



# NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2008

## AUDLEM PARISH COUNCIL

### A Summary of Parish Council business – July 2008

Thanks to everyone who turned up for the Annual Village Meeting on the evening of 11<sup>th</sup> June. Special thanks go to the speakers - we had interesting presentations from Catherine Nolan-Burnitt (Head Teacher, St James' School), Bob Hassall (Nantwich Neighbourhood Policing Unit), Bob Vass (Rural Housing Enabler for East Cheshire), Bob Cartwright (Parish Plan update) and Chris Mahon (Weaver Valley Regional Park). The Parish Council's intention is to keep this annual event lively, interesting and relevant. We would be grateful to have your comments, and any suggestions you may have about the format, timing, or speakers for next year's meeting.

A committee of the Parish Council (Irene Stockton, Frances Christie, Pam Seddon and Peter Morgan) is planning refurbishment and improvement of the children's playground. At the moment priced designs are being obtained and residents, including children, will be consulted in the near future. Following agreement on equipment and layout, the Committee will start to apply for grants.

Welcome to Cllr Philip Bradbury-Smith, who joined the Parish Council in May. Philip is a civil engineer and a strong family man, with two children; a daughter aged 3 years; a son just turned 1 year, his wife works as a Deputy Head in a Crewe primary school....not forgetting a dog and a cat. He has been in the village for around five years and is a keen supporter of local businesses and village events and is a member of the local church community. He



"aims to help strengthen Audlem's community spirit and bring about change for the better".

### Affordable New Homes in Audlem

As part of the completed housing development at Moseley's Yard, Wulvern Housing has recently acquired 4 of these new homes to give local people the opportunity to access affordable housing within the village.

As the largest registered social landlord within the Borough, Wulvern Housing is trying to meet the ever increasing shortfall of affordable housing within Audlem. There is 1 x 1 bed apartment and 3 x 2 bed apartments available on a shared ownership basis. Prices start at £69,475 for a 50% share. Anybody who is interested in finding out more should contact Linda Heeps on 01270 503660 or e-mail [linda.heeps@wulvernhousing.org.uk](mailto:linda.heeps@wulvernhousing.org.uk)  
Parish Council meetings will be held in St James School on 1<sup>st</sup> September, 6<sup>th</sup> October, 3<sup>rd</sup> November, and 1<sup>st</sup> December, starting at 7.30 pm.

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  
Phillip Bradbury-Smith 811021  
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](mailto:parishcouncil@audlem.org)

### WHAT MAKES AUDLEM SO SPECIAL?

As promised in the Audlem Parish Plan published in 2005 the Planning Group is working on the Village Design Statement and a Landscape Character Assessment.

The aim is to summarize the particular character of Audlem so that when new development is proposed in the future this should be taken into consideration by the planning authorities.

We need your views.

On Saturday 18 October, in the Scout and Guide Hall, there will be a display of the draft document with photos and explanations. There will also be up to date information on plans for the proposed Sports Hall and renovated play area, the canal hydro-electric scheme and the Weaver Way. Test your local knowledge with a **PHOTO QUIZ**.

Please come along and share your views with the Group.

### THE BELLS OF ST JAMES'

*Ring for Services and for Village and National Events*

*To keep them ringing we need more ringers*

#### *What about YOU?*

**Time:** Practice Night Thursday Beginners 7.30 -8pm.

General ringing 8.00 – 9pm. When trained ringing for services when available.

**Age:** 11ish upwards – **NO** upper limit!!

**Exercise:** Excellent – both mental and physical

**Difficult:** About like learning to ride a bike – needs practice

**Enjoyable:** Definitely

**Friendly:** Certainly – ringers are welcome wherever there are bells.

*This is an old English Tradition – help us to keep it alive*  
**COME AND TRY**

Contact: Christine Johnson on 811774 or Ruth Kemble on 811887

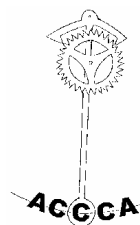
### ST JAMES' IMPROVEMENTS

We hope that by the time this is published the alterations at St James' will have been completed. These include the new hand rail up the slope. Do call in and have a look at the developments. The starting point for the work was improved access for people with disabilities, but has also provided better facilities within the church for our increased activities. You are of course welcome to join us for services: Sunday 8.15am and 10.45am, Wednesday 11am, Thursday 9.30am. The last is especially for pre-school children and their carers.

ADAS have generously donated a new St George's Flag to fly from the church flag pole. Thanks to them, but also to Bill Consterdine for hoisting the flags and Rose Consterdine for her work on maintaining and repairing them.

