

AUDLEM PARISH COUNCIL
A Summary of Parish Council business

**AUDLEM – OFFICIALLY CHESHIRE’S
“VILLAGE OF THE YEAR”**

We knew it already, but now everyone knows! Audlem has won the “Cheshire Village of the Year” title in addition to the awards of “Most Vibrant Village” and “Building Community Life” sections. A number of volunteers met the judges for the regional round of the competition on 17th October and we hope to be successful again. Many congratulations to everyone involved in the competition.

**FIGHTING BACK AGAINST VANDALISM AND
UNSOCIABLE BEHAVIOUR**

Following the meeting on 3rd October, the Parish Council has placed an order for a digital hard drive recorder with compact flash, colour monitor and day/night camera with EPG of Crewe. EPG kindly quoted at cost price as a gesture of support for the village. PC Ken Maple is looking forward to taking delivery of this portable equipment shortly. Please contact him to discuss possible temporary locations for the equipment.

See Ken Maple’s message on page 3.

**REPLACEMENT BENCHES TO BE INSTALLED AT
PLAYING FIELD**

Thanks to a generous donation from Alwyne and David Hodgkins, the Parish Council has been able to purchase four steel benches to replace those vandalised last year. We expect the benches to be installed soon.

**APPOINTMENT OF FINANCIAL OFFICER TO THE
PARISH COUNCIL**

John Kemble of Kettle Lane has been appointed and took up his duties on 1st November.

FOOTPATH TO CANAL BANK FROM CAR PARK

The Parish Council has applied to Cheshire County Council for an addition to the definitive map of Public Rights of Way in respect of the path between the canal bank and the public car park. At the moment the footpath, although well used, does not appear on the definitive map and the Parish Council decided that action should be taken to ensure that the path is protected for the future.



*Seasons Greetings from
your Parish Councillors*

Richard Furber (Chair) 811598
Kate Down (Vice Chair) 811160
Frances Christie 811340 Bill Consterdine 811647
Mike Hill 811843 Norman Huntbach 812768
Paul Huntbach 812170 Ken Jones 811532
Pam Seddon 811282 Andrew Smith 811969
Geoff Stretch 811011 Irene Stockton 811828
Your Parish Clerk is Jean White 01948 871383 or
jean@jvwhite.freeserve.co.uk

Parish Council meetings take place on the 1st Monday of every month (except August) in St James School. At the beginning of each meeting there is an opportunity for residents to bring matters of particular concern to the attention of the Parish Council. Everyone is welcome to stay and listen for the rest of the meeting.

Problems with public toilets/grounds maintenance report to Crewe & Nantwich Borough Council’s STREETWISE staff on 0800 387491
Problems with highways – pot holes, pavement and street lightings – should be reported to Cheshire County Council on 0845 2450558 or engcn@cheshire.gov.uk

PARISH PLAN LAUNCHED

Over 30 volunteers have been working on the Audlem Parish Plan. The Plan proposes a range of ideas and projects that the people of Audlem have requested. The draft plan was discussed at a Public Meeting in the Public Hall on 22nd September. Following a village questionnaire in March, seven working groups looked at key issues: Traffic & the Environment; Community including Sport & Leisure; Local Businesses including Tourism; Health & Education; Youth; Planning and Communications. A section on law and order was added later.

These groups agreed a list of Action Plans including short term projects that can be achieved now or in the near future - the new website for example - through to major projects such as new sports facilities that may take 5-10 years. Copies of the plan will be distributed to all households in Audlem Parish.

PUBLIC HALL

2005 has been a very positive centenary year for Audlem Public Hall. Some £80,000 has been invested on the fabric of the building. February saw the completion of the new toilets and storage area, which were inaugurated at the Valentine's Ball. This was such a success it is now to be an annual event so put **18th Feb 06** in your diary. Strictly Come Dancing fans will be pleased to know that the floor has now been renovated at a cost of £2,500.

Future plans include; a new floor and cupboards in the bar, new curtains in the Main Hall, replacement windows and 200 new comfortable upright chairs.

You can support us, and raise money at the same time, by buying a ticket for the 20 week draw – available from 18 Feb 06 from any committee member. Each ticket offers the chance of a weekly £10 prize and during the Music Festival in May the final prizes of £250, £150, £100 and £50 will be drawn.

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE

Audlem now has its own Tourist Information Centre at Williams' newsagents in the Village Square. It is unique for a village of this size to have a TIC which now provides information, guidebooks, maps and Audlem gifts.

ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING

It's planned to have a meeting each year to hear presentations and discuss issues of interest, including the Parish Plan. The first Audlem Annual Meeting will be in April. More details to come.

BUERTON SCHOOL CLOSURE

Concerned parents have started a campaign to prevent the closure of Buerton School in July 2006. The closure threat results from a review of education in Cheshire called Transforming Learning Communities. Three South Cheshire schools, including Buerton, have been identified for possible closure.

Parents and local residents are determined to keep the school open. A similar threat 7 years ago was defeated by concerted action by residents and parents. Letters are to be sent and a petition from the community is well under way. There could be an impact on Audlem's St James' school with larger class sizes as the school is near to capacity.

