



## Audlem Parish Council Annual Report, 2012-2013

*Kate Down, outgoing Chairman, writes:*

I have recently completed my fourth year as Parish Council Chairman. Once again, it has been extremely busy and I would like to thank fellow councillors for their hard work.

This year has seen several changes for the Parish Council. Jean White, our clerk for almost 10 years, resigned and we appointed a new clerk, Kirstin Dixon, who began work last September. Bill Consterdine resigned after 32 years as a councillor and Jill Sanders also resigned during the year, and so we welcomed new councillors, David Higham and Carole Loweth. The Parish Council presented Bill and Jean with Long Service Awards in January.

We also had to find a new venue and recently have been meeting at Thornton House. Unfortunately, this building is to be demolished in the near future and so we shall have to move again, this time to one of the school rooms in the Methodist Church.

One of the council's major items of work this year was to try to ensure the introduction of superfast broadband to the village and a team of councillors have worked very hard to get the support of as many subscribers as possible to make Audlem's case for inclusion. The final response was 52 per cent in favour but we still await the outcome.

We are still working on the provision of allotments with the support of ADAPT. So far, no land has been identified for communal allotments, but garden-sharing schemes and a shared village orchard are being considered.

Dog fouling remains a bone of contention. We are working to put up signage to keep dogs under better control, particularly on the playing field, and to encourage people to make use of the dog bins provided. We would really like to be able to 'clean this up' and I would urge everyone to help as much as possible.

Towards the end of the year, Gladman Developments Ltd put forward a proposal to build 120 houses at Little Heath. Members of the Parish Council, in particular the Planning Group, have spent many hours working to try to

ensure that any development in the village is suitable to its sustainability and character. We will continue to do so, whatever that takes.

I have now handed over the Chairmanship to Phillip Johnson and I wish him well in this role. It remains for me to thank both outgoing and incoming clerks and the RFO, John Kemble for their hard work this year. Thanks also to Bill and Jill for their service to the council. We wish them well for the future.

### Parish Councillors' Contact Details

**Phillip Johnson**, Chair – 811774

Heather Jones, Vice Chair – 811836

Frances Christie – 811340    Kate Down – 811160

Richard Furber – 811598    David Higham – 812069

Mike Hill – 811843    John Langston – 812395

Carole Loweth – 811876    Geoff Seddon – 811282

Pam Seddon – 811282    David Siddons – 811012

Your Parish Clerk is **Kirstin Dixon** – 01630 658456 or email [audlemparishclerk@gmail.com](mailto:audlemparishclerk@gmail.com).

### Beware burglaries

Long summer evenings and warm weather mean more patio doors and windows are left open, attracting the risk of opportunistic thefts. The police have recently issued warning about criminals and small groups of burglars targeting rural areas. So remember to shut your doors and windows if you're in a different room and also at night. If you see any suspicious activity such as unknown vehicles slowly driving around your neighbourhood, please note the vehicle's number and call 101.

**Parish Council meetings will be held at the Audlem Methodist Church on Mondays 2 September and 7 October. 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 for the rest of the meeting.**



## Café society



In contrast to the national economic gloom, Audlem now boasts more shops and cafes than for a generation and its businesses are flourishing.

One such addition to Audlem's café society is The Pinfold (*pictured*), which opened last month next to Oxtail & Trotter and already looks set to become a firm favourite alongside the ever popular Old Priest House and Jinja Bakes. More businesses are due to open in the new retail units there in the coming months.

Audlem's thriving pub scene is also a cause for good cheer. After a challenging period, the canal-side Shroppie Fly pub is finally under new management and a refurbishment is promised for the autumn.

The opening of Overwater Marina with over 200 berths has given a timely boost to our local economy as many of the of the marina's boat owners and visitors shop in Audlem, and visit the cafés and pubs. We can, however, all do our part to support our local entrepreneurs and ensure that our village and its businesses prosper.

## Scout & Guide Hall

Audlem's Scout & Guide Hall continues to host a wide range of regular bookings including Dance Aerobics and Pilates classes, meetings of local organisations and many other village events. Details are available at *Audlem Online* or from the Hall.

