



## Audlem Parish Council

### Parish Council News, April 2019

#### Turnpike Field, Green Lane

Many residents indicated on the Community Survey forms and at the last Open Meeting that they were willing to make a financial donation towards work to be carried out on the field. The Parish Council has contacted those residents who made this generous offer. The response to date has been amazing with in excess of £16,000 having been donated. In addition, over £100 has been left in the blue 'ballot box' in Williams' Newsagents. The Parish Council thanks everyone who has made a contribution. Should you wish to make a donation, please contact the Clerk for the appropriate form - either at [audlempc@gmail.com](mailto:audlempc@gmail.com) or by phone on 07432 332857. All donations will be kept anonymous.



The Working Group of Councillors and residents holds its meetings on a regular basis, which are open to the public. Residents have recently been asked to complete a survey to give their thoughts on the future use of the field. Over 300 responses are currently being analysed.

The next Open Evening will be held on Thursday 11th July in the Town Hall at 7.30pm. Please come along and find out what progress has been made since the last Open Meeting.

Unfortunately, the bid to Cheshire East for a grant towards the cost of creating a 'green' car park was unsuccessful. Other sources of funding are being sought.

#### Parish Council Precept

As stated in the last *Around Audlem* the Parish Council increased its precept for 2019/20 by £10,460, purely to cover the repayment of the loan taken out from the Public Works Loan Board. It is pleasing to note that the increase in the Parish Council element is £9.97 per annum for a Band D property, which is less than was forecast.

#### Proposed development at the Bird's Nest site

Magenta Living, a social housing provider based in Birkenhead, is proposing to build 31 properties on the site opposite McCarthy & Stone on Audlem Road. This site has been allocated for development in the Cheshire East Local Plan. The Parish Council agreed to this allocation at its meeting in November 2018. The properties range from one-bedroom flats to four-bedroom houses. In addition, Magenta is also proposing to build two sets of three-bedroom semis on the strip of land alongside Audlem Road between the site and Bird's Nest. All properties will be both for rent and shared ownership. Magenta will hold a Public Consultation Open Day on Tuesday 7th May in the Methodist Meeting Rooms.

#### Parish Council Elections - Retirements

The Parish Council elections take place on 2nd May when all Councillors will stand down. Three Councillors have decided to take this opportunity to retire. They are:

- Frances Mary Christie, who has been a Councillor for more than 20 years;
- Kate Down, a former Chairman, who has served on the Council for 16 years; and
- David Siddorns, who became a Councillor in 2011.

All three have worked tirelessly for the village and their expertise and knowledge will be sorely missed.

Details of the Councillors elected in May will be put on the Parish Council noticeboard on Shropshire Street.

#### Parish Council Contact Details

Your Parish Clerk is **Belen Lopez Bloor** – 07432 332857 or email [audlempc@gmail.com](mailto:audlempc@gmail.com).

Parish Council meetings will be held in the Meeting Rooms adjoining Audlem Methodist Church on Mondays, May 13th at 7pm and June 10th and July 15th, starting at 7.30pm. At the beginning of each meeting, residents have the opportunity to bring matters of concern to the attention of the Parish Council. Everyone is welcome to stay and listen for the rest of the meeting.

## Music and Arts Festival

The free Music and Arts Festival will be held over the Spring Bank Holiday weekend of 23rd May to 27th May, with around 60 performers playing a wide range of music from Indie, Jazz, Pop and Soul. This is our 19th such event and all three pubs and The Courtyard are presenting great entertainment for all. An Arts exhibition will be held in the Methodist Church Hall over the 25th, 26th and 27th May. We hope everyone will enjoy the music and give support to all our businesses here in Audlem.

## Williams of Audlem - Greats Gift Retailer Finalist 2019

It's official! Williams of Audlem is one of the best gift retailers in the UK, and has been selected as a finalist in The Greats Gift Retailer Awards 2019. The awards, now in their 17th year, were launched by Progressive Gifts & Home magazine to recognise and reward the UK's very best gift retailers across the retail spectrum. All retail finalists were decided as a result of an industry wide poll of gift suppliers, reps and agents and validation by a panel of experts.

The winners of this year's prestigious gift retailing awards will be revealed at an awards lunch at the Grosvenor House, Park Lane, London, on 15th May.

