The main comment was they must be properly trained.

4. Should First responders be trained to deal with falls?

Yes 330

No 7

Again, the main comment was they must be properly trained.

5. Should First responders be trained and allowed to deal with children under 14 years?

Yes 318

No 17 (Don't know 2)

The main comments were that children should be treated like anybody else that's ill or injured. Others said that another adult should be present and CRB checks should be standard.

6. Should First Responders be trained and allowed to attend people with diabetes?

Yes 307

No 17 (Don't know 13)

Comments included the need for training and many said that time is of the essence.

7. Should First responders be trained and allowed to administer aspirin (heart cases) and pain killers such as entonox (pain relieving gas)?

Yes 310

No 22 (Don't know 5)

Again, the comments included the need for training and many said that time is of the essence.

8. Do you think Cheshire should have representation on the Board of the North West Ambulance Service?

Yes 333

No 2 (Don't know 2)

Comments were largely amazement that Cheshire was not already represented.

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 editor@audlem.org or

'Contact Webteam' on the website.

The closing date for items for the winter issue is 10th January 2010.

Please Note: All items submitted will be given careful consideration. However, the Editorial Team is responsible for the content of the Newsletter and the final decision for inclusion rests with it.