



NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2008

AUDLEM PARISH COUNCIL

A Summary of Parish Council business – April 2008

GOOD NEWS ON TRAFFIC CONGESTION!

“De-priming” of the A525 was one of the items on the Highways & Transportation Local Joint Committee agenda for the meeting on 21st April. The Committee was expected to approve proposals. A joint submission by Cheshire, West Midlands and Shropshire will be made to the Secretary of State for Transport and, as proposals result from a nationwide review of the primary route network, approval is (hopefully) a foregone conclusion. Full details can be seen by looking at the Committee’s agenda on www.crewe-nantwich.gov.uk. The Parish Council has been working with Highways Officers for many years to achieve de-priming and sees this as a major step towards reducing the numbers of HGVs using the village as a through route.

Parish Councillors Richard Furber, Frances Mary Christie and Irene Stockton met with Cheshire County Council Highways Officers on 11th April and walked around the area between the new and old Co-op premises. Highways Officers will draw up proposals for waiting/loading restrictions and parking bays for consideration by the Parish Council within the next few weeks and a report will then go to the Highways & Transportation Local Joint Committee in July. Any objections to the proposals will be heard by the Committee in October (although some of the work can be carried out before then).

If you are one of the unfortunate residents whose driveway or access is frequently blocked by parked cars, you can take action by recording details and making a witness statement. Photographs are useful. PC Ken Maple can take retrospective action against drivers causing obstruction.

EMERGENCY AMBULANCE SERVICES TO AUDLEM

Additional ambulances and revised strategies have now been in operation for a couple of months. The Parish Council is continuing to monitor the service provided to Audlem and will be looking at North West Ambulance Service statistics for the 3 month period to 31st March at the next meeting.

AUDLEM COMMUNITY FIRST RESPONDERS

Twelve volunteers have come forward to establish this service. After training (which starts at the beginning of May), they will respond to calls from Audlem and, when necessary, neighbouring villages. The North West Ambulance Service is supporting the initiative and will provide and service all the equipment required by the Responders. However, the transport to get around the rural area has to be sourced locally – which means the volunteers are looking for funding to provide and support the running of an official motor vehicle. If you are able to offer any sort of sponsorship for this valuable service, please contact Cllr Mike Hill.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Parish Council meetings will be held in St James School on: 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

Peter Morgan 811575 Andrew Smith 811969

Pam Seddon 811282 Irene Stockton 811828

Geoff Stretch 811011

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

RACHEL BAILEY TO BE DEPUTY MAYOR

Audlem Ward Councilor Rachel Bailey will become Deputy Mayor of Crewe and Nantwich Borough Council for next year - 2008/9.

Rachel has represented Audlem since 1998 when she took over from the late Peggy Furber, who herself was a former Mayor of the Borough. She is currently the Board member with responsibility for Planning. Rachel is a local person who describes herself as a ‘farmer’s wife from Lightwood Green’.

This will be the last year of the Crewe and Nantwich Borough Council before it becomes part of the new East Cheshire Unitary Authority, the elections for which take place in May 2008

ST JAMES’ CLOCK APPEAL



ACCCA

You may remember from a previous newsletter that the clock on the Church will celebrate its Centenary in 2011. It was installed to commemorate the Coronation of King George V and Queen Mary and was paid for by Public Subscription.

To prepare for the Centenary the Bellringers – with the permission of the Vicar and the PCC – are launching an Appeal to automate the winding mechanism. The process will not affect the original workings of the Clock as the new installation will be complementary to it. The appeal has a target of £10,000 which will pay for all the necessary work and any surplus will be used for the future maintenance of the Clock.

Appeal letters are being sent to businesses in the Village and those with Village connections. Appeal letters will also be going to Village organisations. Donations will also be very welcome from individuals. All donations - which should be made payable to Audlem PCC- will be acknowledged and receipted and all the money raised will be held in the Church accounts and restricted for the sole use of the Clock. A Record of Donors will be placed on a Plaque which will be kept in the Tower.

If you wish to make a donation, have any queries or would like to visit the Clock please contact either Christine Johnson, 16 Shropshire St Audlem, 01270 811774 or Ruth Kemble, Plum Tree Cottage, Kettle Lane, Audlem, 01270 811887.