Williams of Audlem was established in 1862 and is now owned and run by 5th generation, family member, Judy Evans. Last year the shop was also featured in BBC2 programme, *The Repair Shop*. Judy took over Audlem's oldest established retail business from her parents in 2013. Since then, she has been busy retro refitting the shop to reflect its heritage, whilst expanding its gift and card ranges to offer an inspiring range of products, that have really put this family run business on the UK gift retailing map.



## Audlem Beat Officers Update

Audlem continues to be an area of low police incidents. We continue to use the Audlem Annex for the police surgeries so please come and meet us and discuss any issues you feel we can help you with. The dates of our next meeting can be found on the Cheshire website via local policing/ Crewe/ Audlem & Wybunbury, or on the police notice board situated outside the main entrance of the building. You can also access the Audlem & Wybunbury Cheshire Police page via Audlem Online, (go to the 'directories' drop down, click on 'services', 'the police') where you can also follow the Audlem/ Wybunbury police daily Twitter and Facebook updates.

We complete regular speed enforcement around the Audlem roads to assist in keeping the roads safe and prevent rural crime. We have also worked with other local forces targeting criminals who cross between forces.

Unfortunately we still receive complaints about driving using mobile phones, for which there is a £200 fine and 6 penalty points.

If you have a dash camera in your car and it records an offence you can upload videos onto the Cheshire Police website along with a witness statement via [www.cheshire.police.uk/dashcam](http://www.cheshire.police.uk/dashcam) where it will be viewed and assessed for any offences.

## The Audlem Theatre Company

After 20 years of providing Am Dram, the Audlem 5a's Drama Group is to be renamed 'The Audlem Theatre Company'. We hope this new title will better reflect our intentions of expanding our repertoire. With plans to launch a local youth theatre group and a performance already booked in Lytham St Annes later this year, The Audlem Theatre Company already has a very busy schedule. Rehearsals have now begun for our summer production 'The Final Rehearsal (and it didn't go well)' written by Colin Cliffe and a film 'Downturn Manor' filmed during 2018 at many local locations will soon be available for release. Our Lytham performance in August at the Pavilion Theatre will be in a national competition and will be a reprise of our award-winning play 'Heaven's Close 2'. If you would like to be involved in our organisation please contact Cheryl on 01270 811098

## Diverse Range of Talks at the History Society

In February Tony Bostock started his talk by giving us a brief history on the development of public houses. He then gave us a pictorial tour of some of our well-known and oldest Cheshire pubs with details of the history behind their names. Tony's talk certainly inspired many present to search out several of these establishments!

In March we were privileged to have as our speakers Matthew and Andrew Jones (the talented sons of one of our committee members). Matthew told us about the development of the bicycle and its rise in popularity by the beginning of the 20th century. This declined after World War Two as more people acquired motor cars but interest is now steadily increasing again. Andrew then described how he and his team are trying to break the world record next year by aiming to reach speeds of 220 miles per hour. A short video showed a bike speeding behind a Porsche car at over 100 miles per hour. Great interest was created by the examples of bicycles that he had brought along.

Last month we were given an insight by Dr Diana Leitch into the life and travels of Fletcher Moss. Fletcher Moss was a philanthropist who led many public works in Manchester and donated to the city in 1915 the Fletcher Moss Park and Botanical Gardens.

Please see Diary Dates for our forthcoming events. Further information can be obtained from Dorothy Jones on 01270 811814

## Audlem Voices

Our next concert is on 18th May in St James Church at 7.30pm. Tickets £8 including a glass of wine and nibbles! An evening with the music of Gilbert and Sullivan. The choir will be most ably supported by guest soloists of G&S distinction and experience.

If anyone is interested in joining the choir, a degree in music is definitely not required, please feel free to pop into St James Church Audlem, where we rehearse every Tuesday evening between 7.30pm and 9.30pm and say hello. You will be made very welcome.

See [voices.audlem.org](http://voices.audlem.org) for more information.

## Audlem WI Celebrates 100 Years

Audlem WI have had an exciting few months celebrating their 'Centenary Year'. Over 60 members and guests, attired in a variety of costumes depicting fashion from the past decades, gathered in the Scout & Guide Hall to enjoy an amazing display of archive memorabilia, Prosecco, a two course meal and a variety of entertainments before cutting the centenary cake, beautifully baked and iced by Joyce Clydesdale, our in-house Mary Berry.



All members were then handed a boxed china mug, delicately printed with the dates of our centenary as a permanent reminder of this auspicious event.

