



THINKING OF INSTALLING SOLAR PANELS?
If you live in Audlem or Coxbank Conservation Area, you will need planning permission. Ignore salesmen's advice to the contrary!

AUDLEM PARISH COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER

Winter 2011/12

Audlem Parish Council

Business summary, January 2012

Parish Council precept 2012-13

The Parish Council's stated policy over the years has been to help and encourage the various organisations and societies within the village by making grants and donations for special events, and to help towards running and capital costs. These have been funded from the precept and, together with the administrative costs, insurance and other expenditure necessary to run the Council, have comprised the bulk of the Council's spending.

Times have now changed. The current government policy of localisation means that services delivered by the Borough Council and County Council that were funded from taxation are now being devolved to be administered and funded locally. Non-statutory services, such as public toilets, will no longer be provided as a matter of course.

As a result, Cheshire East has had its local taxes capped by the government and is devolving services as fast as possible. Informed opinion has it that Parish Council precepts will soon be capped as well.

The main reason for devolvement is that it is supposed to be cheaper to provide services locally and therefore saves the government money. Consequently, only part – or none – of the current costs will follow the service to the new provider. One such example is that of the Audlem public conveniences, which cost Cheshire East £13,000 per year to maintain but have been passed to Audlem without any funding at all. It will now cost Audlem residents some £6,000 a year, which will be funded from the precept.

The Parish Council recognised some time ago that more services would have to be funded locally or they will be cut, cancelled or disappear. To this end, the precept has been raised over the last three years in order to create a working reserve. This year's increase

of five per cent equates to £1.90 per band D household, taking the Parish Council tax to £39.85.

Last year the reserve was required to maintain the cash flow and progress during the refurbishment of the public toilets. It is anticipated that the additional precept levels claimed over this period will continue to be necessary in future in order to maintain these facilities and other essential services that the Parish Council could well be called upon to fund.

This may not be welcome news at a time when household budgets are under pressure, however, the Parish Council has taken these steps to enable public services to be retained, and help maintain the various events and activities within Audlem for the benefit of residents and visitors alike.

John Kemble, Responsible Financial Officer

Parish Councillors' Contact Details

Kate Down, Chair – 811160

Bill Consterdine, Vice Chair – 811647

Frances Christie – 811340 **Richard Furber** – 811598

Mike Hill – 811843 **Phillip Johnson** – 811774

Heather Jones – 811836 **John Langston** – 812395

Jill Sanders – 812084 **Geoff Seddon** – 811282

Pam Seddon – 811282 **David Siddorns** – 811012

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

Police investigate WC damage

Concern was expressed at the January Audlem Parish Council meeting about damage to our newly refurbished public conveniences. It appears that a small minority of local teenagers have been misusing the facilities as a smoking den – illegal in a public building – and damaged the baby-changing trays and hygiene facilities in the Ladies by standing or sitting on them. The damage has been reported to the police.

Councillors expressed outrage that a small minority could misuse such a hard-fought for village asset and cause mindless damage for which the community has to pay. Suggestions to tackle the problem included sending repair bills to the parents of identified culprits. It was also agreed that there is nothing more sobering for parents than to have a police car at the door.

Audlem's refurbished WCs are protected by a new CCTV camera that records high quality images. Action will be taken against anyone who causes damage.

On a more positive note, the Parish Council hopes to obtain a financial contribution from Cheshire East Council to help with running costs. A letter to this effect has been sent to Ms Erika Wenzel, Chief Executive of Cheshire East Council, with copies to Cllr Rod Menlove, Cllr Mrs Rachel Bailey and Stephen O'Brien MP.

Annual village meeting

It's your choice. What form do you want this year's meeting to take? In the past a seated audience has listened to presentations on issues of general interest to the village, followed by a Q&A session. More recently, we've held less formal meetings with village organisations setting up stalls in the Public Hall and people walking around engaging in free discussion.

Is there another, better, way of holding the annual village meeting? If so, we'd like to hear from you. The intention is that the free cheese and wine should still be available (!) – but the format is still to be decided.

The next Annual Village Meeting is due to be held on Wednesday 21 March. If you have any suggestions as to how it should be run, **please contact the Clerk to Audlem Parish Council, Jean White by phone on 01948 871383, by email on parishcouncil@audlem.org, or by post at Rosecroft, Dodds Green Lane, Burleydam SY13 4AT.** Alternatively you can leave your suggestions in the box at the Post Office. **The deadline for all suggestions is 3 February 2012.**

Parish Council meetings will be held in St James School on Mondays: 6 February, 5 March and 2 April. At the beginning of each meeting, residents have the opportunity to bring matters of particular concern to the attention of the Parish Council. Everyone is welcome to stay and listen afterwards.