The Clock has served the Village well and deserves to benefit from 21st Century technology and a vibrant, busy village like Audlem deserves a timepiece it can rely on.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU

*****DISTRACTION BURGLARY WARNING*****

There has recently been a spate of distraction burglaries within the Crewe and Nantwich area. An attempt was made recently in Lightwood Green and people, particularly elderly or vulnerable, need to be vigilant when answering the door to strangers.

Typically a team will target the home of an elderly person, with one member calling at the front door and engaging the occupant in conversation whilst a second member goes around the back and gains entry. The story given at the front door can vary. In Nantwich the caller at the front door pretended that he was fitting a washing machine next door and asked the occupant to check the water supply. Whilst she was doing this another man entered the property and searched through the entire house.

If you have an elderly relative then please make them aware, without unduly alarming them, of the additional risk at this time.

Copies of a Home Office leaflet giving advice about bogus callers have been placed in the Post Office and in Williams Newsagents. It can also be downloaded from the following link:-

<http://www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/boguscaller/boguscaller17.pdf>

If you have any concerns then please contact me, either by e-mail

ken.maple@cheshire.pnn.police.uk or by leaving a message for me on the Nantwich voicemail system on 0845 458 6378

Ken Maple

Audlem Police Officer

Bookings for the Public Hall: Olive Stretch has taken over responsibility for bookings. If you can't get her on 811684 try her on 811011 and she'll do her best to accommodate you.



BUS TIMETABLE CHANGES

Bus times through the village changed considerably on 31 March 2008. The new timetables are now available in the Post Office.

LOCAL ARTIST'S SUCCESS IN NATIONAL CHALLENGE.

Local Textile Artist Sylvia Stead has come second runner up in the National HobbyCraft Big Arts & Crafts Challenge. Sylvia has exhibited her work in the Salad Bowl Coffee Shop and runs workshops in her home and for the Embroiderers Guild.

Sylvia hopes to have some new work in the Coffee Shop in late May but please visit her website www.mini-webs.com/sewinstead to see more of her work.



An Audlem Action for Youth event with **Audlem Youth Club, Audlem Saints Football Club, The 3 Churches**

Fun-ky.audlem@08 will be taking place on the weekend of the 19th & 20th of July this year when we hope once again to build on the success of the previous four years. This year we will be repeating the popular activities such as craft workshops, live music night, talent show, box cart derby and tennis, and the fantastic family atmosphere created with the closing barbeque with fun games for all ages. For the first time this year the box cart derby will include a cart building workshop earlier in the day. There will also be the fun triathlon and football tournament which were sadly rained off last year. The craft activities will have new themes and there will be a welcome return from the Embroiders' Guild and the amazing Climbing Wall which will appear on the Sunday. On Sunday this year we will also have the added attraction of a theatre performance promoted by Audlem's own TAVA and alongside the Funky café there will be a Games & Science tent.

We hope this will be another good example of community organisation engaging with our young people in a positive way.

Once again the whole weekend is put together by volunteers from Audlem Saints Football Club, Youth Club, the three churches TAVA and some fantastically talented members of our community under the umbrella of Audlem Action for Youth with the main financial support from The Parish Council and ADAS For information Tel: 811330 or go to our website:

info@funkyaudlem.co.uk

AUDLEM YOUTH CLUB

Audlem Youth Club continues to open whenever possible in the Public hall during term time on Tuesdays 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 free but is required to gain entry and we have recently returned to a simple 50p entrance fee.

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 whereas 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 3, but ideally 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 to close. So if there is anybody out there over the age of 18 (no upper limit!) 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 Marshall Chairperson: 811330

VANDALS COULD BEAT 'SAINTS'

The storage Facility for Audlem Saints Football Club has been attacked on numerous occasions and on at least three occasions has been broken into. The Saints are asking for any information that may assist in finding the culprit, or culprits, to be passed to Cheshire Police or any Club Representative.

There are grave concerns that if this spate of vandalism and thefts continue Audlem Saints Football Club may have to cease running due to the expense of replacing equipment and damaged property.

This Club offers free Football training to all age groups and abilities and is a vital asset to Audlem. They are funded by local charity groups whose members spend a lot of time and effort in raising money to allow us to continue to provide this service.