Helen Chantry

### **CLOCK CENTENARY APPEAL FUND**



The Clock Centenary Appeal Fund now stands at a magnificent £3050 and we are grateful to all the businesses, organisations and individuals who have made a donation. The target sum for the Appeal is £10,000 – this will complete all the necessary work and any surplus will go towards the maintenance of the Clock in the future. We

hope to have raised this sum by the end of the year so that the work can be completed and the mechanism fully operational for the Centenary Year 2011. The Clock has served the Village well and deserves to benefit from 21<sup>st</sup> Century technology and a vibrant, busy village like Audlem deserves a timepiece it can rely on.

If you wish to make a donation, please make your cheque payable to **Audlem PCC** as the money is being held in the Church account. If you, or a group, would like to visit the Clock and the Tower or you have any queries please contact either Christine Johnson, 16 Shropshire St Audlem, 01270 811774 or Ruth Kemble, Plum Tree Cottage, Kettle Lane, Audlem, 01270 811887.

**We look forward to hearing from you!**



### **FLOWER FESTIVAL**

*Audlem Methodist Church wishes to thank all in the village who supported their July Flower Festival. A series of beautiful arrangements adorned the church on the theme 'To*

*everything there is a season'. A colourful, multimedia exhibition presented church life in 2008, and refreshments were available all weekend from the 'flower festival cafe'. Sales and donations covered all costs, leaving a small surplus which the church will distribute among village causes and organisations.*

*On the Saturday evening, a full house was entertained and inspired by an organ recital given by Peter Crompton, which raised nearly £700 for Leukaemia Research.*

*Andrew Gunstone*

### **OBESE HEDGES REQUIRE DIETARY ASSISTANCE**

Hedges loomed large in the discussions of the Parish Council at a recent meeting as councillors struggled to get to the root of the matter without cutting any corners or trimming back debate. Tall hedges, fat, or should that be, horizontally challenged hedges, and hedges with no clear purpose in life except to endanger the unwary motorist or foolish pedestrian, came under the unflinching scrutiny of Audlem's sharp eyed, guardians of safe passage. The 'shear' neglect of some irksome hedge owners is a growing cause of concern and needs to

be addressed as a matter of urgency. The Council politely but firmly, requests all property owners who have hedges adjoining the highway or footpaths to get them cut back so as not to obstruct the vision of road users or the free passage of the footpath. Over the years hedges will increase in width and this often results in an unnecessary and potentially dangerous narrowing of the footway which is a particular problem for mothers with pushchairs and people on mobility scooters or in wheelchairs, not to mention councillors walking their dogs!

Also of special concern is the 'junction obstruction hedge' which has over time, grown out in a valiant effort to try and meet its cousin on the opposite side of the road and in the process, quite often swallowed up the road nameplate. If you own such a hedge, please get it cut back now, so that the nameplate stands quite clear of it, because your hedge is intruding on the highway and if it were to be the cause, either wholly or in part of a serious accident, your rampant hedge could land you in trouble.

As Inspector Hassall pointed out at the Village Meeting a few weeks ago, the public highway extends in legal terms, from the centre hedge line on one side of the road to the same on the other. This means that the grass verge is part of the highway and no obstruction should be placed on it. So please remember, there is no room on the sidewalk for an obese hedge.

Peter Morgan

### **OIL AND METAL THEFTS**

In these times of soaring fuel and metal prices there has been a noticeable increase in thefts of both heating oil and lead flashing from buildings.

Please be mindful of the fact that your oil tank is now of great interest to thieves, and try to take some simple measures to protect it. Where there is no lock on the filler lid then one should be fitted. Consider also some security lighting around the tank and / or locking any gates which give access to it.

Thefts of lead have been more prevalent in the area than thefts of oil, with St Mary's Church, Acton and some farm buildings in Burleydam being recent targets. Please be aware of this threat and report any sightings of vehicles in suspicious circumstances. In the case of the Burleydam theft an old white Transit van was seen with three or four young male occupants with it. They were disturbed in the act of stripping lead from a roof, but made good their escape. No vehicle registration number is available.

