



# NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2010 / 2011

**AUDLEM PARISH COUNCIL**

**A Summary of Parish Council Business – January 2011**  
**CHEESE & WINE EVENING – WEDNESDAY 23rd MARCH**

Preparations are being made for this year's Annual Village Meeting – please make a note in your diary to keep the evening of Wednesday 23rd March free and come along to talk to your parish councillors and representatives of local organisations. Cheese, wine and nibbles will be free to residents. If your club or society would like to publicise its aims or recruit new members, please book a table by contacting the Parish Clerk. We hope at least to match the success of last year's event. Look out for posters nearer the time.

**BUDGETS AND PRECEPT FOR 2011/12**

At the end of December the Parish Council agreed its budgets for 2011/12 and councillors decided to increase the parish precept by £6,000 (from £29,742 to £35,742). In recent years, increases have been kept low, e.g. 1% in 2009/10, but this has not allowed the Parish Council to accumulate a reserve. There is now an opportunity to take control of services currently delivered by Cheshire East Council. The Parish Council feels that local delivery of some services would be beneficial for residents and plans to have a reserve of funds available in order to take advantage of any opportunities which may arise. The new precept will increase the Council Tax on a Band D property by about £7 for the year. Councillors will be happy to provide more information at the Annual Village Meeting on Wednesday 23rd March.

**Budgets for 2011/12 are:**

	£
Salaries/payments to contractors for maintenance etc.	11,216
Planned donations to village organisations	7,550
Audit and insurance	1,930
Admin, newsletters, rents, training, web site, etc	4,545
Projects	5,978

**Parish Councillors' Contact Details**

Kate Down - Chair 811160  
 Bill Consterdine – Vice Chair 811647  
 Frances Christie 811340      RichardFurber 811598  
 Mike Hill      811843      Peter Morgan 811575  
 David Rowe      812294      Pam Seddon 811282  
 Andrew Smith      811969      Irene Stockton 811828  
 Geoff Stretch      811011      Phillip Johnson 811774  
 Your Parish Clerk is Jean White 01948 871383 or e mail [parishcouncil@audlem.org](mailto:parishcouncil@audlem.org)

**on Mondays**

**February 7, March 7, April 4, 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.**

**AUDLEM DAY CARE SAVED**

At the Cheshire East Cabinet meeting on, 20th December 2010, Councillors voted to continue to fund Thornton House

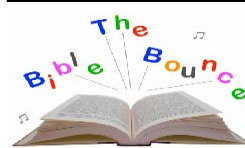
day care to be run by the newly established Audlem & District Community Action (ADCA) from April 2011. Councillors present all welcomed Audlem's bid and were keen to see a smooth transition from the service currently run by Age Concern Cheshire.

They hoped their decision would be seen as an early Christmas present for the older people who attend the day services. Audlem's initiative in establishing a Community Trust was described by Councillors as a very exciting prospect and a great opportunity to expand to do much more in the future.

Local Councillor, Rachel Bailey, in welcoming the proposals, said how gratifying it was to see local people joining together with the Parish Council to save the day care services. She also thanked the officers of Cheshire East, on behalf of ADCA, who had been such help in consulting with the older people who attend and in advising local campaigners on how to bid to run the service into the future. A number of campaigners from other threatened day care centres across Cheshire East were at the meeting along with a representative from ADCA. They spoke powerfully of the value of the day services in providing much needed social activity for many older people whose attendance each week is their only outside activity. The other six day centres in Cheshire East will also continue be funded and will be run by Wishing Well, a Crewe based voluntary organisation.

Anyone interested in further information about ADCA or wanting to give support or sponsorship please contact Roger Millns, Chairman, ADCA on 01270 811375 or email [roger.millns@lineone.net](mailto:roger.millns@lineone.net).

**AUDLEM METHODIST MUSICAL**



The 2011 Audlem Methodist Musical is again being performed during the February half-term holiday. It will contain the customary elements of music and drama, faith and humour, all mixed together in an entertaining package. In recognition of 2011 being the 400th anniversary of the publication of the King James version of the bible, this year's musical is entitled 'The Bible Bounce'. There are to be five performances, between Tuesday 22 February and Saturday 26 February. Each will begin at 7.30 pm. Tickets are available (though selling fast) from Julia Parton. Contact Julia either on [tickets@audlemmethodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:tickets@audlemmethodistchurch.org.uk) or at the Chapel.

**NEWS FROM AudlemOnline**

**Letter to Royal Mail Boss**

The letter below was sent by First Class postage on Wednesday 12 January to the chief executive of the Royal Mail at the organisation's HQ in London.



Dear Moya Greene  
 I am writing to you as Chief Executive of the Royal Mail because of the great concern in the CW postal district about the extraordinarily poor service in recent months with letters taking as long as thirty

days to be delivered.