Buerton Parish Council update

Our next meeting will be held at 7.15 pm on 7 February at Hankelow Chapel. The mixed agenda will include the concerns over the proposed development at Redacres Farm, Windmill Lane. Parishioners worried over this development and its impact are welcome to attend and join the debate. The agenda and minutes can be viewed at www.audlem.org.

Methodist Church musical

This year's musical at Audlem Methodist Church is *Pollyanna*. It will be performed five times between Tuesday 14 and Saturday 18 February, with each performance at 7.30 pm. Entry is by programme (priced £6), available from the chapel or Julia Parton on programmes@audlemmethodistchurch.org.uk.



Pollyanna is based on the story by Eleanor H. Porter with the addition of an original score by Naomi Newman. Each year, the annual Methodist musical is performed by a large all-age cast and this year is no exception. It invariably plays to full houses each night so, if you wish to reserve a seat, don't delay!

Audlem District Amenities Society (ADAS)

The Britain in Bloom awards given to ADAS in 2010 and 2011 are now recorded in a permanent manner by two new plaques beside the Lord Combermere flowerbed.

We have planted tulips and daffodils in the tubs, troughs and flowerbeds in readiness for spring. The 500 narcissi under the beech tree ('Moseley's tree') in the centre of the village should give us a braver display this year as they are now more established. The 4,000 bluebells planted on the canal banks are spreading fast and will give a beautiful blue haze of blooms.

Sadly, some shrubs did not recover from the extreme cold weather last winter and we have taken action to put this right. New beds are being planned next to the newly refurbished public conveniences, following the acquisition of the small pieces of land by The Parish Council. The Public Hall is to have a new entrance with a potential new bed and we hope to liaise with The Hall Committee about help with planting.

The annual collection through our ADAS envelopes will be underway soon in what we hope will be a welcome, new and more informative manner. We hope that residents will give us the support that is vital if we are to continue to do all that we do for Audlem & District. The loss of our grant of £1,350 from Cheshire East still hurts and we have to run so much faster to do

all we can for the area. **Please do remember to leave your ADAS contribution envelopes at Williams Newsagent or the Post Office.**

The excellent display of Christmas lights was very well received and we thank everyone for their kind comments. The Big Switch On night is now a permanent fixture in the village calendar and we hope to give it ADAS support again.

For information about ADAS, contact Ralph Warburton on 812125 or adascontact@googlemail.com.

Friends of Audlem School Association (FASA)



What a fantastic start to the school year for FASA! We have gained charitable status and, after outgoings, raised just over £1,800 for Audlem St James Primary School. With this we have purchased a sand/water table for the school nursery, aprons for the

cookery club, football strips for the school team, and French books and resources for Key Stage 1. Thank you to everyone who has helped us to achieve this great result.

We have received £2,000 of funding from The Co-operative Community Fund, which will be spent on visualisers for each classroom. In addition, Cheshire East Local Authority has agreed to fund £1,000 for reading books needed to fill a specific gap in the school library.

New ways to help us with our fundraising at no extra cost, time or commitment to yourselves are:

Rag Bag Textile Bank. As well as our regular Rag Bag collection, we now have a textile bank situated at the main school gate, available during normal school opening hours.

www.spendandraise.com/FASA has links to 1,000 online retailers who will donate a percentage of the value of your purchases to FASA, including Amazon, ASDA, Sainsbury's, M&S and John Lewis. You do not pay any more than if you access the sites in the usual way and it only takes a few extra clicks.

Events for the new term include our children's Valentine's Disco on 9 February, a 60s Night for adults on 23 March (*tbc*) and our 'Auction of Promises' which we hope will be the highlight of our fundraising year. If you have a 'promise', item or experience that you would like to donate we would love to hear from you. Visit **www.audlemstjames.org.uk** for contact details for the school or look out for our 'Promise' boxes in the village.

Audlem charity shop

Since its refurbishment and rebranding last May, the Audlem Charity Shop has set new records in sales, both in the shop and at the three fairs. The late opening for 'The Big Switch On' evening was a success, with combined takings of over £200 by the shop and the sale of jewellery in the outside gazebo. Funds raised in 2011 will be presented to St Luke's Hospice at the AGM in March when this year's beneficiaries will be revealed.

We thank our volunteers and supporters, and look forward to seeing you buying or donating in the shop, or attending one of our functions. Please see the Diary on page four for details of the Spring Fair on 10 March.

Audlem & District Probus Club

2012 got off to a splendid start with the fully booked Annual Luncheon where a rather special magician, Peter Turner, entertained 110 members and guests.

The Club meets at Brookfield Golf Club on the second and fourth Thursday each month (except August) at 10am for coffee followed by a talk from a guest speaker. Members are encouraged to stay on for an informal lunch. Future talks include 'Recreational Flying', 'Climate Change in the Arctic' and 'My Life at Granada TV'.

