

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2007

AUDLEM PARISH COUNCIL**A Summary of Parish Council business – April 2007****ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING**

The second Audlem Village Meeting has been arranged for Thursday 24th May, starting at 7.30 pm in the Public Hall. Our first meeting in 2006 was very successful and well attended. This year's programme will include reports from selected local organisations and we are hoping to have a talk by representative of the Audlem Medical Practice and a presentation by Cheshire & Warrington Tourist Board. There will be opportunities to ask questions and make your views known - please come along and join in.

COMMUNITY PRIDE COMPETITION

This year Audlem has entered the "Best Kept Village" section of the competition again. The judging is spread over the next few months, which means there has to be a continuous effort to keep everywhere looking attractive and tidy. Community involvement is at the heart of the competition, as well as helping to improve the general appearance of the County's towns and villages. The Parish Council has also entered this publication in the "Best Newsletter" section of the competition. We think Margaret does a fantastic job as Editor and believe her good work deserves wider recognition. Fingers crossed for another win!

YOUTH COUNCIL

We are expecting that, with the assistance of Brine Leas School, we will be able to launch the Youth Council in the near future. Richard Furber, Kate Down, Geoff Stretch and Mike Hill have met and talked with some of the Audlem youngsters who want to be involved and will shortly be meeting Councillor Eric Beak of Malpas Parish Council to learn how the Youth Council operates there.

MOBILE CCTV

The Parish Council's mobile CCTV has been put to good use over the past few months. Contact Ken Maple if you want the unit used temporarily on your own property.

BOROUGH COUNCIL'S DOG CONTROL ORDER CONSULTATION

We hope that residents who wanted to comment responded personally to the consultation, which was widely advertised at the beginning of the year. The Parish Council sent the following observations to the Borough Council:

- (a) the regulations in their present form are draconian and impossible to enforce;
- (b) it is impractical and unnecessary to require dogs to be kept on leads on all land owned by British Waterways - the Parish Council therefore suggests that notices should appear on canal banks to indicate that dog control regulations are in force only within settlement boundaries;

- (c) availability of biodegradable bags should be advertised and the Borough Council should consider free distribution for an initial period;
- (d) dogs should be totally excluded from Audlem playing field but allowed on leads around the perimeter;
- (e) a notice excluding dogs should be fixed to the gate to the children's play ground;

Parish Councillors' Contact Details

Richard Furber (Chair) 811598
 Kate Down (Vice Chair) 811160
 Frances Christie 811340 Bill Consterdine 811647
 Mike Hill 811843 NormanHuntbach 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:

*May 14th, June 11th, July 16th, September 3rd,
 October 1st, November 5th and December 3rd.*

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.

PUBLIC HALL AGM REPORT

At the Public Hall Management Committee in April Chairman, Geoff Stretch, outlined the improvements made to the Hall during 2006. These included new windows and doors, internal and external decoration and new floors for the bar and stairs. He added that already during 2007 further alterations to both the bar and the kitchen had been made. All of these improvements had been possible because of a £30,000 grant received from Crewe and Nantwich Borough Council, supported by grants from Audlem, Buerton and Hankelow Parish Councils and Cheshire Community Council, together with donations from other organisations. Future improvements could include a new entrance from the car park and alterations to both the frontage and the lighting.

So far, the cost of the improvement programme since 2002 for completed and committed projects has totalled £138,220. This has been funded by grants of £93,100 plus £45,120 raised through income from hall users.

Treasurer, John Tilling, presented the accounts for the year, which showed a surplus of £6,149 on the day-to-day running of the Hall. This money would be used to fund further improvements to the Hall. He pointed out that interestingly, although both income and expenditure had remained broadly the same as 2005, the biggest increase in income was from Watch Your Weight and Fitness classes. He also reminded everyone that the surplus was largely due to Geoff and

Olive cleaning the Hall at no charge, but obviously this would not continue for ever.

All officers were reappointed. Chairman - Geoff Stretch; Vice Chairman – Janet Simmons; Treasurer – John Tilling; Secretary – Margaret Edwards. In addition the rest of the committee was reappointed en bloc.