I enclose two articles that have been published on Audlem Online in the past two days. They have attracted numerous contributions to our Chatbox with tales of Christmas cards posted locally still arriving and, more critically, hospital

appointment letters not being delivered in good time by your organisation.

The breakdown appears to date from the closure of the nearby Crewe Sorting Office and I understand that local MPs Edward Timpson and Stephen O'Brien have been raising this issue in the media and with Royal Mail itself. The media coverage locally about your organisation, it has to be said, has been devastating to your reputation.

I would be grateful if:

1. You could acknowledge receipt of this letter by post as we will be publishing how long it took for a first class letter to reach you in London and a response from your office to reach Audlem Online.

2. You could let Audlem Online know why the service is so appalling at present and why your spokesman misled the local media when, after it was announced that the CW area was the 120th worst in England, Scotland and Wales out of 121 areas, he claimed the teething problems at the Warrington Sorting Office had been 'sorted'.

Your response to both points will be published in full the day they are received in the post.

You must be in serious danger of losing major contracts with companies like Amazon who have to refund customers locally who have paid for priority postage.

A postal service fit for purpose is clearly vital to local businesses as well as the many individuals who are being let down at present. The failures of the Warrington Sorting Office are also unfair on our splendid local Post Office in Audlem and the postal staff who deliver locally and performed heroically during the recent bad weather. They, however, can only deliver the mail that gets through from the sorting office.

I look forward to hearing from you as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

Editor Audlem Online - officially 'The Best Website in Cheshire'"

***At the time of going to print Audlem Online had still not received a reply!***

### **NAME THAT BOAT**

Regular readers of *Audlem Online* may remember the news in late October of a new attraction on the canal at

Audlem - a boat offering leisure trips from Audlem to Overwater Marina, the Secret Bunker and occasionally up to Nantwich.

The boat has been borrowed by Rod Cottrell who was photographed here with Janet Maughan of Overwater Marina in the autumn. Sea trials of the 16ft whaler have continued over the winter and applications for funding to fit out the boat with seating for twelve passengers, weather proofing covers, safety equipment and a new engine have been made. A team of volunteer coxswains is also being assembled.



It is expected, subject to funding success, that the boat will be purchased, fitted out and will go into service after Easter. The question is - what should the vessel be called?

*Audlem Online* recently launched a competition to find a name - all suggestions are welcome. The prize will be a ride on its maiden voyage - which may rule out *Titanic* from the likely winners!

*Thomas Telford* and *Shroppie Flyer* or *Fly* are likely to feature in the early runners and, given that the launch may coincide with the Royal wedding, *Princess Kate* or, with due deference, *Princess Catherine* could be topical. *Queen Camilla* might have to wait for a sister ship to be launched sometime in the hopefully distant future.

Given the onerous Health & Safety considerations involved, *Overwater* may be preferable to *Underwater*!

Suggestions asap, please, to [editor@audlem.org](mailto:editor@audlem.org) or to the Chatbox or hand them in at the Post Office addressed to Newsletter Editor (Don't forget to add your name and a contact phone number). A distinguished local panel of experts will be assembled to assess the entries over a drink or three.

### **AUDLEM AID TO CANCER RESEARCH**

A big thank you to everyone who supported us last year, we will be donating £20,000 to Cancer Research U.K at our AGM on 30<sup>th</sup> march.

**Spring Fair:** Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> March at the Methodist Hall, Audlem 10am - 12.30pm. refreshments available. There will be a good selection of clothes and accessories, jewellery, bric-a-brac, books, toiletries, games and jigsaws, produce and handicrafts for more information call 01270 812114.

**Open Garden:** This year's open garden will be held on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> June at The Willows, School Lane.

### **HISTORY SOCIETY PROGRAMME**

Thurs 17<sup>th</sup> Feb: Jeff Bryson -Policing in the 1960s

Thurs 17<sup>th</sup> Mar: David Hayns- Cheshire's vanishing Pinfolds

Thurs 21<sup>st</sup> April 7.30 pm start at Whitchurch Civic Hall:

Ruth Moore-Williams - 'What the Celts did for us'

Thurs 19<sup>th</sup> May: John Owen -Elworth revisited (inc. Fodens Lorries and the Roman road)

All talks start at 8pm prompt, Please try to arrive by 7.45pm

Membership £10 p.a. Visitors £2 per meeting Tea and biscuit 25P

## **ADAPT** ✓

Environmental group ADAPT is looking forward to a varied programme of events in 2011 and we hope you will join us. With rising fuel and food prices, there has never been a better time to 'go green'.

