



# NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2007

## AUDLEM PARISH COUNCIL

A Summary of Parish Council business – January 2008

### EMERGENCY AMBULANCE SERVICES TO AUDLEM

For some time now the Parish Council has been urging the Ambulance Service to improve emergency services to Audlem and district, with Ambulance personnel attending 3 meetings in the village over the last 8 months. Early in January, Councillors were delighted to learn that, from 12th January at the latest, an additional rapid response vehicle will be operating from Crewe, and that a second vehicle will join the fleet in the very near future. The high dependency ambulance fleet is also being increased in Congleton and Wilmslow, which will have a positive knock-on effect for our services. These additional vehicles, together with changes to the way in which the fleet is deployed, should result in a better response times for Audlem. The Parish Council has also learned that that a manager for the new First Responder service was now in post and would be liaising with staff at Audlem Fire Station to get the operation off the ground. The Parish Council will continue to be active on behalf of residents to ensure that these improvements feed through to us as promised.

### AUDLEM YOUTH COUNCIL

Young people of the parish now have a say in local matters, and will hopefully learn how to go about making the changes they want. The Youth Council has had three meetings at St James' School (on 5th November, 3rd December and 7th January at 6.30 pm). So far, discussions have included the condition and lighting of some local footpaths, re-location of the teen shelter and frequency of visits by the Youth Service Can-y-bus to Audlem. Councillors Richard Furber, Kate Down, Geoff Stretch and Mike Hill are leading this initiative.

### BUDGETS FOR 2008/09

At the Parish Council meeting on 7th January, the precept for 2008/09 was set at £27,683.

### PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Parish Council meetings will be held in St James School on: 4th February, 3rd March, 7th April, 12th May, 16th June, 21st July, 1st September, 6th October, 3rd November, 1st 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.

### **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

### CONGRATULATIONS TO ISOBEL SYKES MBE

Audlem firefighter and well-known local resident, Isobel Sykes, has received an MBE in the New Year's Honours list for services to local government. She is described in the published list of honours as 'Retained Crew Manager, Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service'.

Isobel has worked as a retained firefighter in the village for many years. We are sure everyone will join us in congratulating Isobel for this very public national recognition of all her work for the Audlem and district community.

### CO-OP PARKING - THE ENFORCEMENT ISSUE

Following the discussion at January's Parish Council meeting on the vexed issue of delivery vans servicing the new Co-op, Geoff Smethurst has received the following response from Rachel Bolton, Planning Compliance Officer at Crewe and Nantwich Borough Council:



*"Dear Mr Smethurst  
 cc Ken Maple, Cheshire Police  
 Thank you for your email regarding the deliveries to the new Co-op in Audlem. My colleague, Ros Ellison has forwarded your email to me.*

*Condition 13 on the notice of permission for P06/1125 requires the parking and turning facility for the apartments and the retail units to be surfaced and marked out before occupation.*

*I visited the site yesterday and can confirm that the turning area has not yet been provided in accordance with the permission. I will write to Muller Properties requesting that the surfacing is undertaken as a matter of urgency, this should then allow the Co-op deliveries to take place to the rear of the front block and off Shropshire Street.*

*From a planning perspective it should be noted that although the turning facility is to be provided the local planning authority can not make the co-op delivery lorry use the turning area. I can confirm that there are no conditions requiring deliveries to take place within the site. However, when I have received a response from Muller Properties, I will write to the area manager of the Co-op encouraging them to use this turning facility when it has been provided.*

*The police are best placed to advise you with regards to the parking and traffic problems.*

*I trust this is satisfactory for the time being. If I can be of further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me."*

Let's hope that these actions, combined with the letters the Parish Council agreed to send to Cheshire County Council (Highways), the Borough Council, Mullers and the Co-op about delivery van parking and off-loading obstructions, bring matters to a satisfactory conclusion.

Photo: Philip Hesketh

#### **GOOD NEWS ABOUT THE BRIDGE**

We have received the following good news from Marstons' publicity agents:

"A major refurbishment is now underway and planning permission has been applied for, to add a very attractive dining conservatory and external seating area with views over the canal. Due to time delays in getting planning permission the pub is likely to be developed in two phases. The first being a long awaited refurbishment.

The new Licensees are from the local area, and they aim to make The Bridge a first class pub for locals and tourists alike. There will be a greater focus on quality food and drink.

The people of Audlem can be rest assured that they will be getting what they deserve "a quality pub with quality licensees.

We are hoping to be open at the end of February, in time for Mothering Sunday and Easter."

#### **MAJOR CHANGE AT THE CHEMISTS.**

John Wilkinson, after over twenty years as Audlem's chemist, has decided to move on. His business, Smith & Wilkinson, is being sold to Alliance Boots so, while all will be sorry to no longer see John at the helm, the village will retain a chemist's shop. The change-over will be at the end of February.