A discussion took place about the problems caused by the Licensing Act, 2003 which restricts the Hall to 12 licences a year for functions to sell alcohol on the premises.

A vote of thanks was given at the end of the meeting to Geoff and Olive Stretch for their tireless efforts in transforming the Hall over the last few years.

AMBULANCE RESPONSE TIMES

Concerns regarding ambulance response times were raised at a recent Community Action Meeting and the following report was posted on the website by Dr Russell Muirhead.



The ambulance response time has been a concern ever since I arrived in Audlem more than 10 years ago. NWS (North West Ambulance Service) is an autonomous body separate from the PCT (Primary Care Trust) and works to national standards including response times. Unfortunately none of these standards is 100% which allows for slippage in more difficult to reach areas such as ours.

When I investigated ambulance times since the mid 1990s I was told that it could be up to 20 minutes to reach Burleydam and 10 minutes to Audlem. On this basis the Audlem Medical and Nursing Trust bought a defibrillator in addition to our other resuscitation equipment. We also signed up to the Ambulance First Responder programme which was supposed to be for local life threatening emergencies only - but the Ambulance control was completely unable to manage this properly and we were frequently asked to attend patients in Crewe and Nantwich with non-critical conditions so we had to reluctantly resign from this. We do continue to offer an urgent response when possible, far in excess of that provided by a town practice, but when people dial it will always be an ambulance response.

You would need to lobby the Ambulance Trust directly to effect a change. You could start by requesting the response time statistics and performance against national standard, then take that to Stephen O'Brien to pursue further. Secondly, regarding the West Cheshire PCT and their focus on Chester; 5 years ago we joined the Cheshire Rural Primary Care Group as we felt it would best represent the interests of a rural practice such as Wrenbury and Malpas and to a great extent it worked well. Then, despite Govt assurances that any move to Primary Care Trust status would be voluntary, we were forced into Cheshire West PCT which was heavily based in the Chester and Ellesmere Port area. This has never worked well and as a Practice we have

been gradually disengaging from there towards Central Cheshire PCT, our traditional health partners. From 1st April 2007 Audlem will join with Central Cheshire PCT which I believe is a great stride forward. With the continuing revolution in the NHS our future lies in building relationships and sharing resources with Nantwich and Crewe. They have issues of their own which we will inevitably inherit but at least we can meet and work with our neighbours rather than the distant relationship we had with Chester.



AUDLEM ARTS & MUSIC FESTIVAL

This will be on **May 25th to 28th** ending with the Annual Audlem Carnival Day

After lots of effort and support from local businesses and pubs, plus major sponsorship from The Parish Council and ADAS, we have managed to put together the funds to make the whole event viable and look forward to your support.

The programme will involve 30 plus bands, duos and solo artistes providing free music in the pubs, the street and on the Chapel Car Park, plus two nights in the Public Hall at very low prices. In addition the children from Audlem St James will be performing on the 27th in St James Church. A weekend of good music for all tastes. More details available from Ralph Warburton - 812125

UNSUNG HEROES

We are all aware that Audlem received the Best Kept Village Award last year, but have you stopped to think how this was achieved. First we have to thank Gavin Davies for his efforts in keeping the streets and, in particular, the area around the centre of the village free of sweet wrappers, food cartons, cigarette packets and other debris tossed away by careless members of the public. His efforts are supplemented at weekends by Judy Benson of Williams Newsagents, and her newspaper delivery team who clean up outside the shops and around the Buttermarket.

Keeping the streets clean is only one part of the award – we also have to thank people like Ralph Warburton and his team of volunteers who plant up all the tubs and hanging baskets around the village and also did a magnificent job planting bulbs along the canal for Audlem in Bloom

The first place encountered by many of our visitors is the canal and James Stretch has done a wonderful job of maintaining the tidy appearance along the canal (see next item on James's plight)

Thanks also to all those people who DO pick up their litter and clear up behind their dogs. Without the efforts and good manners of all these people Audlem would not be the pleasant place it is for all of us who live here and our many visitors.