MULLER DEVELOPMENT AT CANALSIDE YARD

Audlem Parish Council organised two meetings, which were both packed by concerned residents, to discuss the proposed development of Canalside Yard. Muller's were invited to give their views at the second meeting but did not attend.

CRICKET CLUB'S SUCCESSFUL SEASON

Audlem CC's 1st XI bounced straight back to Division 2 of the Cheshire Cricket Alliance. Club Captain, Steve Swallow, was delighted at the 1st XI's success and promised to aim for promotion to Division 1 next season. Complementing the success of the 1st XI, the 2nd XI reached the semi final of the League Knockout Cup, before eventually losing to local rivals Aston. The Cricket Club is reviving its Junior Section next season, with weekly coaching sessions for children from 6 to 16 years. New members are always welcome. For further details contact Geoff Seddon on 811282.

AUDLEM & DISTRICT PROBUS CLUB

The Audlem and District Probus Club celebrated its 10th Anniversary with a lunch for all Members and Partners at the Brookfield Golf Club on 14 October 2005.

The Club meets on the 2nd & 4th Thursdays of each month (except August) at Brookfield Golf Club, Hankelow. Membership is open to all professional and business persons residing in Audlem and the surrounding areas and who have retired or partially retired. In addition to our meetings a variety of social activities are arranged. Already booked for 2006 is a 5 day break in Dorset.

Should anyone want more information please contact the Social Secretary, Roland Hall on 812530.

ADAS

(Audlem District Amenities Society)

Thirteen new larger stone troughs have been placed around Audlem and Buerton. They are, we hope, far more difficult to remove – we have had the small ones stolen over the years – and we hope you like the displays they produce for us.

December 3rd and 4th sees us putting up the huge Christmas tree in the village together with 50 other small trees. We shall be lighting them up with some 4000 lights to make the village festive.

December 23rd at 7.30pm we have the ever popular carol singing around the tree in the Square, where young and old can sing a selection of favourite carols to the Normid Brass Band. Afterwards mince pies and mulled wine are served in the Scout Hall.

New Year's Eve is celebrated by the now traditional Midnight Firework Spectacular over the Square as hundreds gather there to see in the New Year. Free to all and provided by **ADAS, ASET and Audlem Parish Council**.

Plans are well in hand for 2006 and the Open Garden weekend will take place on the **8th and 9th of July**. If you wish to show your garden, contact Ralph Warburton on 812125.

ASET ANNUAL REPORT

This year Audlem Special Events Team celebrates its 5th anniversary and we can report another highly successful campaign. We had a record estimated attendance of 1700 at the recent bonfire night celebration and the firework display, which cost £2500, is widely accepted as the best ever staged in Audlem. In conjunction with C&N Round Table, ASET has once again persuaded Santa to visit Audlem, Beurton, Hankelow, Cox Bank and Kynsal Heath over the weekend of Dec 9-11th. All monies raised are distributed by the Round Table and last year over £1000 was shared between our local village organisations.

Members of ASET would like to thank our wonderful team of helpers, without whom none of our events could take place.

During 2006 we hope to establish a junior ASET to encourage youngsters of the village to organise events such as a village duck race. Volunteers or suggestions for events please contact any member of ASET or Andrew Smith on 811211 during office hours.

AUDLEM FESTIVAL COMMITTEE

3rd December in the Public Hall we have the Kyla Brox Band – a fabulous singer with a superb backing. Tickets are £10 – phone: 812834 or 812125 and 07813820157 or 07821614782.

Doors open at 8.30 pm.

Our next Concert is on **February 25th** and the big Music & Arts Festival weekend is on **May 26th to 29th**

AUDLEM CARNIVAL

29th MAY BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY

There will be an open theme for next year's floats and fancy dress, so let your imaginations soar. Other attractions include dancing troupes, bands, stalls, light refreshments and the fair.

It is not certain when Audlem Carnival first began, but we do know there was a two-day event which started on 5th October in 1812 called Audlem Wake. To ensure the future of the carnival, we need more committee members and helpers on the day. If you would like to be involved in Audlem's longest established event please contact **Mrs Gwen Moss on 811467**

LORD COMBERMERE REFURBISHMENT

Work is underway to revitalise the Lord Combermere. The work should be completed by late January. There was concern about such a central village site and the Parish Council raised the issue with owners Enterprise Inns who have responded very positively.

PLANTING PROGRAMME ON THE CANAL

Bulbs, wild flowers and trees are to be planted along Audlem locks to make one of England's best walks even better. The programme will take some years but the results will be spectacular.