Please help in any way that you can and/or spread the word that any acts of vandalism or theft will not be tolerated and Audlem Saints will seek to prosecute any offenders responsible.

Contact Reuben Palin: 812584

PATIENT FORUM OPEN MEETING

There is to be an Inaugural Patient Forum Open Meeting on Thursday 15th May at 7.30pm at the Public Hall.

The NHS, and Primary Care in particular, is going through a period of significant change at the moment. These changes will affect the provision of patient services by the Practice. To ensure that our patients are fully aware of these changes and the pressures under which we as clinicians find ourselves, we would invite interested patients to attend the above meeting for the purpose of developing a Patient Participation Group. This group will help us in our decision making process when service improvement or re-design is required.

We have already received applications mainly from older patients, but to be truly representative we would like to encourage all age groups to attend. No commitment is required at this stage.

Dr Muirhead, Dr Leftwick and Helen Matthews, Practice Manager will be in attendance.

AUDLEM SPECIAL EVENTS TEAM Plans for our two major summer events are now well under way and we can confirm the following dates for your diaries:

Saturday 28th June: Audlem Proms on the Park

Full details will be available shortly on our usual flyer which will be delivered to every household in the district and on the village website.

Sunday 27th July: Audlem Festival of Transport

We are happy to report that once again the RAF has confirmed that the Memorial Flight Spitfire will provide us with an aerial display. Entry forms are available from Audlem Post Office.

Santa's Sleigh

For three nights over the Christmas period, Santa and his team of elves toured the Audlem and district and raised over £1,200 for local causes because of **YOUR** amazing generosity. All this money has recently been distributed to several deserving organisations. A massive thank you from ASET and Crewe and Nantwich Round Table.

Contact 811211 for all ASET events (office hours).

CARNIVAL DAY: MONDAY 26 MAY

This year, in addition to the usual open form for floats and fancy dress, we have included a theme of "Canal Life – Then and Now". The Grand Procession will tour the village starting at 1.00p.m. from the car park and returning to the public playing field where there will be a variety of side shows, the fun fair, local stalls, dancing troupes and Maypole Dancing by the children of St James' School.

Audlem Carnival started in 1812 and was initially held to celebrate the harvest but moved to the May Bank Holiday some years ago and it's still a good, free, fun filled day for all the family. Your support is greatly appreciated and anyone able to spare some time to help on the day or for information on the floats, fancy dress etc. please contact Mrs Gwen Moss on 811467

ADAS. Audlem District Amenities Society

The membership cards for 2008 were delivered to all members in March. The response from residents has been very good and the funds will enable us to continue to do what we can to help make Audlem an attractive place to live. We also invited residents who have not previously been approached to see if they would consider helping us and their response has been very good.

Open Garden weekend 21/22nd June – planning for this event is well under way. We have about 15 gardens, large and small, for the visitors to enjoy over the weekend. If any other garden owners would like to take part in this popular event in the future, please contact Ralph Warburton on 812125 or any ADAS committee member.

D I R E C T O R Y O F S O C I E T I E S

Contact Person	Position	Telephone	Web Site
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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 Probuc 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	Secretary	01270 657535	
Audlem Women's Institute	Anne Poole	Secretary	01270 811224	
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)	Mike Hill	Chairman	01270 811843	
ASET (Audlem Special Events Team)	Andrew Smith		01270 811211	
Audlem Festival	Ralph Warburton	Chairman	01270 812125	
Audlem Public Hall Management Committee	Geoff Stretch	Chairman	01270 811011	
Audlem Public Hall - bookings	Olive Stretch		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			01270 811245	
Carers' Support Group	Kathy Gibson	Outreach Carer Support W	01270 257331	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	

PARISH COUNCILS

Audlem Parish Council	Jean White	Clerk	01948 871383	
Buerton Parish Council	John Kemble	Clerk	01270 811887	
Hankelow Parish Council	John Scott	Clerk	01270 811743	

ORGANISATIONS SOCIETIES

Contact Person Position Telephone Web Site

LOCAL M.P.