Moving forward, we can look forward to a talk on 'Tax, Care and Toy Boys' in April - the mind boggles - our 'Resolutions' meeting in May and 'An Interlude with Joyce Grenfell' in June.

## Audlem Charity Shop

A very successful meeting was held at The Bridge Inn with refreshments kindly provided by Kieran.

Our shop continues to go from strength to strength and we were delighted to donate £30,000 to our chosen charities, namely St Luke's Hospice, Donna Louise Children's Hospice, The Wingate Centre, The Wheely Boat and ADCA. Quite a feat for a shop that is open 15 hours a week.

The Chair thanked all the support workers especially Mr and Mrs Silvester at Audlem Mill who continue to sell our books with all money raised being donated to the shop. She thanked all the volunteers for all their hard work and our donors without whom we wouldn't be able to function. There followed a series of short talks entitled 'A Funny Thing Happened' ... where several volunteers talked about amusing events that had happened in the shop. Here's to increased fund raising for 2019/ 2020.

## Spot the Cowpat!

This year's competition to raise funds for ADCA (Audlem and District Community Action) puts a suitably rural twist on the old 'Spot the Ball' concept. For just £1 entrants are invited to place five crosses on the plan of a field and 'Spot the Cowpat'!

In early October, a cow will be released into a field 50 metres squared (2,500 square metres) and the winning entry will be the one adjudged to have placed a cross on their entry form closest to the centre of the first cowpat the cow produces. There is an attractive prize of £1,000 for the winning entry and runner-up prizes of £300, £150 and £50 for the next three closest crosses.

Entry forms are available from retailers, cafes and other outlets across the village and at Overwater Marina and on Audlem Lass. ADCA hopes that the novelty of the 'cowpat' idea will encourage entries not only from local residents and their families, but from visitors to the Audlem area throughout the summer months.

ADCA is able to extend its range of services this year, thanks to its successful bid under the New Homes Bonus distribution. It would be delighted to welcome new volunteers, in particular as volunteer drivers, to help with its day clubs, or to help us expand our befriending service. Anyone interested is asked to contact Tracey Humphries, ADCA Co-ordinator, in the first instance, on 07845 495973 or by emailing [tlhumphries@outlook.com](mailto:tlhumphries@outlook.com)

Audlem and District Community Action

**SPOT  
THE  
COWPAT  
AND**

**WIN £1000 FIRST PRIZE**  
**2nd Prize £300 - 3rd Prize £150 - 4th Prize £50**

## ADAS News

The ADAS AGM was held at the beginning of March and Neil Goodyear was re-elected as Chair. He gave an account of the various successful events which had taken place during the previous year and reminded everyone that 2019 marks the 50th anniversary of the foundation of the society. There will be various events to celebrate 50 years of ADAS - details of these will be on AOL. The Britain in Bloom Committee was delighted to receive the Gold award as a result of all the hard work carried out during the previous 12 months. Judy Evans, daughter of Derek Mckelvey who had been a founder member of ADAS, presented a cheque for £600 from donations received in memory of her father.

For details of the various ADAS events including the Open Gardens, Scarecrow Competition and quiz night, please see the Diary Dates section.

See [adasaudlem.org](http://adasaudlem.org) to keep up to date with ADAS events or email: [adascontact@gmail.com](mailto:adascontact@gmail.com)

Finally, subscription envelopes will be distributed in May. Members' contributions are vital to finance ADAS projects within Audlem. Please return your envelopes to Williams or Flower Divas - or contribute online. Don't forget to include 'gift aid' if you are eligible.

## Events at Audlem Mill

Audlem Mill will be hosting an all-year exhibition of canal art from members of the Guild of Waterway Artists, with two different artists being featured every month. Also, all year, the work of local weaver and spinner Fiona Nisbet is showcased in the Needlework Shop.

In May to July, we'll have on display an amazing collection of quirky Steampunk Costume by Audlem's own Monique Hollingshead, and on 27th and 28th July there is the ninth annual Gathering of Historic Boats on the canal.

## ADAPT Highlights

**Food Group** - Monthly meetings are well attended and include lots of gardening tips and delicious baking. The Saturday Market season is underway - check Audlem Online for details.