KEY DATES FOR NEXT YEAR

25-28th Jan -5A's Pantomime

21-25th Feb – Methodist Church Production

26- 29th May Audlem Festival & Carnival

1st July ASET Proms on the Park

8-9th July ADAS Open Gardens, Scarecrow Displays & Silent Auction

14-16th July Kids Fun-ky Weekend

30th July ASET Festival of Transport

4th Nov ASET Bonfire and Firework Display

15-17th Dec ASET/Nantwich Round Table Father Christmas Float

HISTORY SOCIETY PROGRAMME 2006

19th Jan – Rachel Mcguicken – Castles in the Cheshire Landscape

16th Feb – John Whitehead – Acton Church carvings

16th March – Dan Garner – Excavation of Chester Amphitheatre

20th April– Dr Mick Crumplin, at Whitchurch –

Surgeons in the Peninsular War

For details contact Celia Bloor 811260 or

cyb@kinseycottages.org.uk

AUDLEM'S OFICIAL WEBSITE

www.audlem.org is sponsored by Audlem Parish Council and local businesses. It has over 140 sections with information for residents and visitors. There is daily news, articles about Audlem life, a Vote Poll and Forum on key Audlem issues.

POLICING AUDLEM

An e-mail database has been set up so that matters of local interest can easily be brought to the attention of local people. Inclusion in the mailing list would mean only an occasional e-mail being received which might, for instance, detail a suspicious person or vehicle to watch out for. If you would like your address to be included in the list then please send an e-mail to the following address, with the words "E-mail Database" in the subject line.

Your address will not be used for any purpose other than the one stated, and will not be made available to anyone else.

Contact: - Main number: 0845 458 0000 Voice mail number: 0845 458 6378 or

ken.maple@cheshire.pnn.police.uk

Ken Maple

Audlem & District Police Officer

JUNIOR NEWS

It's good to see that Audlem Saints Under 8's football team, in kit supplied by ASET, is now competing in the Crewe Alex Football League.

BASKETBALL & TEEN SHELTER

Two new facilities for youngsters in the village are being installed. A basketball post is now on the car park, with plans for a second. Permission is being sought through C&NBC to build a Teen Shelter near to the car park and playing fields.

1st AUDLEM BROWNIES

The 19 members of the Pack have had a busy programme this autumn. We held an evening Cookout and Promise. As part of the season's badge we have tried apple recipes, planted bulbs, and well dressing collages of mythical creatures. Six older Brownies joined 30 other Brownies at a County Activity Day during half term.

As the Brownie Pack is 40 years old we are having a look back at Brownies in 1965.

We'd like more girls to join but need someone to run the unit. If you have Guiding experience, come along and meet us on Tuesdays between 3.30pm and 5.15pm at our HQ on Cheshire Street.

Jane Dale, Division Commissioner 811912.

CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL AUDLEM EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

The Audlem Educational Foundation is a charitable trust that can give financial support to help school children, students and other young people undergoing training, under the age of 25.

Awards may be given for educational visits and field courses, foreign exchanges, equipment for people in vocational training and to assist students in higher education.

Awards can be given to families living within the **Ancient Parish of Audlem**, including **Buerton** and **Hankelow** and part of **Dodcott-cum-Wilkesley** and **Newhall**.

For more information contact: Mrs J Spurrier (Clerk), 6, Asquith Close, Haslington, Crewe, CW1 5TX or e-mail: jala.asquith@virgin.net or Tel: 01270 589513.

MEET ANDREW SMITH, PARISH COUNCILLOR

Most will know Andrew Smith in his role as Postmaster working behind the counter of Audlem's Post Office, which has been in the same family for 140 years. The shop started out as a general store and became a Post Office in the 1930s. Andrew began working there in the mid 80s when he returned to Audlem from Stoke-on-Trent. It is still very much a family run business with Andrew's mother and wife helping out when needed. Andrew, who was born and

went to school in the village, has seen many changes over the years. For instance the village used to support 3 petrol stations and 5 pubs and like many others, Andrew is passionate about villagers supporting the remaining businesses and believes the shops need to supply the products that people want in order to stay viable.

In addition to running the Post Office, Andrew is also a member of Audlem Parish Council. He was co-opted onto the council 6 years ago following the resignation of one of the members. As Andrew lived and worked in the village he was an ideal candidate and has since become a full member of the council. Audlem PC raises a considerable amount in precepts and an issue in which Andrew takes a keen interest is that of paying double taxation on cemeteries - one to Audlem and one to Crewe & Nantwich - an ongoing battle. Some of the monies raised through precepts support local organisations and Andrew believes many are more effective because of this aid. Another issue close to Andrew's heart is that he would like to see greater co-operation between Audlem, Hankelow and Buerton PCs as he believes we are all part of one community. As if this wasn't enough, Andrew is also a very active member of ASET (Audlem Special Events Team). Andrew tells me that, like many of the good things in life ASET was dreamt up over a convivial pint in the pub when Paddy Kenshole thought it would be good to have a Proms in the Park in Audlem. With one voice the rest of the company agreed that this was a daft idea! Well we all know what became of that one and the money raised from this event helps fund many others. As a result ASET was created 5 years ago purely for the benefit of the residents of Audlem and has raised the profile of Audlem considerably. For such a short-lived organisation ASET's success is extensive and visitors come to Audlem from far and wide to join us at these events.

HAVE YOUR SAY

If you would like your views in the Newsletter or the Website contact: **Newsletter editor** Margaret Roberts on 812942 or maroberts@waitrose.com or the **Website Team** on webteam@audlem.org or 'Contact Webteam' on the website.