



NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2006

AUDLEM PARISH COUNCIL

A Summary of Parish Council business – Spring 2006

Audlem's recent hat trick of achievements (below) was recognised at an event held in the Public Hall on the evening of 20th January. Amongst those offering their congratulations were; the Mayor of Crewe & Nantwich Borough Council, Stephen O'Brien MP, the Vice Chairman of Cheshire County Council, and the Chairman of the Cheshire Association of Local Councils.

LAUNCH OF AUDLEM PARISH PLAN

The Parish Plan was officially launched on 20th January. Congratulations to the team of residents led by Bob Cartwright which worked hard to publish this magnificent document to time and to budget, and thanks to the erstwhile Countryside Agency for their grant of £4,695. Work is now underway to make sure that the things highlighted in the Plan will happen. Contact Bob Cartwright or Mike Hill if you want to help.

AWARD OF "QUALITY PARISH COUNCIL" STATUS

Audlem Parish Council is the first council in the area to be awarded "Quality Status" by the Cheshire Association of Local Council's Accreditation Panel on 12th December and was congratulated on extremely high standards in a number of areas, particularly its strong community links. As a result of the award the Parish Council will be better placed to negotiate with the Borough Council to take over local delivery of services if this is appropriate.

TRAFFIC CONGESTION ON SHROPSHIRE STREET AND THE SQUARE

Parish Councillors and proprietors of local businesses are discussing with the Area Traffic Engineer the possible introduction of parking restrictions. (Also see item from Ken Maple)

DONATION OF BENCHES BY ALWYNE AND DAVID HODGKINS

The four benches are now in position at the edge of the playing field and will be greatly appreciated by players and walkers, especially over the coming spring and summer months. Many thanks to Mr. & Mrs. Hodgkins for their generosity.

PARISH MEETING

In May this year we are planning a full scale Open Annual Parish Meeting to hear presentations and to discuss a wide range of local issues – everyone

welcome. Look out for more information in the coming weeks.

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
Paul Huntbach 812170	Ken Jones 811532
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 - 2006 - St. James School

March 6th, April 3rd, May 8th, June 12th, July 17th, September 4th, October 2nd, 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.

Problems with public toilets/grounds maintenance

Report to Crewe & Nantwich Borough Council's STREETWISE on 0800387491

Problems with highways – pot holes, pavement and street lighting –report to Cheshire County Council on 0845 2450558, or e mail engcn@cheshire.gov.uk

A LETTER TO THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

The following letter has been sent:

Dear Deputy Prime Minister.

You will be aware that villages all over the country are producing Parish Plans as part of the drive to further sustainability within rural areas. The Parish Plan for Audlem in Cheshire, the current winner of the national Defra award for 'Building Community Life', has attracted much regional attention. Enclosed you will find a copy of the Plan and I trust you will find it in keeping with Central Government's requirements.

I would like to take this opportunity to advise you that our efforts in Audlem do not end there. As a result of much hard work and sterling efforts by a large number of residents over the past few years, we were rewarded during 2005 with the following: -

Parish Council Awarded Quality Status (first Council in the area to achieve this)

Cheshire Village of the Year

Cheshire Most Vibrant Village award

Cheshire 'Building Community Life' award

*North of England Calor Village of the Year
North of England DEFRA award
National winner of DEFRA 'Building Community Life'
award*

You will appreciate from the above that we are not a community that just stands still waiting for the cows to be milked. Nor do we intend that the Parish Plan just gathers dust in a file somewhere. We are absolutely determined having produced the Plan based on the villagers' needs, to drive it through to its final conclusion. In fact we have already achieved certain projects and are now busy searching for funding to achieve the major projects.

Our village is seven miles from anywhere and we have to make things happen ourselves. However, endorsement of our Plan by yourself would help enormously. Should you have any observations we would be delighted to hear from you and if you are ever in the area, you will be made most welcome.

Yours sincerely

Mike Hill

Audlem Parish Council &

Member of the Parish Plan Steering Committee

AUDLEM MP STEPHEN O'BRIEN TO HOLD SURGERY IN VILLAGE

Audlem's Member of Parliament Stephen O'Brien plans to hold an individual surgery in the Village on Friday 5 May 2006. This will take place in the Committee Room at the Public Hall between 4.30 and 6pm

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

Earlier in the afternoon he proposes to meet with members of the Audlem Traders Association.