AULDEM CANAL LENGTHSMAN UNDER THREAT

Audlem is to lose its dedicated village-based canal worker, James Stretch, in favour of a general team of contractors. British Waterways have decided to cut back on staff and use teams that will be called out when maintenance work is required.

Audlem Online reported last year that cuts in British Waterways budget by Defra is largely the result of the chaos at the Rural Payments Agency. This is the organisation that pays out EU subsidies and money owed to farmers. This resulted in a huge fine on the UK Government by the European Union. The fine meant other Defra budgets had to be cut, including the funds for the maintenance of the canal system.

James Stretch, aged 39, who has lived all his life in Audlem and worked as the Audlem waterways operative for five years is reported in this week's Market Drayton Advertiser as saying: "British Waterways told me I will not be doing what I'm doing from now on. I am not very happy about the situation. Local knowledge and ownership is going to be lost: locals can do a far better job than an outside contractor with no interest in the local area."

The situation was reported at Audlem Parish Council's April meeting. Chairman Richard Furber said: "I have discovered that after battling to keep the lengthsman for many years they have decided to quietly get rid of him." Parish Councillor Geoff Stretch, Jim's father, said: "James is upset about the situation. He has done a lot of work on the canal and people have commented on it. I don't think he knows what's going on at the moment."

British Waterways Wales & Border Counties Acting General Manager David Balladacchino said: "The locks at Audlem are a hugely important site for us and look fantastic every year – but that doesn't mean that we shouldn't look at different ways of doing things."

Audlem Online will be campaigning to keep the village's dedicated lengthsman for the canal, which is a vital local attraction.

ADAS (Audlem District Amenities Society)

Thank you once again to all who subscribed or gave a donation to ADAS. This money is vital to all that we do within Audlem and the surrounding district and we are very grateful to all our contributors.

It looks like we shall be repeating the Children's Fashion Show held in March as it was a roaring success with both children and parents alike. Michelle Perkin, who organised it for us, has received several requests for another.

The next big event for ADAS was to be the Open Garden Weekend and Silent Auction. However due to a lack of gardens offered to be part of the weekend we have had to cancel this year's Open Gardens and now plan for 2008. The **Silent Auction** will still be held on **Saturday 23rd June** and if you wish to contribute, please contact Ralph Warburton on 812125 – or any committee member.

A **Table Top Sale** in the Public Hall is planned for September when you can have a good time disposing of all those unwanted items. Cost is £5 a table.

AUDLEM CARNIVAL

May 29th – Bank Holiday Monday

Started in 1812, Audlem Carnival was held to celebrate the end of the harvest. A number of years ago it was moved to the May Bank Holiday and since then has gone from strength to strength whilst maintaining its traditional approach - including side shows, dancing troops, fun fair, marching bands, refreshments etc. There will also be a fancy dress for under 5yrs, 5-8yrs and 9-12 yrs. Carnival float themes this year could include; 100years of Scouting, the Queen and Prince Phillip's 60th wedding anniversary, or any theme of your choice. It's a FREE fun day for all the family.

For more information contact Gwen Moss on 811467.

SHAKESPEARE ON TOUR - BUERTON HOUSE

June 15th & June 16th

The Shakespearean Actors return for the third year at the beginning of their tour with a performance of "**Much Ado About Nothing**". This event has fast become very popular and booking details will be available soon – look out for the leaflets and posters. The Hotline number is posted on the Village web site. But call me if you need more.

Car parking by kind permission of Norman & Trixie Bonnell of Bath Farm.

Ralph Warburton - 812125.

AUDLEM AID TO CANCER RESEARCH SHOP

Volunteers at the Audlem Aid to Cancer Research shop in Shropshire Street have presented Cancer Research UK with a cheque for £20,000. This amazing sum has been raised in the last 12 months. The cheque was presented to the charity's community fundraising officer Michelle Lamb by Ann Bowles, Christine Plume and Alan Jenkins.

Group secretary Christine Plume said: "We've been open here for 35 years and are still going strong. We have 30 brilliant volunteers at the moment. We're a completely independent group and all the money has been raised from the three fairs we hold each year and obviously from sales in the shop. There are some really nice clothes on offer," she added, "and everything goes to a good cause. You're guaranteed a warm welcome." "The committee would like to thank our volunteers, helpers, donors and customers who support the shop and our fairs. They all help us to make a positive contribution to a very worthy cause."