We will visit Abbeywood Gardens, Delamere, on Tuesday, 20th May and are planning visits to Fryers Roses in Knutsford and Attingham Park, near Shrewsbury. To join us, contact Jane Marshall [jane@day-star-theatre.co.uk](mailto:jane@day-star-theatre.co.uk)

**Transport Group** - We continue to support sustainable transport options and are having a busy year.

- Cycle racks – Audlem Parish Council has committed support and we hope there will be racks for parking eight cycles later this year.
- Audlem to Nantwich along the canal towpath – the project to improve the towpath for walking and cycling, in collaboration with the Canal and River Trust, has received a funding boost from the Cheshire East Council New Homes Bonus Scheme.
- Public transport – good news! It is still possible to reach surrounding cities and other destinations easily despite bus service reductions. We have researched bus routes / connections and will publish guidance on Audlem Online.

Contact [adapt2009info@gmail.com](mailto:adapt2009info@gmail.com) to get involved with ADAPT or its transport group.



## Launch of the Audlem Tourism and Traders Group

A new organisation, the Audlem Tourism and Traders Group (AT&TG) has been formed in Audlem to support ideas and projects which improve the attractiveness of Audlem for visitors and residents and help the village sustain and develop the diverse range of businesses which contribute to our vibrant community. The group has been formed by the merger of the Audlem Traders Group and the Audlem Tourism Group. Membership of the group is already 35, and momentum is building due to the enthusiasm of participants. The membership is a mix of traders and representatives of various village groups. Canal and River Trust and Cheshire East Council are also represented.

Perhaps the most visible sign of the group's activities is the *Welcome Pack* booklet which you may have seen around the village.

The constituent parts of the new group had long recognised that shortage of parking presented the greatest challenge to attracting both visitors and residents to the village, so the opportunities offered by the Turnpike Field project are greatly welcomed by AT&TG.

Among other things, the group is exploring the best way to improve signage in the village to encourage visitors.

If you are a trader or business in the area and are not yet a member, but would like to find out more, please contact Janet Maughan at [janet@overwatermarina.co.uk](mailto:janet@overwatermarina.co.uk)

## Audlem Methodist Church

The last few months have been a very busy time musically for our church. The annual production in early March was our lively amateur performance of 'The Sound of Music', music by Richard Rodgers and lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II. Our cast of 16 young people and rather older choir of 29 entertained a full church on four successive evenings, and the production was much enjoyed by all. Thanks also to the mums who helped in the background and to the technical team on the balcony.

The church was again well filled for the varied concert given by The Funky Choir, whose singing for fun makes such easy listening. Many thanks to those who came and supported this fund-raising event.

Lenten Sunday ecumenical soup lunches have raised money for several charities, and also the three churches have joined in watching a film of 'The Passion' in Holy Week. At the end of March, we welcomed year 6 of Audlem and Madeley Primary Schools for a 'Hope Journey', involving half a day for each school of activities, drama and talks about Easter and its meaning.

Plans for the next few months can be seen in the Diary Dates section.

## Diary Dates

### May

- 11/12 ADAS clearing out tubs and planting summer bedding. If you would like to help, please meet at the Buttermarket at 9.30am.
- 16 History Society Meeting at 7.30pm in the Scout and Guide Hall. Speaker - Dorothy Nicolle on '2000 Years of Shropshire's History'.
- 18 TAVA presents: Orpheus at 7.30pm at Audlem Public Hall. Suitable for ages 12+. Tickets: 01270 811250 or email: [tava325@gmail.com](mailto:tava325@gmail.com)

### June

- 4 Audlem Methodist Church: an ecumenical service for South Cheshire 'Churches Together' at 7.30pm.
- 18 History Society: visit to Elizabeth Gaskell's House and the Emmeline Pankhurst Museum, Manchester.
- 22/23 ADAS Open Gardens event and Scarecrow Competition.
- 30 Hankelow Village Fete. From 1pm until 5pm on The Green. Supporting two local charities: ADCA and the local group of Diabetes UK.

### July

- 6 Party on the Park.
- 13 Audlem Methodist Church fund-raising day in aid of repair/building project, including sing-a-long musicals evening and an auction of promises.
- 16 Fund-raising quiz night at The Lord Combermere in aid of ADAS at 8.45pm, hosted by Ralph Warburton.
- 18 History Society Drive yourself outing to Middleport Pottery, Stoke on Trent.
- 28 Transport Festival and Gathering of Historic Boats.

The closing date for items for the Summer/Autumn issue is 10th July 2019 for distribution in August 2019.

Please contact the Editor, Jennifer Cope, on 811499 or email [aroundaudlemnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:aroundaudlemnewsletter@gmail.com).