From 7pm there will be an Open House 'Meet your MP' evening in the Public Hall. Stephen is keen to remind villagers that he represents them all at Westminster irrespective of who they voted for. Everyone is invited and refreshments will be provided without charge. This is an opportunity not only to meet and chat to your MP informally but also raise issues that are of general concern.

AUDLEM INVITED TO ENTER "BEST OF THE BEST" COMPETITION

Calor, the sponsors of the 'Village of the Year' competition, is holding a special 10th anniversary of the competition award this year and has invited Audlem to enter. With last year's successes behind us, the village has jumped at the opportunity. All national and regional winners over the past 10 years have been invited to enter and 41 villages

from England, Scotland and Wales are competing for the 'Best of the Best' title. A small team made up of members of the Parish Council, ADAS, ASET, the Youth Club, Public Hall and the Parish Plan has already started work on the written entry which has to be in by 17th March. As last year, we will be competing against villages from Cheshire, Cumbria, Durham, Humber & Wolds, Lancashire, Northumberland, Tees Valley and Yorkshire, a huge area.

The written entry will cover six categories: Community Life, Business, Younger People, Older People, the Environment and ICT (Information Communication Technology). There will then be a presentation to judges, who will visit during April and May. Richard Furber, chairman of Audlem Parish Council, commented: "We are delighted to be participating in this special competition being run by Calor. It's great to have the opportunity to once again prove why our community stands out from other villages, and we are sure we can impress the judges with our enthusiasm and community spirit. It would certainly be a great honour to win the contest and be crowned the 'Best of the Best'." There is a £20,000 prize on offer for the village crowned the overall champion, and the results of the competition will be announced at an awards ceremony in London on September 19th. Suzanne Weir, Calor Village of the Year® manager, commented: "Calor is running this special competition, not only to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the competition, but also to give past winners a chance to shine the spotlight on themselves once again".

AUDLEM PARISH PLAN - SPORTS FACILITIES IN AUDLEM

Audlem's sports facilities have fallen well behind the standard expected by any community with virtually no investment since 1984 when the Tennis Club completely revamped its facilities. The success of the Tennis Club since then demonstrates just what can be achieved.

Audlem is at least 7 miles from anywhere so sports participation is time consuming, expensive and near impossible using public transport. Youngsters and many others, who cannot or do not wish to travel, need a dramatic improvement in local facilities. Audlem is the natural catchment area for over 3,000 residents, with a fifth under 19 years old, and over 50,000 more visit by narrow boat each year. There is also a national obesity and fitness crisis and Audlem's Parish Plan questionnaire showed the public want better facilities.

The village has a strong sense of community and has recently won 3 major awards. Despite this success, there are problems with some youths with little

constructive to do. Better sports facilities may help solve this issue.

Football was popular locally with two league teams using the village centre's playing field. Both have had to move elsewhere because there are no changing facilities - the league rightly demands changing rooms as a condition of playing league football. There is a junior club, Audlem Saints, and huge interest amongst this age group, but they too need better facilities desperately. Even the goal posts are no longer in situ.

The Parish Plan lays out ambitious proposals for sports facilities to be improved dramatically by 2012, the year the Olympics come to Britain. A number of alternative proposals have been examined by the Community Projects group, which contains representatives from the Parish Council, Public Hall and Tennis Club, which is working on the implementation of the Parish Plan.

The proposal favoured is a new indoor sports facility behind the village's Public Hall, managed by the existing Public Hall committee, containing a gym, badminton court, fitness centre, changing rooms and toilets. Ideally it will also include a relaxation area which can be used by various groups. Badminton is played in the Public Hall but is marred by a pillar within the playing area and inadequate space. The current players believe interest would grow with proper facilities.

The changing facilities and toilets would bring football back to the playing field, attracting the league teams back to what is an excellent pitch, and increase interest by the juniors. Ideally the village would like 5 a side and basketball facilities but space restrictions make this difficult although the new hall would allow basketball and volleyball which may grow as a result of the Olympics.

Outline designs and costings will be carried out as soon as initial funding has been obtained but it is expected that the facility will cost over £1million. Crewe & Nantwich Borough Council is being asked about agreeing funding in principle for operating costs in line with their support in other areas of population.