Monthly meetings with speakers are held on the first Wednesday of the month at the Baptist Church at 7.30. In addition , a Garden Paraphernalia Day will be held in Spring to encourage everyone to grow their own veggies. A 'Save Energy' event is planned for later in



the year and we plan to revive the Produce Show which was such a feature of village life in the past. (We'd love to hear from anyone who was involved in the show.)

So we look forward to seeing you in 2011. If you would like to go on our mailing list or would like to know more about ADAPT, contact Susan on 811092 or at [runaways@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:runaways@hotmail.co.uk).

### EMBROIDERERS' GUILD

Our members have again enjoyed a varied programme of speakers over the last three months, which began with a talk on "Antique Textiles". Inspired at an early age by her Grandfather, she switched from the press office of Christie's to their Textile Department, and Susanna bought some exquisite items for us to look at of her chosen era, the 17<sup>th</sup> Century.

November's speaker could not have been more different and Susan Briscoe brought us right back to this century with her selection of hand-made bags. It is fair to say that if something needed a bag, then Susan has probably made a bag for it and we were all allowed a close look at an array of bags for all purposes— all of them a riot of patchwork, embroidered and embellished fabric.

Despite treacherous weather conditions, very few members were unable to make our Christmas Lunch. We were soon put in a festive mood by Gabriela, the "Ukelele Lady", her subtle networking skills as members arrived resulted in certain individuals becoming the "stars" in her stories. These covered such diverse subjects as the 2012 Olympics Opening Ceremony, Portuguese immigrants, the buying of swimsuits, George Formby, Hawaiian language and dogs with fleas - you had to be there! The stories were interspersed with songs and the accomplished Gabriela played a traditional braguinha, banjo and ukulele as we all joined in.

For any readers who have an interest in needlework or textiles, in general, we would love to see you at our meetings. Further information can be found on our website: [www.mini-webs.com/Audlemembroiderersguild](http://www.mini-webs.com/Audlemembroiderersguild)

### AUDLEM CARNIVAL MONDAY MAY 30<sup>TH</sup>

The annual Carnival will we hope be as popular as ever and we have booked bands and stalls plus the Fun Fair. We urge all to try to enter a float of any kind and to take part in what is a truly happy family occasion. Contact **Gwen Moss** on 811467 for more detail

### HIGHFIELDS GALA EVENT 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> MAY 2011

(A tribute to Jack Baker in aid of Audlem Scouts)

Put these dates in your diary for a weekend of fun, games and entertainment including: an 'antiques roadshow', falconry display, morris and clog dancing, dog agility display, ferret racing, Punch and Judy, Shawbury helicopter, cream teas etc etc the list goes on. We have 4000sq ft

of cover in case it dares to rain and free parking. Ticket for adults are £6 per day or £9 for 2 days, children come FREE. Highfields is on Wood House Lane, Kinsey Heath. For more information please ring Rodney Cottrell on 01270-811454 or 0778892



### BINGO!

Bingo will commence in the Public Hall on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> February and fortnightly thereafter. Eyes down at 7.30 with your caller Olive Stretch. Raffles, prizes and tea and biscuits complete an evening of local entertainment.

### AUDLEM W.I.

The W.I. rounded off 2010 with a series of highly enjoyable events. The ' pamper ' day at South Cheshire College was a great success, as was the pre - Christmas trip to Exmouth, when members and spouses enjoyed a relaxing and entertaining break in excellent weather.

At the Annual Meeting in November, President Christine Salisbury welcomed two new members to the committee - Anne Watson and Sue Davies.

A varied programme of speakers is planned for 2011 including ' The history of Buckingham Palace', and intriguingly, ' Guess who's coming to dinner'! We also look forward to a number of social events and our monthly walks.

We meet at the Scout and Guide Hall on the 1st Thursday of each month, visitors and new members are always welcome. Further details from President Christine Salisbury 811110 or Secretary Anne Watson 811473

### CHESHIRE CARERS CENTRE

Cheshire Carers Centre is pleased to announce some brand new services for Carers in Cheshire East, which will add to the comprehensive support services we can already offer including Benefits advice, support groups and a Freephone Helpline (0800 085 0307).



Thanks to funding from Central and Eastern Cheshire Primary Care Trust (PCT), we have been able to introduce some innovative new services to support Carers across Cheshire East and the former Vale Royal areas.

The Personal Budgets for Carers Project is a partnership with Cheshire East Council and the PCT to help Carers to access a wide range of breaks from caring. A full time co-ordinator will work with Carers to help them identify what type of breaks will make a difference and Carers will be allocated their own budget to purchase these. Starting in the Crewe and Nantwich area, this service is available to all Carers who have had a Carers Needs Assessment through Cheshire East Council.

The Male Carers Support Service is being launched to provide dedicated support to Male Carers across both Cheshire East and the former Vale Royal area. Nationally 42% of all Carers are men and we aim to provide much needed support and training opportunities. Monthly support groups in Macclesfield, Crewe and Northwich (in partnership with Crossroads Care West Cheshire) are being set up and appointments for information and advice will also be offered.