You can pass on any information to me by the following means:-

**Voicemail: 0845 458 6378**

**e-mail: ken.maple@cheshire.pnn.police.uk**

### **PUBLIC HALL INFORMATION**

There are a number of clubs and organisations that are based in the Hall

**Audlem Badminton Club** Monday evenings throughout the year, and Thursday evenings Sep – April - Geoff Cope 01270 811453

**Ladies Table Tennis** Monday afternoons - Elma Moss (01270 811019)

**Boxercise** Monday evening, starts Sept., term times only – Lisa Ratcliffe 07967821592

**Legs, Bums & Tums** Tues evening, starts Sept., term times only - Lisa Ratcliffe 07967821592

**All Ages Youth Club** Tuesday evenings - Pete Marshall 01270 811330

**Carers' Support Group** second Tuesday morning of each month 01606 828151 or 0800 0850307

**Indoor Bowls Club** Wednesday afternoons Oct – March Rene Cooper 01270 811708

**Fitness Pilates** Wed evening, starts Sept., term time only – Lisa Ratcliffe 07967821592

**ABC Badminton Club** Wednesday evenings - Sylvia Maddock 01270 811471

**Senior Citizens Snooker Club** Mon, Wed & Friday afternoons - Bob Godwin 01270 812077

**5 As" Theatre Company** Annual pantomime February plus occasional other events - Cheryl Guerin 01270 811597

The Hall is regularly used by local charities and other organisations such as ASET, ADAS and ACAMF and is available for hire by individuals for private functions.

The Hall plays an important part in several established annual events - the Music Festival (ACAMF), bonfire night celebrations, transport festival etc.

As well as the main Hall (which is licensed to accommodate up to 200 people) with its kitchen and bar areas, there is a committee room available separately, and a snooker room. The Hall has an extendable stage with a couple of small ante-rooms adjoining, making it eminently suitable for live performances to audiences of up to 200 people.

Please phone Olive Stretch on 01270 811684/811011 for enquiries and reservations

#### **AUDLEM CALENDAR 2009-PHOTOS WANTED**

*Following the last newsletter we have received some lovely "winter" photographs of Audlem for the Audlem Calendar we intend to produce at Christmas. If anyone has managed to snap any sunny scenes of Audlem during the last few weeks, please let us have them at the Post Office as soon as possible. Lynne Smith*

#### **HISTORY SOCIETY PROGRAMME**

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

**August:** No Meeting

**Thurs Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>:** Carol Chapman of Market Drayton "The Challenge of Setting up a Museum"

**Thurs Oct. 16<sup>th</sup>:** Mavis Smith "The Tollets of Betley Hall"

**Thurs Nov 20<sup>th</sup>:** Derek Rooke "The Secret of HMS Dasher"

**Tues Dec 16<sup>th</sup>:** **Christmas Dinner**

Visitors are always welcome to our meetings and trips unless they are oversubscribed. Contact Celia Bloor on 811260 for more information.

#### **ADAS – Audlem District Amenities Society**

The OPEN GARDEN & SILENT AUCTION took place over the Midsummer weekend of June 21<sup>st</sup> /22<sup>nd</sup>. Midsummer – and the cold wind blew all weekend with March like weather! The owners of 16 gardens had toiled over many weeks and months to present their beautiful gardens to the visiting public. The efforts were worthwhile and they all looked wonderful. As one owner said to me – "next year Ralph, we will give you a donation as that way we will save a fortune!" However, the results can be enjoyed by the owners over the coming months.

Sadly the unseasonal weather meant that just 144 brave souls turned out to view the gardens and this of course affected the support for the Silent Auction. Who knows what next year may bring?

To close on a high note, our most sincere thanks go to the wonderful gardeners who so generously gave of their best for ADAS. .

**Audlem In Bloom** – a sub committee of ADAS – has planted out some 2000 bedding plants, mostly begonias as these plants tolerate drier conditions better - watering can be a major worry. Hanging baskets are all in place as are the lovely tubs and troughs. We plan to plant some 4000 English bluebells in the autumn along the canal side and if anybody would like to help in this you are most welcome.

The search for the ADAS Christmas tree for the Square is now on as our source from last year may not be available to us now. This is a worry as this is such a major centrepiece for the festive season.

*Ralph Warburton*

#### **AUDLEM MUSIC & ART FESTIVAL.**

This was held over the weekend of May 23/26<sup>th</sup>. Again we faced horrid weather but overall it was a success. Art exhibits arranged and organised by **Lindsey Fox** were a sight to see and very well attended. The variety of bands and performers were very good and the installation of marquees in the Lord Combermere made for a great central stage. **St James School** gave of their best in a musical night in the Church and the innovation of a play by the Nantwich Players in the Hall was a success.

We hope to put it on again next year – one year we will get decent weather!