If you have any views on these proposals you can write to the Community Project Group and post in the Newsletter box in the Post Office

PUBLIC HALL UPDATE

Since the last Newsletter, the Public Hall has had new curtains put up in the main hall, new flooring laid both in the bar and on the stairs and purchased new, more comfortable, chairs. In 2006, the committee is planning to continue the improvement work with the installation of double-glazed windows, new bar fittings and new fire doors and carrying out both internal and external decoration. These improvements will take the

total cost of refurbishment of the building to over £100,000 since 2002.

All these projects have only been possible with the enthusiastic support of the village community, the Parish Council, WREN (Waste Recycling Environmental Ltd) and Crewe & Nantwich Borough Council, who have provided a large part of the funding. Other organisations that have provided vital support are: Cheshire County Council, the Parish Councils of Buerton and Hankelow, Lloyds TSB, ASET, ADAS, ACAMF, Audlem Bowls Club and Audlem WI. In addition there was a gift aid scheme, which attracted donations of over £2,400, allowing an extra £650 or so to be reclaimed from the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

It is also worth reminding everyone that the Public Hall became a non-smoking venue on 1st January.

AUDLEM DISTRICT HISTORY SOCIETY PROGRAMME SPRING 2006

March 16th - Dan Garner 'Excavation of Chester Amphitheatre'

April 20th at 7.30pm - Dr Mick Crumplin at Whitchurch 'Surgeons in the Peninsular War'

May 18th - Elizabeth Davy 'Villages of Vision'

For more information ring - 812114

AUDLEM & DISTRICT PROBUS CLUB

The Audlem & District Probus Club are pleased to announce that local resident Jim Winfield will become their President from 1 April 2006.

The Club meets at Brookfield Golf Club on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays each month (except August) commencing 10am for coffee followed by a guest speaker. The current programme includes such diverse topics as 'The story of English Pub Signs', 'First 300 years of Chirk Castle', 'United Utilities', 'The Magic of Toys', 'Nunc est Bibendum', 'The Experiences of a New Old Pilot', and the 'Origin of English Names'

There is also a full social programme with visits to Tissington Hall and the Annual Well Dressing, Marstons Brewery Burton on Trent, Private Guided Tour of Combermere Abbey and Gardens and a visit to the JCB Factory at Rocester. In addition there are the regular lunches and evening functions.