AUDLEM YOUTH CLUB

Audlem Youth Club continues to open whenever possible in the Public hall during term time on a Tuesday from 7.15pm to 9.15pm

The aim is to provide a meeting place with activities for all young people in Audlem between the ages of 10 and 18 years. Membership is required to gain entry and we have recently introduced a modest annual or termly

DIRECTORY OF C SOCIET

Contact Person Position Telephone Web Site

CHARITIES

Audlem Age Concern Tea Club	Veronica Briggs		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	

CHURCHES

Baptist Church	Bill Cowen		01270 811463	
Methodist Church	Andrew Gunstone	Minister	01270 811711	www.audlemmethodistchurch.org.uk
St James C of E	Helen Chantry	Priest in Charge	01270 811543	

CLUBS & SOCIETIES

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	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	Linda Andrews	Secretary	078677 90195	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	

COMMUNITY

ADAS (Audlem & District Amenities Society)	Ralph Warburton	Chairman	01270 812125	
ASET (Audlem Special Events Team)	Andrew Smith		01270 811211	
Audlem Festival	Ralph Warburton	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	
Audlem Carnival	Gwen Moss	Secretary	01270 811467	
Cemetery - Audlem Burial Board	Ralph Warburton	Clerk	01270 812125	
Police	Ken Maple		0845 458 0000	

HEALTH

Audlem Medical Practice	Helen Matthews	Practice Manager	01270 811440	www.audlemmedicalpractice.nhs.uk
Pharmacy, Cheshire Street	John Wilkinson		01270 811245	
Carers' Support Group	Maggie Stordy	Outreach Carer Support Worke	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

NEARBY

Market Drayton Swimming Pool, Newtown Rd, Pheonix Bank			01630 655177	
Nantwich Players, Pillory Street, Nantwich			01270 624556	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	

ORGANISATIONS ETIES

Contact Person Position Telephone Web Site

PARISH COUNCILS

Audlem Parish Council	Jean White	Clerk	01948 871383	
Buerton Parish Council	John Scott	Clerk	01270 811743	
Hankelow Parish Council	John Scott	Clerk	01270 811743	

LOCAL M.P.

House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA	Stephen O'Brien	Constituency M.P.	020 72196315	
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SCHOOLS

Audlem Nursery School, Heathfield Rd, Audlem			01270 811450	www.audlemstjames.org.uk
Audlem St. James' C of E School, Heathfield Rd, Audlem			01270 811450	www.audlemstjames.org.uk
Brine Leas High School, Audlem Rd, Nantwich			01270 625663	www.brineleas.co.uk/
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		01270 812606	
Audlem Badminton Club	Geoff Cope	Chairman	01270 811453	
Audlem Bowls Club	Sue Orme	Secretary	01270 811855	
Audlem Cricket Club	Tom Measures	Secretary	01270 811105	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	
Audlem Tennis Club	Debbie Tildsley	Secretary	01270 811781	www.audlemtc.totaltennis.net/home/aboutUs.asp
Brookfield Golf Club			01270 812991	www.brookfieldgolf.co.uk
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		07855 137291	
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	Watch Manager	01270 811603	www.cheshirefire.co.uk
Audlem Post Office	Andrew Smith		01270 811211	
Borough Councillor, Rachel Bailey			01270 811722	
Borough Councillor, Alan Richardson			01270 780207	
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/MobileLibrary

subscription but there is no week to week entrance charge.

The Club is run on a rota system entirely by volunteers who are free to commit as much or as little time as they feel able. Some stalwarts are in attendance every fortnight where as others help once or twice a term. We have a dedicated and friendly team and our occasional planning meetings in the Lord Combermere are also very sociable.

It is a policy for the safe and smooth running of the club to have at least 4 volunteers in attendance on a Tuesday night. Of course from time to time people move on and we find ourselves struggling to meet our minimum requirements and are forced not to open.