John says the decision has been very difficult as he has built up many friendships in Audlem. In

particular, his long-serving and hard working staff will remain, so providing much continuity for the business and the community.

John Wilkinson started working in Audlem in 1984. He took over the business soon after and has been a familiar and popular figure in the village. Like all good pharmacists, he has always been prepared to give advice on medical treatments and, as recently as this Christmas season, offered out-of-hours help if needed.

John says the time is right to move on as life is getting increasingly difficult for independent chemists. He is confident that Alliance Boots will provide a very professional service to the Audlem area. He plans to continue working in the industry but, he hopes, with a little more leisure time.

We are sure that everyone will join us in wishing John well and thanking him for his huge contribution to the local community.

#### **BEAVERS ARE COMING!!**



Plans are afoot to add another section to the Audlem Scout & Guide Group. A Beaver Colony

will be opened on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2008 at Audlem Scout & Guide Headquarters; Beavers will start at 4.30 pm and the session will close at 5.45 pm.

If your son or daughter wish to join the Beaver Colony, and we very much hope they do, they should be between the ages of 6 & 8 years.

At the moment we are gathering numbers to ensure that the Beaver Colony will be viable. If you would like your son or daughter to join, then you should telephone 0845 880 2460 or text BEAVERS with your child's details to 07903 236405.

We are all very excited about the forthcoming opening and would like you to share in this as much as possible and we look forward to hearing from you soon.

#### **CCTV SUCCESS IN AUDLEM**

Audlem's CCTV camera has scored after a car vandal was caught on film. He was caught and admitted to vandalising several cars.

There had been damage to parked cars in Emberton Place near to Thornton House. A mobile CCTV camera was set up and the identified man was taken for questioning in Nantwich and admitted scratching two cars.

PC Ken Maple is seeking suggestions as to where the camera should now be placed. The camera was bought by Audlem Parish Council two years ago and can be borrowed by any resident to identify criminal activity and anti-social behaviour. Contact: Ken Maple on Ken.Maple@cheshire.pnn.police.uk or leave a message on 0845 458 6378.

**ADAS(Audlem District Amenities Society)**

A good display of Christmas trees and lights was welcomed by the vast majority of residents and visitors and we are very grateful for the help of Phil Baker who gives so much of his time in ensuring the big tree lights are maintained. All the other work was carried out by members of the ADAS committee. This year's sponsors of the main tree were Olive & Geoff Stretch who were pleased to see the result of their generosity looking so fine. If you would like to sponsor a tree in the future please contact any member of the ADAS committee.

Our next event will be The **Spring Children's Fashion Show** on April 15th in the Public Hall – when children of the village aged from 3 to 11 enjoy their big moment of parading on the "Catwalk" . Tickets from Michelle Perkin on 811113.

**ADAS Committee Members:**

Mike Hill	-	811843
Michelle Perkin	-	811113
Mike Haines	-	812493
Irene Pryce	-	811695
Shirley Firth	-	811727
Bill Consterdine	-	811647
Julie Hesketh	-	811686
Karen Rhodes-Brandt	-	811003
Ann Wollaston	-	811967
David Latchford	-	811567
Ralph Warburton	-	812125

***Other dates for your calendar are:***

**AUDLEM ARTS & MUSIC FESTIVAL**

May 23/25<sup>th</sup>

Contact Ralph Warburton on 07813 820157

**ANNUAL AUDLEM CARNIVAL DAY**

**May 26th**

Contact Gwen Moss on 811467.

**SHAKESPEARE ON TOUR -**

**BUERTON HOUSE June 13/14<sup>th</sup>.**

Contact Ralph Warburton as above.

Watch for more information on all the above in the Spring issue of the Parish Newsletter

**AUDLEM BRANCH CONSERVATIVES REPORT**

Our Member of Parliament, Stephen O'Brien, gave local people the opportunity to raise matters personally with him when he held an individual surgery in the Audlem Public Hall on Friday 23 November 2007.

Betty Goodwin, the Branch President, has kindly agreed to host a lunch time canapés and drinks reception at her home, Kynsal Lodge, Kynsey Heath, Audlem. This will take place on Sunday 24 February 2008 from 12 midday and tickets will cost £7.50 each.