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

AUDLEM AID TO CANCER RESEARCH EVENTS 2006

April 1st - Spring Fair, 10am-12.30pm Methodist Hall

June 3rd - Open Garden, 10.30am-3pm The Willows, School Lane, Audlem

Oct 14th - Autumn Fair 10am-12.30pm Methodist Hall
Contact: 01270-812114

	Contact Person	Position	Telephone	Web Site
<u>Charities</u>				
Audlem Age Concern Tea Club	Veronica Briggs	Day Care Co-	01270 582702	www.ageconcerncheshire.org.uk/
Audlem Aid To Cancer Research	Ann Bowles	Chairman	01270 811253	
NSPCC Support Group	Vi Pritchard	Secretary	01270 811833	
St Luke's Hospice Audlem Support Group	Ruth Kemble	Secretary	01270 811887	
Friends of Hope House (children's hospice)	Miriam Winnard		01270 811777	
<u>Churches</u>				
Baptist Church	Bill Cowen		01270 811463	www.crewecvs.org.uk/community/com mgroups/hope.htm
Methodist Church	Andrew Gunstone	Minister	01270 811711	
St James C of E	Helen Chantry	Priest in Charge	01270 811543	
<u>Clubs & Societies</u>				
Ashley Music School	Elizabeth & Matthew Hawley	Joint Principals	01630 672546	www.ashleymusic.co.uk
Audlem & District Probus Club	Roland Hall	Social Secretary	01270 812530	
Audlem Bellringers	Ruth Kemble		01270 811887	
Audlem Conservative Branch	Linda Hall	Hon. Secretary	01270 812530	
Audlem District History Society (ADHS)	Celia Bloor	Secretary	01270 811260	
Audlem Embroiderers' Guild	Florence Ross	Chairman	01270 624959	www.embroiderersguild.com/
Audlem Embroiderers' Guild	Julie Williams	IT contact	01270 657535	
Audlem Women's Institute	Brenda Bates	Secretary	01270 812597	
Buerton Women's Institute	Ingrid Shaw		01270 811081	www.womens-institute.org.uk/
Mothers' Union	Pat Wood	Club Secretary	01270 811568	
National Women's Register	Judith Wiltshire	Organiser	01270 780938	www.nwr.org
Shropshire Union Canal Society	Richard Hall	Secretary	01630 657737	www.shropshireunion.org.uk
The "5As" Company (Theatre Group)	Cheryl Guerin	Secretary	01270 811098	www.audlem-5as.org.uk
Touring Arts Visiting Audlem (TAVA)	Anne Burrows		01270 812442	
<u>Community</u>				
ADAS (Audlem & District Amenities Society)	Ralph Warburton	Chairman	01270 812125	
ASET (Audlem Special Events Team)	Andrew Smith		01270 811211	
Audlem Festival	Paul Moran	Chairman	01270 812834	
Audlem Public Hall Management Committee	Geoff Stretch	Chairman	01270 811011	
Audlem Public Hall - bookings	Janet Simmons		01270 811684	
Audlem Scout & Guide Hall	Chris Cottrell		01270 811454	
Audlem Scout & Guide Hall - bookings	Melanie Grange		01630 647062	
Cemetery - Audlem Burial Board	Ralph Warburton	Clerk	01270 812125	
Police	Ken Maple		0845 458 0000	
<u>Health</u>				
Audlem Medical Practice Pharmacy, Cheshire Street	Helen Matthews John Wilkinson	Practice Manager	01270 811440 01270 811245	
Carers' Support Group	Maggie Stordy	Outreach Carer Support Worker	01270 215317	www.carers.org/cheshire
Hospital Car Service	Irene Pryce	Organiser	01270 811695	
Leighton Hospital, Crewe			01270 255141	www.mcht.nhs.uk/
NHS Direct			0845 4647	www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk
<u>Nearby</u>				
Market Drayton Swimming Pool, Newtown Rd, Pheonix Bank			01630 655177	
Nantwich Players, Pillory Street, Nantwich			01270 624556	http://www.nantwichplayers.com/
Nantwich Swimming Pool, Wall Lane, Nantwich			01270 610606	
Pritchards Dance & Fitness Academy	Debi Pritchard		01948 871304	www.pritchards- academy.co.uk/fitness.htm
Whichurch Swimming Pool			01948 662187	

Parish Councils

	Contact Person	Position	Telephone	Web Site
Audlem Parish Council	Jean White	Clerk	01948 871383	
Buerton Parish Council	John Scott	Clerk	01270 811743	
Hankelow Parish Council	John Scott	Clerk	01270 811743	

Schools

Audlem Nursery School, Heathfield Rd, Audlem			01270 811450	
Audlem St James' C of E School, Heathfield Rd, Audlem			01270 811450	
Brine Leas High School, Audlem Rd, Nantwich			01270 625663	www.brineleas.co.uk/
Buerton County Primary School, Woore Rd, Buerton			01270 811331	
Malbank High School & Vith Form College, Welsh Row, Nantwich			01270 611009	
South Cheshire College, Dane Bank Ave, Crewe			01270 654654	www.s-cheshire.ac.uk/
Reaseheath College, Nantwich, Cheshire			01270 625665	www.reaseheath.ac.uk

Sports

ABC Badminton Club	Sylvia Maddock	Secretary	01270 811471	
Aerobics	Lisa Ratcliffe		07967 821592	
Audlem Badminton Club	Geoff Cope	Chairman	01270 811543	
Audlem Bowls Club	Diane Hickson	Secretary	01270 812714	
Audlem Cricket Club	Geoff Seddon	Vice-Chairman	01270 811282	www.audlemcc.co.uk
Audlem dk Football Club	Paul Cronshaw	Chairman	01270 505031	
Audlem Ju Jitsu Club	Margaret Partridge		01270 812018	
Audlem Ladies' Table Tennis Club	Elma Moss		01270 811019	www.audlemtc.totaltennis.net/home/abotUs.asp
Audlem Tennis Club	Mabs Lynch	Secretary	01270 811781	www.brookfieldgolf.co.uk
Brookfield Golf Club			01270 812991	
Indoor Bowling Club	Rene Cooper	Secretary	01270 811708	
Senior Citizens' Snooker Club	Bob Godwin		01270 812077	
The BAGS (Burleydam & Audlem Golf Society)	Harry Knapper		01270 811544	