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA Stephen O'Brien Constituency MP 020 72196315

SCHOOLS

Audlem St James' C of E School Nursery		01270 811450	www.audlemstjames.org.uk
Audlem St James' C of E School		01270 811450	www.audlemstjames.org.uk
Brine Leas High School, Nantwich		01270 625663	www.brineleas.co.uk
Malbank High School & Vith Form College, Nantwich		01270 611009	
South Cheshire College, Crewe		01270 654654	www.s-cheshire.ac.uk
Reaseheath College, Nantwich		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 Action for Youth (AAFY)	Pete Marshall		01270 811330	
Audlem Brownies	Jane Dale	Acting Brownie Guider	01270 811912	
Audlem Cubs	Lisa Popovic		01270 812557	
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)		Supervisor	01270 811829	
Audlem Youth Club	Nicly Lowe		01270 800590	
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

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, Allan 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			0845 11 33311	www.cheshire.gov.uk/Library/MobileLibrary



The Silent Auction 21/22 June will be held in the Public Hall 1pm – 6pm. More items and promises needed for this event please.

Audlem in Bloom – a sub committee of ADAS - has met and agreed the floral displays for this year. The summer planting will take place end of May/early June. If anybody is willing to help with an hour of their time, they will be most welcome. Please contact Ralph Warburton on 812125 or any ADAS Committee member – listed on the notice board.

In addition we have agreed the subject for the Schools Painting Competition “Life on the Canal – Then and Now”. Each pupil will also be given a pumpkin plant to grow on and their efforts will be judged in the autumn.

June 2nd to the 8th sees the arrival of “Saturn”, a horse-drawn working fly-boat, at Audlem Wharf as part of the Floating Gardens event in Cheshire Year of Gardens 08. Saturn will be loaded with a cargo of local produce on its way to Middlewich Folk and Boat Festival. On June 7th & 8th there will be plenty of activities around the canal, featuring music from The Crofters, rag rug making, artists, and Daystar theatre performances. There will also be lots of activity and exhibitions in the Mill Shop. Details from Ralph Warburton 812125.

AUDLEM FESTIVAL COMMITTEE

Festival of Music & Arts May 23-26: Plans are well advanced for the 26+ groups who will play their music in Audlem’s Shops, Halls, Pubs and in the open air including “Blues Alley” – presenting a tremendous array of talent for all to enjoy.

Art displays: There will be several art displays throughout the village including those of two local young adults currently studying for their Art Degree, the children of St. James School, the work of a well known artist from the Caribbean and more, covering all age ranges from 5yrs and upwards.

Saturday May 24th: **Nantwich Players** will present “**From here to the Library**” by Jimmie Chinn (an amateur performance by arrangement with Samuel French Ltd) in the Public Hall at 7.30pm. Admission £5 and tickets from Ralph Warburton 812125 or from Nantwich Tourist Information office.

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.

OPEN AIR SHAKESPEARE THEATRE

This will be presented on **13th & 14th June at Buerton House** from 18.30 onwards. Take a picnic and then enjoy “The Taming of the Shrew” performed by Dean Taylor Touring Shakespeare players. Details from Ralph Warburton on 812125

AUDLEM CRICKET CLUB

We would like to thank all those who made last summer’s reintroduction of junior cricket possible. Thanks especially go to ASET who helped with funding and the school who helped us out with use of their field when the weather made using the club’s facilities impossible.

Thanks must also go to the kids who turned up regularly and their parents who brought them.

Weather permitting; we hope to have a fuller programme of junior cricket this summer, starting in early May. Information will be circulated through the village and to the school once the arrangements are finalised. For information contact Simon Banks: 01270-780189

JANICE IN MIDNIGHT WALK TO SUPPORT ST LUKE’S HOSPICE

Janice Spibey, who works at the Salad Bowl, is taking part in the Midnight Walk to raise money for St Luke’s Hospice. This will be the fourth year Janice has raised funds in the Midnight Walk. Last year Janice raised the amazing sum, with Gift Aid added, of £1,800. The previous year she raised £1,355.10.

The Midnight Walk has become a hugely successful fundraiser and last year raised £290,000. This year’s event is on 28th June and Janice says she’ll be taking in the Audlem Proms on the Park before heading off for the walk. Sponsorship forms are now in the Salad Bowl for anyone to call in and make their pledge of support for this very noble cause and to give their encouragement to Janice on her walk through the night. Janice can also be contacted on 811319.

BINGO!

The first Bingo Night took place in the Public Hall on the 11th April and was an instant success. The attendance was good with people travelling from Whitchurch and surrounding areas. After a start in which numbers were called too quickly - to groans from all there- the calling got into a good rhythm.