The Relief Care Brokerage Service will help Carers to identify and fund replacement care to enable them to take part in training and activity sessions which they wouldn't be able to attend due to their caring roles. This new pilot service will be launched in late February 2011.

All of these services can be accessed through the Crewe office on 01270 257331

Support groups for all Carers meet at Audlem Public Hall on 2nd Tuesday of each month from 10.30am to 12.30pm.

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

*The Club ended 2010 on a high note with a superb social evening based on the 'Call my Bluff' television programme with Derek Rooke, Terry Shutt and Roger Wickson trying to confuse us as to the meaning of words we had never heard of! This was followed by our special Christmas meeting when we had a record attendance for the lunch and talk on 'Christmas and New Year Customs'. 2011 commenced with the Club's traditional trip to the Halle New Year Viennese Concert at the Victoria Hall, Hanley followed by the Annual Luncheon at Brookfield Golf Club with a 100 members and guests attending. The Club meets at the 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. Members are encouraged to stay on after meetings for an informal lunch. Membership is increasing and Norman Bourne and Tony Dugdale are the latest to join. We have talks on The Economic Problem, Advances in Medical Science, Hedges around Edges and How I made my First Million to look forward to. In addition to the 6 day visit to Sussex other trips may include Highgrove, Bodrhyddan Hall (family home of Lord Langford), Lunch on canal boat in Chester centre and a tour of the Morgan Car Factory. There are the usual lunches and social evenings plus monthly walks. For further details contact our President Norman Derby on 01630 647196 or Rex Rayner 01270 811896*

### **AUDLEM & DISTRICT BRANCH CONSERVATIVES.**

With the Cheshire East Council Elections being held May 2011 Audlem Branch has been supporting a change in the Ward geographical areas. Currently Audlem is part of the Cholmondeley Ward that also covers Wrenbury, Acton and Bunbury and elects 3 councillors. We have campaigned for a return to the previous arrangements when Audlem and its adjoining parishes were a separate Ward and could elect its own Councillor to represent them. It has now been confirmed that this will happen for the May election For further information about the Branch and its events contact Roland Hall (812530) or Alan Cross (811974)

### **ADAS (Audlem District Amenities Society)**

#### **Audlem in Bloom.**

We have planted a mass of narcissi under the beech tree in the centre of the village and we hope that they will bring a truly lovely golden trumpeting of spring to the village. We have also planted 1000 tulips of over 20 different varieties in the troughs, tubs and The Lord Combermere flower bed to add to the colours of the spring months.

The shrubs will hopefully recover from the extreme cold weather. The Public Hall has a new entrance area with a potential new bed and we will liaise with them as to aiding the planting of this.

The collection through our ADAS envelopes will be underway soon and we do hope that residents will give us the support that is vital to us if we are to continue with our work for Audlem and District. Please do remember to leave them at Williams the Newsagents or at The Post Office.

The excellent Christmas Display of lights was very well received and we thank all for their kind comments. Any queries please contact **Ralph Warburton on 812125** - or any other committee member.

### **AUDLEM MUSIC AND ARTS FESTIVAL: May 26<sup>th</sup> to May 30<sup>th</sup>**

Planning is well under way for this popular event on the Audlem calendar. The web site **Audlemfestival.com** gives the fullest picture of what will be happening. Masses of Music and Art to suit all tastes. Any queries please contact **Ralph Warburton on 812125.**

### **CHILDCARE IN AUDLEM**

Audlem Tree House provides Playgroup for pre-school children every weekday morning; and After School Care from 3-6pm, as well as a Tots and Tinies group once a week where parents/carers can meet with their babies and toddlers.

Purpose built, it offers a wide range of indoor and outdoor activities in a secure setting. Tree House is a member of the Pre-School Learning Alliance and is registered with Ofsted, who have rated it as good following their latest inspection in October 2010. Visit our website: [www.audlemtreehouse.co.uk](http://www.audlemtreehouse.co.uk) or ring 01270 811829 for more information.

### **PARISH PLAN**

The Parish Plan has been published and every household should have received a copy. If you didn't get yours there are still a few available for collection from the Post Office. The various volunteer teams are now working towards fulfilling the ideas raised in the plan.

### **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. For the website email [editor@audlem.org](mailto:editor@audlem.org) or go to 'Contact Webteam' on the website.

**The closing date for items for spring 2011 issue is 10<sup>th</sup> April 2011 for distribution during the first week of May 2011.**

**Please Note:** All items submitted will be given careful consideration. However, the Editorial Team is responsible for the content of the Newsletter and the final decision for inclusion rests with it.