Under 18s

Audlem Brownies	Jane Dale	Acting Brownie Guider	01270 811912	
Audlem Cubs	Susie Poole		01270 811224	
Audlem Cubs	Rosie Slawinska		01270 811103	
Audlem Guides	Karen Bradshaw	Guide Leader	01270 812295	
Audlem Saints Junior Football Club	Jane Palin	Secretary	01270 812584	
Audlem Tree House (Playgroup & After School Club)	Janet Simmons	Supervisor	01270 811829	
Audlem Youth Club	Pete Marshall		01270 811330	
Tots & Tinies Club	Victoria Reddington	Chairperson	01948 871205	
Fun-ky Audlem	Pete Marshall		01270 811330	www.funkyaudlem.co.uk
The Can - Y -Bus	John Bailey		01270 588599	

Village Services

Audlem Fire Station (non emergency)	Dave Roberts	Sub Officer	01270 811603	www.cheshirefire.co.uk
Audlem Post Office	Andrew Smith		01270 811211	
Borough Councillor, Rachel Bailey			01270 811722	
Citizens' Advice Bureau			01270 625565	www.citizensadvice.org.uk
Crewe & Nantwich Borough Council			01270 537777	www.crewe-nantwich.gov.uk
Mobile Library				www.cheshire.gov.uk/Library/MobileLi brary

'OSCARS' SUCCESS FOR BILL CONSTERDINE AND AUDLEM

It was an amazing night for Audlem and a personal triumph for Bill Consterdine at the Mayor's Oscars in Nantwich Civic Hall on Friday 17th February. Applauded by the 400 guests, nominees and sponsors, Bill Consterdine won the ultimate personal accolade, the Citizen's Award. Given for his unstinting work for sport in South Cheshire, his long and successful service on Audlem Parish Council, and his work for the Nantwich Show. Bill was described in the citation as "the real star of this evening". Bill's response was moving as he said in a brief acceptance speech: "My father won this award some years ago. I hope he is looking down this evening and saying 'Well done Bill'."

Bill also won the Malcolm Cox award for Sporting Excellence in recognition for all his work behind the scenes in local sport, particularly athletics and swimming and, in an amazing hat-trick of success, was one of the team that picked up the Oscar for Community Initiative of the Year awarded to the Cumberland Arena Regeneration Group.

In the final award of the night, the Mayor's Special Award, the winners were Audlem Parish Council. The Mayor, Councillor Maureen Grant, said in her citation: "I was amazed that Audlem, just a month ago, could pack its Public Hall to the rafters to celebrate four major achievements – winning the national Defra 'Building Community Life' award; winning the Calor North of England Village of the Year award, and that for a village that only just gets into the Northern region by less than a mile; launching its Parish Plan and its Parish Council gaining quality status, the first council in the area to achieve this."

And if that's not enough, there were also two other Oscar winners with local connections. Maxine Nield, the daughter of Geoff and Olive Stretch, was the joint winner of the window display award for her business, Gift Box. Finally, Audlem resident Bidi Jones was also present as part of the South Cheshire Friends of the Earth group, who won the Environmental Initiative Oscar. This group has close links with Audlem as it was started by local residents and there are still many local members.

In all, it was a great night for Audlem, with winners in virtually a third of the awards during the evening.

AUDLEM VILLAGERS COULD BE FREEZE-DRIED

As part of a new eco-friendly bid to reduce mercury emissions, Audlem residents may soon have the choice of being freeze-dried instead of cremated when they die. Audlem Parish Council was told of the plans after Crewe & Nantwich Borough Council expressed an

interest in using the technique called promession; it has been developed in Sweden and could be introduced here next year. For those interested in the process, promession involves freezing the body and coffin to -18C and then dipping them in liquid nitrogen at -196C, which makes them, hardly surprisingly, very brittle. After being gently shaken, they disintegrate into an organic powder, which is buried in a biodegradable box and becomes compost after 6 to 12 months. Relatives can then plant a tree over the shallow grave in memory of their loved one.

The alternative, which it has to be said, sounds even more attractive, is to be buried in one of the most beautiful and best kept cemeteries in the country. Call the Audlem Burials Board on 01270 812125 and book a plot in Audlem cemetery right now.