So if there is anybody out there between the ages of 18 and 118 years who can spare some time on a Tuesday (And yes parents of members that means you too!) then we would love to hear from you. We really are a friendly bunch and most of the young people don't bite. You will have the added pleasure of knowing you are helping to keep this important village amenity open.

Contact Pete on 811330 or Liz on 812068

Pete Marshall - Chairperson

AWARD FOR CLIVE HUNTBACH

Clive Huntbach, who has told the story of his aid convoys to Belarus on Audlem Online and also held fund-raising events in Audlem, has received a surprise award for his work from the *Granada Reports* TV programme – and just before he set out on another aid convoy to Eastern Europe.

Clive, who is a Humanities lecturer at South Cheshire College and colleague Isobel Atlasi, received a 'Croneys Champions' award for their work in the community just before setting out again for Belarus to aid victims of the Chernobyl disaster of 1986. He travelled with the aid convoy on what was his fourth trip to Belarus.

Clive said: "Heading to some of the worst affected regions of the disaster really opens your eyes, but it's great to be able to put smiles on people's faces. This year we will be visiting an orphanage which we have not been to before, and we will be handing over toys and Easter eggs to the children."

Money for the relief trip was raised at a concert in St James' Church last October.

ST. LUKES HOSPICE SUPPORT GROUP

The Audlem Support Group will be holding a summer Hog Roast with musical entertainment and games at Corbrook Court on the evening of Saturday July 14th by kind invitation of Morris Care. As those of you who attended last year will recall, it was a most enjoyable occasion with good food, great music and amusements for all ages. Combined with the pleasant surroundings of Corbrook and excellent weather, it proved to be a memorable night. We hope to see you there again this year and remember, you can bring your own liquid refreshment of choice with you! The building programme at Corbrook should be complete and you will be able to see how well the new build complements

the old. In fact, once weathered in, it will be difficult to see the join.

In addition to the above, the Support Group will be hosting its usual stall at the Audlem Carnival on bank holiday Monday 28th May and will also have a presence at the Festival of Transport on 29th July. In addition, we had hoped to organise a stall at the Open Garden weekend. This as you know, has sadly been cancelled, due to too few entries, so the Support Group chairman is going it alone and is opening up his interpretation of a garden at Pentre House (within the as yet unrecognised unitary authority of Salford, Audlem) which will be open for your critical inspection on Saturday the 23rd June, times to be announced. There will of course be the opportunity to purchase tea/coffee, books and a whole variety of other goods essential to minimalist living. A prize will be awarded to the first visitor to spot Hissless Sid, a snake unique to Salford, but now, due to age, rather wooden in his movements.

AUDLEM CRICKET CLUB

The new season sees a fresh challenge for Audlem CC as the structure of the Cheshire Building Society Cricket Alliance has changed to five divisions. The 1st XI is in Division 3, whilst the 2nd XI is in Division 5. Both teams have new captains, who are looking forward to success on the field.

As promised previously, the Club is restarting the junior section under the guidance of two qualified coaches, who themselves benefited from junior coaching at the Club.

Once again the local knockout will be running throughout the summer. There will also be a six-a-side tournament on Sunday 8th July, both of which are open for teams to play in.

For further details about juniors contact our Child Welfare Officer, Simon Banks, on 07764 202752, whilst for further information about the Club contact our Secretary, Tom Measures on 01270 811105 or 07891 530347.

ANOTHER GREAT FILM COMING TO AUDLEM

The next cinema night in the Public Hall is on Friday 4th May, starting at 7.30pm. It features *Amazing Grace*, the recent release about the campaign against the slave trade in 18th century Britain, led by the famous abolitionist William Wilberforce. The title is a reference to the hymn "Amazing Grace" and the film also recounts John Newton's writing of the hymn.

The film stars Ioan Gruffudd as William Wilberforce; Albert Finney as John Newton; Rufus Sewell as Thomas Clarkson; Youssou N'Dour as Olaudah Equiano; Benedict Cumberbatch as Prime Minister William Pitt the Younger, and Romola Garai as Barbara Spooner, the woman William Wilberforce married. Richard Bailey and Michael Gambon (as Lord Charles Fox) also star.