The next Bingo Night will be May 2nd with fortnightly sessions thereafter starting at 7.30p.m. Do come along, have a good social evening and win cash prizes! Geoff and Olive Stretch will be your hosts along with Ralph Warburton as caller.

You think you know what a "navvy" is...

...but if you were one of a large and enthusiastic audience in the Public Hall on 3 April you would have learned that it is actually a wedge shaped piece of pottery used to clean the mud off your spade.

This was one of the facts that emerged at a very interesting and entertaining Gardeners’ Question Time arranged by the St Luke’s Hospice support group.

The panel of three experts; Derek Jones, Ann Harrison and Keith Atkey was chaired by Peter Morgan.

The audience of gardeners of various levels of expertise learned, amongst other things, what to do with dead wood in an acer tree, how to look after a camellia and how many more years Ralph Warburton may need to wait before his prize tree flowers.

Other, more surprising facts that came out in answers included the fact that ants will not cross a white line, slugs don't like copper tape and a clove of garlic and/or a goldfish will keep a water butt clean.

All in all a most enjoyable evening which raised around £850 for St Lukes – more of them please.

Carers' meetings second Tuesday of the month in the public Hall 10.30am -12.30. There is a new co-coordinator, Kathy Gibson on 257331 or the general helpline is 0800 0850307.

AUDLEM & DISTRICT PROBUS CLUB

Peter Ellis completed his successful year as President in March and Alvar Jones has been confirmed as President for 2008/9.

The Club continues to go from strength to strength with membership increasing and covering a wide age group of retired professional and business people. It has a varied speakers and social programme and meets at the Brookfield Golf Club on the 2nd and 4th Thursday each month (except August) commencing 10 am for coffee followed by a guest speaker. Future talks include Prison Life; Flog it; Housekeeper at Dunham Massey and Alcoholics Anonymous! A 6 day coach trip is planned for South East Ireland and other social activities will include, by special invitation of Lady Cholmondeley, a guided tour of Cholmondeley 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 lunches and evening social events.

For further details contact our President Alvar Jones 811005 or Derek Rooke 668111



EXERCISE 4 HEALTH (CHESHIRE)

Plans are afoot to start Keep Fit classes to be held in the Scout & Guide Hall every Wednesday afternoon

beginning at 1.45 pm. The session will start with gentle warm-up exercises followed by music & movement, a toning section for legs & arms and relaxation, finishing with gentle stretches for the whole body.

The sessions are aimed at anyone with an interest in keeping fit and healthy. The exercises can be beneficial for health, and may help with osteoporosis, blood pressure, diabetes, stress & relaxation, also helping to keep the body supple and strong, not to mention trim!

If anyone is interested, please bring a copy of this item with them and come for a FREE TRIAL TASTER SESSION FOR YOU AND A FRIEND. Please contact **Lynne Scott on 663958** for more information and to book your place.

CANAL INTERPRETATION PANELS.

Cheshire Tourism is funding and co-ordinating a proposal from Audlem to have “interpretation panels” (information boards) on the Shropshire Union canal. Fifteen panels are being installed between Audlem and Nantwich, with six in Audlem. The local boards focus on Thomas Telford, the engineer responsible for the canal; the building of the canal; life on the canals; how a lock works; ‘narrowboats’ and Audlem Wharf.. The boards will be A2 sized lecterns and will be installed by Cheshire County Council.

British Waterways is supplying historical photographs for the project and has been very supportive. Illustrations have been drawn by Chris Elliott; Sheila Webster has supplied prints of three of her paintings; local photographers Simon Cotter, Phil Baker and Ken Maple have provided photographs while a number of publishers have given permission for illustrations to be used from their books.

The copy has been written by Roger Wickson and Bob Cartwright and the Audlem project co-ordinated by Pam Seddon. The design and production will be by Crewe Signs, who produced the dioramas now installed by the car park and Audlem Wharf. It is planned that the panels will be installed shortly.

HISTORY SOCIETY PROGRAMME

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

Thurs May 15th: John Whithead – “The Wilbrahams & Woodhey

Thurs June 26th: John Whitehead – A guided tour of Woodhey Church and then Acton Chapel (own transport – please share cars where possible).