AUDLEM FIREFIGHTERS HONOURED FOR DRAMATIC RESCUE



Members of Audlem's Retained Fire Crew have been honoured at the Cheshire Fire Rescue Service's annual awards for their dramatic rescue of a women trapped by a fire last

year. A Fire Services spokesman said: "In the early hours of March 9th, there was a call to a fire in the village (*it was the fire above Beaman's shop*). When they arrived a woman was hanging out of a first floor window, obviously in distress and surrounded by thick smoke. The small window, which was her only means of escape, was not large enough for her to pass through. A ladder was erected and a member of the team had to open the window with a saw and then an axe".

Whilst this was going on, a member of the public told the crew there was a fire in the adjacent alley which looked like spreading to nearby houses. This fire involved gas cylinders and flames were shooting up to the gable end of the properties. The crew cooled the cylinders with hose reel jets to prevent them exploding. Meanwhile, the casualty was receiving oxygen and, with the window frame finally removed, was brought down the ladder to the waiting paramedics."

Crew members who received the award were Sub-Officer David Roberts; Leading Firefighter Gill Dimelow, and Firefighters David Smith, Steven Fellows and Shane Thomson.

ADAS - AUDLEM DISTRICT AMENITIES SOCIETY

The membership cards for 2006 will be delivered to all members during February /March and the request for the payment of the annual subs. This vital source of

income is to ensure we continue the good work planting floral displays and the Annual Christmas displays which help make Audlem & District a pleasant place to live. We shall also be inviting residents who have not yet become members to consider this and perhaps help us with a donation of whatever size they feel able.

A **Children's Fashion Show** will take place on **April 27th** in the Public Hall. All are welcome and local children will be the models.

Planning for the **Open Garden weekend and the Silent Auction - 8/9th July** is underway and if any garden owners would like to take part in this popular event, please contact Ralph Warburton on 812125 or any ADAS committee member. We also need items/promises for the Silent Auction.

Audlem in Bloom – a sub committee of ADAS - has met and agreed the floral displays for this year. In addition we have agreed the subject for the Schools Painting Competition and plan to give each pupil a marrow to grow and be judged in the autumn. The summer planting will be end May/ early June and if anybody is willing to help with an hour of their time they will be most welcome. Contact Ralph Warburton on 812125 or any Committee member – all as listed on the notice board.

A.S.E.T. – AUDLEM SPECIAL EVENTS TEAM

A huge vote of thanks to everyone in Audlem, Beurton, and Hankelow, who contributed towards the magnificent total of £1208 raised for Santa's sleigh during December. All monies raised have been distributed to our local organisations by Crewe & Nantwich Round Table.

Dates for your diaries:

Saturday 1 July – Audlem Proms in the Park

Sunday 30 July – Audlem Festival of Transport

We are still seeking sponsors for both events – please contact Andrew Smith on 01270-811211 (office hours)

AUDLEM FESTIVAL COMMITTEE

The now famous May **Festival of Music& Arts** weekend takes place over **May 26th to 29th**. Plans are well advanced for the 26 or more groups who will play here in the Halls, Pubs and in the open air – presenting a tremendous array of talent. Children's Theatre and art workshops will be held along with art displays of local and visiting artists. We need all the help we can get in the form of sponsorship and the generosity of local businesses is vital to us in our work.

This year's event could well be the very last one as the architect for all the past 6 Festivals, Paul Moran, is to move from Audlem. Unless we can get new members for the committee, we will fold. Anyone interested and

who feels able to be part of organising such a big event, please contact Ralph Warburton on 812125.

AUDLEM CARNIVAL BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY – 29th MAY

Open theme for floats – Grand Parade at 1.00p.m. We have room for more stalls and we need more competitors for the fancy dress float. Anyone interested in becoming a member or helping on the day please contact Mrs Gwen Moss – 01270 811467

Parking in the Village (A message from PC Ken Maple)

At the last Community Action Meeting it was pointed out that the dropped kerb on Shropshire Street close to the Salad Bowl was frequently obstructed by parked cars, preventing use by wheelchair users. There are no road markings next to the ramp, arrangements have been made to have these markings put in place. If you have cause to park in Shropshire Street, could I ask you to be mindful of the wheelchair access and leave that section clear.

Thank you for your co-operation.

AUDLEM SAINTS DOING WELL

Congratulations to Audlem Saints football team who, at the time of going to press, have won 6 of their last 7 matches and gone to the top of the Under 8s League.