The film was released on February 23, 2007 coinciding with the 200th anniversary of the date the British parliament voted to ban the slave trade.

Amazing Grace has provoked some criticism for despite being a film about the slave trade, it features few black characters - even the single reference to slave rebellions, in Haiti, credits Wilberforce with inspiring these. Director Michael Apted has said he did not set out to make another film such as Roots, but to explore the parliamentary legislative battle from the point of view of Wilberforce and the other anti-slavery campaigners in Britain.

The last feature film, Miss Potter, was a sell-out. Please note Amazing Grace is a Friday evening performance.

AUDLEM SPECIAL EVENTS TEAM (ASET)

Remember those long dark winter nights before Christmas, briefly interrupted by Santa's sleigh and his team of intrepid elves? Well, a magnificent sum of over £1,200 was collected from households in Audlem, Buerton, Hankelow, Cox Bank, Kinsey Heath, Chapel End and Swanbach all of which has been distributed by Round Table to our local village organisations - Audlem Scout and Guide Hall, Audlem Saints Football Club and Audlem Action for Youth.

Make a note of the following dates:

SATURDAY 30TH JUNE: PROMS IN THE PARK

Our seventh Proms Concert will feature The Lancashire Artillery Volunteers Band and The Band of the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment and, back by popular demand, The Cheshire Community School of Samba. Tickets are now on sale - held at last year's prices - and a few gazebo spaces have become available. All monies raised for this event are used to finance the Festival of Transport, Bonfire Night firework display and to support wherever possible local organisations.

SUNDAY 29TH JULY: FESTIVAL OF TRANSPORT

Quite simply one of the most enjoyable days of the year in Audlem and to date we have already received over 150 entries!

BREAKING NEWS ---- After protracted negotiations we can now reveal that the RAF has agreed to participate in this year's event and will be providing a SPITFIRE to give an aerial display. What a coup for Audlem!!!

ASET does not actively seek sponsorship from local businesses, but with the inevitable increase in overall costs (for example the SPITFIRE display will cost over £500) we would be grateful to receive any financial support.

ASET now has three marquees available for private hire - details posted on ASET notice board outside the Post Office.

Please contact Andrew Smith on 811211 for further information.

AUDLEM BRANCH CONSERVATIVES REPORT

Following last year's success it is proposed to hold a 'Musical Evening and Canapés' on Friday 27 July 2007 at the Brookfield Golf Club, Hankelow. Weather permitting this will be on the terrace and lawns overlooking the course. The music will be provided by

Smooth Grooves a quartet featuring local musicians John Gunstone and Carl Brunson. It is hoped that our MP Stephen O'Brien will attend what should be an enjoyable informal evening whatever your politics.

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



A definite date for the diary this summer is **July 21st & 22nd** which is the 4th annual **Fun-ky** weekend.

Once again the Fun-ky team (Under the umbrella of the revived **Audlem Action For Youth**) have put together a great programme of activities and events for children up to the age of 18 as well as, in many cases, the whole family.

This year's programme includes a football tournament, craft workshops, talent workshop and show, box cart derby, the funky triathlon with a new, exciting and slightly scary climbing wall, tennis, live music night and of course the 3 churches legendary free barbeque for all the family. There may yet be a few more surprises too.

Again we have the generous financial support of the Parish Council and ADAS and fantastic support from ASET and their marquees, the 3 churches The Embroiders Guild and the good people of Audlem.

As we hope to improve and add to the number of events and activities this year we are still looking for sponsorship, however big or small, from local businesses and individuals. Anyone interested or who would like to help on that weekend or with the planning can contact the team on info@funkyaudlem.co.uk or Pete & Jane on 811330 or Ian & Liz on 812068.

More details and information on individual events and activities will soon be available on www.funkyaudlem.co.uk

CANAL REPAIRS COMPLETED

A £500,000 project to repair a stretch of the Audlem canal was completed to welcome the new visitor season. The work along the Shropshire Union Canal



restored the embankment between Locks 13 and 14 in Audlem. The canal reopened to traffic on Saturday 17 March. The towpath is now also fully open.