Thurs July 17th: A day in Lichfield – Optional tour of the city and/or cathedral with a choice of other visits.

Visitors are always welcome to our meetings and the trips unless they are oversubscribed. Contact Celia Bloor: 811260

WEAVER VALLEY CONSULTATION

As you know, Audlem is the southern gateway to the Weaver Valley regional park and progress is being made with this initiative all the way upstream to Frodsham. The Weaver Valley team based at Cheshire County Council have just commissioned some community consultation work for Audlem - they want to hear from you and listen to your ideas for projects for the future of Audlem that the Weaver Valley can help you achieve. To make this easy, environment consultant Chris Mahon will be active in the village, promoting the consultation over the next six weeks.

You can contact Chris with your comments and ideas on chris@cmeweb.co.uk or via his website www.cmeweb.co.uk but also watch out for the Weaver Valley display at local events and via the village notice boards.

Audlem Cemetery.

The Cemetery was established in 1872 and the first interment was in 1874. The Chapels are amongst the finest Victorian Gothic buildings in Cheshire and the cemetery itself is thought to be one of the very best in Cheshire.

The Cemetery is administered by a Burial Committee made up of Parish Councillors for all the area covered by the Cemetery and who meet quarterly under the Chairmanship of Irene Stockton. The day to day maintenance, management and running is carried out by Ralph Warburton, Clerk, who oversees a team comprising Roy Booth, Derek Stockton and Ingrid Shaw.

New areas are being brought up to lawn standard and a new area for cremated remains has been set up.

Any assistance in seeking graves or relatives should be addressed to Ralph Warburton on 812125, including any purchase of plots.



AUDLEM'S OLDEST?

Williams Newsagents is probably Audlem's oldest family owned business having been in the same family for five generations starting in 1862. The first

owner, Eli Williams, was the great, great grandfather of Megan McKelvey, who, together with her husband Derek ran the shop from 1959 until 2002 when their daughter Judith took over as manager. The business started as a family outfitters and mourning establishment supplying clothing for local people from "the cradle to the grave". Most of the clothes were made on the premises by two seamstresses employed by Eli. Derek still has the contract which shows that the two ladies lived in and were supplied with all their needs but no wages but having a 1/3rd share in the profits if their items were sold. In addition the contract states that they were expected to help with general housekeeping!

Upon his marriage to Megan, Derek moved to Audlem from Salford, Manchester and immediately immersed himself in Audlem life. The list of organisations and campaigns he has been involved in is formidable. They include a campaign to save the old grammar school from demolition, founder member of ADAS, member of the Amenities Society and the History Society, onetime chair of the Parish Council, and he

was a School Governor for 26 years. Derek has witnessed lots changes over the years many of which have impacted on the business. These include the mechanisation of farming, resulting in fewer farm labourers to spend hard earned wages locally, the rapid spread of car ownership making travel to neighbouring towns easier and of course the advent of supermarkets. The business has had to adapt to survive and although Derek proudly claims to have sold hundreds of corsets over the years, these are sadly no longer available in the shop. Instead the focus is on the news agency and tourist trade with a good smattering of household and haberdashery goods, toys, and even some d.i.y items making it Audlem's own little department store. Did you know for instance, that instead of doing that 15 mile round trip when you've forgotten to buy a paint roller you can just pop into Williams Newsagents and get started on the job a lot quicker?

Judith is still making changes to keep the business going. She initiated the Tourist Information Centre and you can now access www.audlem.org our very own village website, on two computers installed at the back of the shop.

One of the issues being discussed countrywide for all shops is that of whether or not to get rid of plastic bags altogether and this has been raised on the website. In the meantime Judith is considering setting up a plastic bag recycling facility – i.e. you can take unwanted, clean plastic bags to the shop where other shoppers can re-use them if they wish, thus helping to reduce Audlem's contribution to plastic waste. She would welcome your views on her proposal.

I know that this has been stated many times in the newsletter, but I think it is worth restating –PLEASE USE OUR LOCAL SHOPS – just a small amount each week would make all the difference. As they say "use it or lose it" and Audlem just wouldn't be the same without them.

Margaret Roberts

HAVE YOUR SAY

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

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

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

The closing date for items for the summer issue is Monday 14th July 2008