CRICKET CLUB NEWS

The new cricket season starts on Saturday April 22nd, when the Club will be hoping to emulate last year's successes. The First XI starts the season at home to Saughall, whilst the Second XI travels to Mossley. We have two Saturday teams in the Cheshire Cricket Alliance and a Sunday team playing friendly matches. New members of all standards are always welcome. If you don't want to play, just walk up to the ground and watch a game of cricket with a drink in your hand.

Prior to the start of the season, winter nets are being held at Brine Leas School on Tuesday evenings from 8.00pm until 9.30pm, starting on March 7th. Anyone is welcome to attend, including juniors. The sessions run for 7 weeks, ending on April 18th. The cost is £2 per night.

As mentioned in the last Newsletter, we will be reviving our Junior Section this season, with weekly coaching sessions for children between the ages of 6 and 16. These will take place on Thursday evenings and will run from early May through to August. Further information will be available soon on both the Club's website and www.audlem.org.

The Local Knockout will now be played on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings.

For further details about either winter nets or junior coaching, contact Geoff Seddon on 01270 811282.

MEET HELEN CHANTRY PRIEST IN CHARGE AT ST JAMES

Helen Chantry came to Audlem 15 months ago as Priest in Charge at St James following the retirement of Rev. Rostron. She shares her vocation with her husband Peter, who is Rector of St Mary's in Nantwich. They have two children, a boy and a girl, both of whom attend Malbank School. The family moved to Nantwich from Great Barrow, Chester and prior to coming to St James, Helen's work covered a fairly large patch including Wettenhall, Church Minshull, Worleston and Acton.

Helen began her career as a maths teacher, a job she enjoyed very much. But she felt that something was missing from her life. As a teenager she had had a sense of call to service but at that time a woman's role within the church comprised largely of flower arranging and tea making. Helen felt she wanted to do something more and thought that she might have a calling as a missionary, perhaps teaching maths in a developing country. This wasn't to be, but, along with the rest of society, the church gradually changed its view of women in employment and allowed women to become practising priests. Helen has been working for the church for 17 years and she was ordained 12 years ago. For 9 years she has been the Diocesan Youth Officer a role which entailed promoting youth within the church and arranging various events, training youth leaders etc.

When is a priest not a priest? Of course the answer is never. Helen sees her role as having a very broad spectrum. She does, of course, do all the things we expect of a priest – leading worship, conducting christenings, weddings and funerals. But it also encompasses such things as visiting or working with people in moments of extreme joy or sadness, something Helen feels very privileged to do, or simply having sandwiches with the children at the school, taking assembly, or helping with a maths lesson and just chatting with passers by when she's out walking her dog.

Here at St James's, Helen wants to make sure everyone feels welcome and she is keen that the young people of Audlem should also enjoy their experience in the church. To help this along on the first Sunday of each month there is a short service when, though open to all, the music is provided by a group of musicians led by Jenny Collis Smith and praise and play sessions are organised for the younger children.

She works very closely with both the Baptist and Methodist churches in the village taking part in many joint activities – the Carol Service, Lent, Good Friday, and last November a service for the bereaved and in February a service 'Celebrating Marriage'.

Helen's motivation is the teachings of Jesus and she strives to make the world a "place which is fit for everybody" a philosophy which the world is very much in need of at present.

Foul Dog-Owners



Despite winning several accolades, our village is in danger being spoiled by dog owners who will not clean up after their pets. As a dog owner I know that this is one of the downsides of dog ownership, but it is something that has to be done whether we like it or not. It is extremely unpleasant for others if we leave our dog's excrement on public pavements and walkways. On a recent walk to the local shops I was horrified at the amount of dog faeces on the pavements directly outside the shops (which some unfortunate 'sole' had trodden in). Derek McKelvey told me he had already cleared three heaps that morning from outside the Co-op. He added that he would gladly supply a bag to anyone who has forgotten theirs. May I remind all Audlem dog owners that it is not only unhygienic and unhealthy but, if reported, could result in a fine. There are ample doggy bins around the village so **please use them.**
The Editor

HAVE YOUR SAY

If you would like your views in the Newsletter or 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.

STOP PRESS

Fire Safety in the Home

Geraldine Corbett and Jan Hanby of Cheshire Fire Service will be adopting a high profile in Audlem over the next 12 months promoting Fire Safety in the Home. There will be a programme of awareness days (look for dates on notice boards in the near future) and home visits offering advice, smoke detectors, low energy light bulbs etc all completely FREE. For more information and/or advice contact either Geraldine or Jan on 01270- 254907