The next social event is the club's special presentation of 'Call my Bluff', based on the television programme, followed by supper. As well as the special break to Padstow, and the usual lunches and social evenings plus monthly walks, next year's social programme may include a visit to Townley Hall, a brewery tour and a cruise on the Manchester Ship Canal. **For further details, contact our President Alan Hodgson on 01630 655382 or Rex Rayner on 811896.**

Audlem WI

At the December meeting of Audlem W.I. the excellent 'In Harmony' group entertained us with a selection of Christmas music and prose that was the perfect prelude to a very full and lively Christmas programme.

In early December we joined with other W.I.s in the Malbank Group for a carol service at the Methodist Chapel in Nantwich, and three members represented Audlem at the W.I. Carol Service at Chester Cathedral.

At the A.G.M. last November, Irene Cunliffe was elected President and Doreen Hubbard joined the Committee. We thank outgoing President Christine Salisbury for all her hard work and commitment over the past four years. We look forward to a varied programme of events and speakers in 2012, and warmly welcome any new members. **Please contact Anne Watson, Secretary, on 811473 for details.**

Cheshire Embroiderers' Guild

Another exciting year's programme of talks got off to a fine start in October when Kath Danswan presented 'Bowls, Bugs and Bags'. Inspired by the natural world, Kath's embroidered decoration creates scenes of landscapes and coral reefs, with various different bugs lurking in the folds of her wonderful pieces.



November heralded the return of June Corner, who gave a most enjoyable talk on 'Snippets from the 30s'.

Our Christmas Lunch at Brookfield Golf Club was one of the best yet, with floral design expert Sue Poole as the mystery speaker. Sue treated us to a wealth of floristry hints while creating eight amazing Christmas table decorations, which she kindly donated to our raffle.

We welcome current and new members to our exciting programme of speakers and workshops for 2012. **For information, please email Stephanie Richardson at audlememb@gmail.com.**

Audlem History Society

We are trying to make our programme as local as possible and would welcome anyone who would like to talk to us about any aspect of life in Audlem in the past, either as an interview with a committee member or as a talk to members. Our latest project is working with ADAPT to collect memories and photos of the Audlem Show, and where and how fruit and vegetables used to be grown during the war and the 1950s.

Forthcoming talks will be held in the Scouts & Guides Hall and all visitors are welcome, but please note that they now start at **7.30pm**. The membership fee is £10 for eight talks. **Contact Celia Bloor on 811260 or cvb@kinseycottages.org.uk for details.**

Audlem Carnival

We hope the annual carnival on 30 May will be as popular as ever. Banks, stalls and a funfair have already been booked. We urge you all to try to enter a float of any kind and take part in this truly happy family occasion. **Contact Gwen Moss on 811467 for details.**

Audlem Music & Arts Festival

Planning is well underway for this very popular event in the Audlem calendar. This Royal Jubilee year will see a new festival format and bigger programme over five days from 31 May to 5 June, with around a 100 acts including solo artistes, duos and bands for your pleasure covering a wide range of music from classical to rock and pop. There will also be a number of art exhibitions throughout the period.

A drive to attract support by sponsors and advertisers for what will be the biggest FREE event in the area will begin this month as appeal letters go out. **To find out more, go to www.audlemfestival.com. For queries, please contact Ralph Warburton on 812125.**

Diary dates

February

- 6 Audlem Parish Council meeting, St James's School, 7.30pm.
- 7 Buerton Parish Council meeting, Hankelow Chapel, 7.15pm.
- 9 FASA children's' Valentine's Disco at St James's School.
- 16 'Batik & Silk Painting', Embroiderers' Guild talk by Jenny O'Leary, Scout & Guide Hall, 10am.
'Acton Through The Ages', History Society talk by Gerald Emerton, Scout & Guide Hall, 7.30pm.

March

- 5 Audlem Parish Council meeting, St James's School, 7.30pm.
- 10 Spring Fair, Methodist Hall, 10am-12.30pm.
- 15 'Stitched Journeys', Embroiderers' Guild talk by Janet Browne, Scout & Guide Hall, 10am.
'The Garibaldi Connection With Audlem – Dr Poggi, HM Audlem Grammar School' and 'The Building of Audlem Grammar School', two History Society talks by Ian and Celia Bloor, Scout & Guide Hall, 7.30pm.
- 21 Annual Village Meeting 2012.

April

- 2 Audlem Parish Council meeting, St James's School, 7.30pm.
- 6 Good Friday. A walk around Audlem following the cross. Starts from Methodist Church, 10.30am.
- 19 'Childhood Memories', Embroiderers' Guild talk by Judy Fairless, Scout & Guide Hall, 10am.
'Charity, Low-cost & Social Housing In Malpas, c1600 To The Present', History Society talk by David Haynes, Scout & Guide Hall, 7.30pm.

The closing date for items for the spring issue is 10 April 2012 for distribution during the first week of May. Please contact Editor Kira Nicholls on 812485 or at newsletter@audlem.org, or post your item in the box in the Post Office. All items will be carefully considered.