For tickets or further information about the Branch and its events contact Roland Hall (812530) or Alan Cross (811974)

**AUDLEM & DISTRICT PROBUS CLUB** *President*

*Peter Ellis has begun 2008 for the Audlem & District Probus Club with an excellent trip to the Hallé New Year Concert at Victoria Hall, Hanley and hosting the Clubs Annual Luncheon at Brookfield Golf Club attended by more than 80 members and guests including the President of Nantwich Rotary Club.*

*The Club has varied speakers and a social programme and meets at the Brookfield Golf Club on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday each month (except August) commencing 10 am for coffee followed by a guest speaker. In the coming months we will have talks on That Black Chair, The Funny Side of the Funeral Trade, 30 years as a Vets Wife, Brunel –Gambler or Genius? and later in the year Prison Life and Alcoholics Anonymous! A 6 day coach trip is planned in May for South East Ireland. Social activities will include, a guided tour of Cholmondley Castle and Gardens, a tour of the Jaguar Car Factory at Castle Bromwich, and a visit to Renishaw Hall and Gardens in Derbyshire, plus a number of other social events.*

*For further details contact our President Peter Ellis 01270 812227 or Derek Rooke 01270 668111*

**LICENCE FILLIP FOR PUBLIC HALL**

After two years of operating within the restrictive regime of using Temporary Events Notices (TENs), the Public Hall is now fully licensed to allow the sale of alcohol for consumption on the premises. In order to obtain the licence Geoff Stretch, Chairman of the Hall's management committee, has had to attend and pass a training course to become the Designated Premises Supervisor.

Obtaining the licence overcomes the major problem that restricted the Public Hall to just having a maximum of twelve TENs each year, when alcohol could be sold at either private or public functions. The limit has now been increased to a maximum of one hundred, way above the number of functions that would be held in any one year.

There are still conditions that have to be met and each request for hire where the provision of alcohol is involved will still have to be approved by Cheshire Police.

In the Hall itself, as part of the ongoing improvements, the bar has been redesigned and is being re-equipped, both to improve its appearance and make it easier to use for customers and bar staff.

It is hoped that the Hall will now be used for more functions, both private and public. Anyone interested in booking the Public Hall can ring 01270 811684.



### **SPRING BALL NEXT MONTH IN PUBLIC HALL**

The Spring Ball in the Public Hall is on 23rd February, starting at 7.30pm for dinner at 8.00pm. Dancing will be to 'Feedback'. The dress code is black tie/lounge suit. The proceeds go to supporting the Public Hall.

Tickets are £25 from Public Hall committee members or 811011 or 811575. It's been a great event over the past few years so it may well be worth getting your tickets as soon as possible.

### **CARERS' COFFEE MORNINGS**

Carers' coffee mornings are held on the second Tuesday of every month at 10.30 to 12.30 in the Public Hall. You can join in various activities if you wish or simply chat and/or seek advice.

### **HISTORY SOCIETY PROGRAMME**

Meetings start at 7.45pm prompt for talk at 8.00pm (unless otherwise stated in the programme).

**Thurs Feb 21<sup>st</sup>:** Mark Newbrook, The Cheshire Dialect

**Thurs Mar 20<sup>th</sup>:** Terry Lilly, Roman Excavations in Nantwich

**Thurs April 17<sup>th</sup>**

7.30 pm start at Whitchurch Civic Hall

Bob Silvester, Deputy Director, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust, Aerial Archaeology in the Welsh Borderlands

**Thurs May 15<sup>th</sup>:** John Whitehead, The Wilbrahams & Woodhay

### **From Audlem Online:**

#### **BIG VOTE ON PLASTIC BAG ISSUE**

The number of votes cast in the current Audlem.org Vote Poll asking "Should Audlem join the list of communities that are banning the use of plastic bags?" has passed the 500 mark. This is the largest number of votes ever cast in an Audlem Online poll.

The number of 'Yes' votes is 368, 'No' votes are 129 while 5 people are unsure. With this strength of opinion, it's good to know that this issue will be raised at the next Audlem Village Traders' Association meeting for the village's retailers to discuss the issue and plan how to respond.

Following the massive Vote Poll on plastic bags - showing a large majority in favour of banning their use - we now have a new poll on an issue that might attract an equally large vote.

Given the lively debate on the traffic issues since the new Co-op opened, both on the Audlem Online Forum and at this week's Parish Council meeting, we ask "**Do you want to see more double yellow line parking restrictions in Audlem village centre?**"

One resident said at the Parish Council meeting he feared that more parking restrictions would destroy the character of Audlem. Others may think it's the only way to avoid the regular traffic jams, particularly when there are deliveries to the Co-op. Given the complexity of the issue - see the recent news stories on "Co-op parking - the enforcement issue" - we are also be running a Forum on the subject

*Don't forget even if you do not have a computer, you can now access Audlem.org on the computers in Williams Newsagents.*

### **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](mailto:newsletter@audlem.org) or post your item in the box situated in the Post Office

**Website Team** on [webteam@audlem.org](mailto:webteam@audlem.org) or 'Contact Webteam' on the website.

**The closing date for items for the spring issue is Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2008**