British Waterways Wales & Border Counties Project Manager David Thorne said the work will benefit visitors through one of the best used stretches of waterway in the country. "The 'Shroppie' is one of our key holiday routes, with over 11,000 boat journeys annually through Audlem Locks," said Mr Thorne.

"Audlem is an established destination in itself, with attractive waterside public houses and extensive

moorings. The site is also the southern gateway to the Weaver Valley Regional Park, so it attracts thousands of walkers annually," he added.

Work involved installing slope drains and long structural piling to strengthen the embankment, along with reinstatement of the towpath and parts of the towpath edge. "We are focusing on landscaping the embankment and removing site materials so the area will soon be fully restored," said Mr Thorne.

Bob Cartwright



AUDLEM MILLSHOP REOPENED

One of Audlem's premier attractions, the Mill Shop on Audlem Wharf, re-opened on Good Friday in the hands of new proprietors Peter and

Christine Silvester. Their first weekend was a huge success and when I spoke to Christine, she was still running on all cylinders. Christine said they first fell in love with the area when they moored up here 20 years ago and that the opening of the shop is a dream come true for them. With 14 new windows and repointed brickwork the outside, always attractive, is now looking spic and span. Inside, the ground floor comprises the canal shop, along similar lines to before but with some additional gift ranges. On the first floor there is an emphasis on needlecrafts covering a wide range of subjects such as, rag rugging, lace making, cross-stitch etc. Many of the latter depict local scenes, including the Shroppie Fly and the Mill Shop. The first floor will also display canal art and they aim to provide display opportunities for non-canal art by local artists. Starting in the autumn there will be courses on various needlecrafts and, hopefully, there will be a link-up with other local courses, for example, canal art.

The Silvesters previously ran a needlecraft business which specialises in embroidered canal scenes, Abacus Designs in Matlock, Derbyshire, and were suppliers to the previous proprietor of the Audlem Mill shop, John Stothert. The re-opening of this very popular business will be seen as very good news for Audlem, its tourist appeal and the local economy. Peter and Christine Silvester have already put an enormous amount of work in to re-opening the business; they plan to live in the second floor flat and are keen to get involved in Audlem life.

Margaret Roberts/Bob Cartwright

CHESHIRE CARERS CENTRE

We meet every 2nd Tuesday in the month at Audlem Public Hall between 10.30am. & 12.30pm. Everyone is welcome. Former carers as well as carers sometimes accompanied by the cared for person, members of the public, health & social professionals, etc. We share information and advice or signpost people to relevant organisations, share a chat over a cup of coffee or tea with others facing similar problems.

Our Crewe office offers telephone support and is open 2 days a week when people can drop in. We visit people at home and will do benefit checks to help people access the benefits to which they are entitled.

Contact: Maggie Stordy or Kate Elsby on 01270-215317

AUDLEM & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Meet in the Scout & Guide Hall

Thurs May 17th – "Historical Maps" Speaker, Jonathan Pepler

Thurs June 21st

Afternoon visit to Barlaston Hall and grounds guided by Andrew Dobraszczyc

Saturday July 14th *Excursion by coach to Bersham Industrial Trail (near Wrexham)*

AUGUST NO MEETING

AUDLEM & DISTRICT PROBUS CLUB

The Audlem & District Probus Club continues to thrive and local resident Peter Ellis has been elected President for 2007/8.

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. A full programme of speakers has been arranged including talks on English Wine, Recollections of life in the Navy and Experiences as a RAF pilot in the Gulf Wars (Kuwait and Iraq). The social programme provides for a 5 day visit to the Isle of Man in May and day trips to Holker Hall and Cartmel, Highfields (Audlem), David Austin Roses and RAF Cosford and Halfpenny Vineyard. In addition there are Lunches and Evening get togethers.

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

Ring Crewe & Nantwich Borough Council's STREETWISE staff on 0800 387491 to report problems with public toilets, grounds maintenance, rubbish dumping, etc. If the glass recycling banks in the car park are overflowing, ring 01270 537834.

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

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.