#### **LAST NIGHT OF THE PROMS?**

Once again our typically English village showed that it is forever England, when almost 2000 promenaders gathered on the playing field for the 8<sup>th</sup> annual Audlem Proms on the Park. The possible attractions of being Welsh: the free prescriptions, championship rugby team and free parking at the local hospital, were forgotten as we "belted out" Jerusalem. Concerned parishioners need no longer fear images of our beautiful village lifting up its canal banks and

carrying them 9 miles westward to the neighbouring principality. For the 2000 strong Audlemers (and friends) we remain in the "Land of Hope and Glory", not the "Land of Our Fathers"

This year the Proms was the biggest yet, with rousing performances by The Cheshire Community School of Samba, The Cheshire Constabulary Band, and the massed bands of The Lancashire Artillery Volunteers and The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment. The Grand Finale of The Last Night of The Proms music and Firework Spectacular was emotional, to say the least.

**And what of the announcement that this is the last proms, ever?** There WILL be another event next summer. The ASET team is totally committed to putting on an annual outdoor event...and the format for 2009 will be different. Suggestions are invited from everyone, so get your thinking hats on and pass your ideas (big and small) to any member of the ASET team.

This is not the end for the Proms! It will be back but for now the ASET team is beginning to plan something a bit different for 2009.

Watch out on the Audlem web site and Parish newsletter for more announcements as the plans develop.

#### **AUDLEM W.I.**

Audlem Women's Institute has been on top form during the first half of the year starting in January with the 'Magic of Toys', a demonstration of our favourite toys from yesteryear. Our Annual Dinner was held at Brookfield Golf Club and we were entertained by our drama group led by the late Ann Marshall.

February was a 'laugh a minute' when we were taken back in time to the days of the northern comedians with extracts from old radio shows.

In April a member of Amnesty opened our eyes to the plight of the railway children – children who live totally on railway platforms under dreadful conditions in order to survive. Theatre outings included a trip to see 'Thoroughly Modern Millie' at Crewe Lyceum and another to the wartime musical 'We'll Meet Again'.

In May we teamed up with Audlem Probus members to visit Granada Studios to be part of the Mastermind audience, giving us a glimpse behind the scenes of a TV programme.

We visited Rode Hall in June for a tour of the house and gardens followed by afternoon tea. At the meeting June was literally bursting out all over, when the Kipling Singers from Crewe entertained with songs from the shows.

In July we were shown how to make tasty and simple recipes using Mornflake Oats and a group visited Corbrook Court for tea and to view the properties there.

The August meeting will be a strawberry tea in Christine Plume's lovely garden.

The Bridge, Scrabble, darts and domino teams are flourishing and the quiz team came second in the County Play-off. Local walks have been organised always finishing with a pub lunch.

Further details contact Christine Salisbury, President 811110 or Anne Poole, Secretary 811224.

#### **AUDLEM BRANCH CONSERVATIVES.**

The Branch organises a number of social events and recently held a drinks and canapés reception at Kynsal Lodge. For further information about the Branch and its events contact Roland Hall (812530) or Alan Cross (811974)

Audlem Branch is part of the Eddisbury Conservative Association, full details of which can be found on the website: [eddisburyconservatives.co.uk](http://eddisburyconservatives.co.uk) .

#### **AUDLEM & DISTRICT PROBUS CLUB**

*President Alvar Jones and his committee have ensured the Club continues to thrive with an enjoyable start to 2008/9 for its members.*

*We have a varied speaker and social programme and meet at Brookfield Golf Club on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday each month (except August) commencing 10 am for coffee followed by a guest speaker. Recent topics have been Prison Life as seen by a serving prison officer at Strangeways, an insight into the Auction trade and a cameo of the six towns which made the Potteries. Later in the year talks include Gilbert and Sullivan, Christianity surrounded by Islam, and Life and Times of a Busker.*

*The 6 day coach trip to South East Ireland was very successful and included a guided tour of Dublin. Nearer to home, by special invitation of Lady Cholmondeley, a guided tour of Cholmondeley Castle and Gardens took place in June. Future trips include a tour of the Jaguar Car Factory, and a visit to Chatsworth plus a number of lunches and evening social events. Plans are already being made for a 5 day stay in Northumbria in May 2009.*

*For further details contact our President Alvar Jones 01270 811005 or Derek Rooke 01270 668111*

#### **AUDLEM ONLINE – [www.audlem.org](http://www.audlem.org)**

Audlem Online carries new local stories everyday as well as information about local businesses, clubs, societies, sports and services. You can join in the often lively debates on the Forum as well as voting in the regular Vote Polls on local issues. The latest vote has been on the importance of keeping Audlem's own medical practice. If you do not have access to a computer, Audlem Online can be viewed on two computers in Williams' newsagents.

#### **HAVE YOUR SAY**

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

**Newsletter editor** Margaret Roberts on 812942 or [newsletter@audlem.org](mailto:newsletter@audlem.org) or post your item in the box situated in the Post Office

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

**The closing date for items for the autumn issue is 14<sup>th</sup> October 2008.**