We currently have waiting lists for all age groups of the Guides and Scouts. We always need assistance from adults to run these groups so please get in touch if you can help.

In addition, the Scout & Guide Hall Committee organises various events itself throughout the year. Our next event will be an evening of traditional brass band music and popular tunes performed on beautiful silver instruments by the 22-piece Rode Heath Silver Band at **7.30pm at St James's Church, Audlem, on 14 September**. Refreshments will be available from our wine bar. Tickets cost £7. Contact **Chris Cottrell on 811454**.

There are still a few spaces left in our reservations diary, so if you would like to book the Scout & Guide Hall for your event, **contact Melanie Grange on 811425**.

## RNLI Festival 2013

The two-day Audlem Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) Festival held at Overwater Marina during the first weekend of June proved to be a great success. Audlem Lass carried an astonishing 470 passengers over the weekend and more than 2000 people attended, helping to raise over £2,200 for the RNLI

The event went without a hitch thanks to the hard-working team of organisers who included members of the Crewe & Nantwich RNLI Support Branch, the marina staff, the Audlem Lass crew and more than 40 volunteers.

The raft race proved to be a popular event. Seven teams designed and decorated their handmade rafts, and competed fiercely for the trophy which was eventually won by the PRG Trailers' team. Audlem Fire Station's crew donned grass skirts and Lei garlands to win Best Dressed Raft for their fantastic Hawaiian-themed raft complete with inflatable palm tree. Also taking part were Overwater Narrowboat Services' 'Morris Dancers', Cheshire Police's 'Canal Cops', Audlem FC and the Audlem Scouts.



Other highlights included the Dog Show, Saturday night's musical extravaganza from the 22-piece Wychcraft Big Swing Band, The Josh Walker Band and Steven Miller, and a performance by the Rode Heath Brass Band on Sunday. In addition to an RNLI bar, there were stalls selling refreshments and craftwork, pony rides, and many displays including agility training, falconry, Cheshire Search & Rescue and the Cheshire Police.

A very big thank you goes to everyone who enjoyed and supported this super event. Next year's festival will take place on the weekend of **31 May and 1 June 2014**, so please put it in your diaries now.

**Rodney Cottrell, Chair  
Crewe & Nantwich RNLI Support Branch**

## ADAS

The new summer planting is now well established but with the lovely sunshine, the need for watering is paramount if we are to ensure a good floral display. We would be grateful if all businesses could keep their nearest tubs and baskets well watered.

I feel sure that everyone will like the red, white and blue theme in this year of 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the coronation of Her Majesty. In addition, the multi-hued begonias – so tolerant of the dryer weather and there until the frosts – give a glorious rainbow of colour.

I am pleased to note again the welcome help given freely by Jan Evans, Eleanor Liles, Lorraine Joynson and Ann Poole in planting up the beds, troughs and the village signs. Plans are already afoot for the big Christmas lights and trees, with extra sites under consideration.

The drive for funds, helped by the small booklet explaining who and what ADAS is and the use of coloured envelopes, has brought in a truly superb response for which we thank everybody. We are also grateful for the wonderful support given by all shops and businesses to the **Audlem in Bloom** appeal. These funds are all ploughed back into the village for the enjoyment of all residents. The Britain in Bloom judging takes place on 1 August.

**The Open Garden Weekend** was a super success and many folks enjoyed seeing wonderful gardens, large and small. We hope to have more gardens on display next year.

Last month's **Fashion Show** in the Public Hall was also a great success with lots of tempting offers to delight those who attended.

The **Table Top Sale** at the Public Hall on 21 September offers everyone a chance to turn the goods you no longer want into cash. Tables are just £5.

**For queries on ADAS matters, contact Ralph Warburton on 812125, or email [rjw@notrubraw.com](mailto:rjw@notrubraw.com) or [adascontact@gmail.com](mailto:adascontact@gmail.com).**

## Audlem Voices

After the highly successful Arts & Music Festival, Audlem Voices staged a free performance in St James's Church for members of the public who needed a cool, relaxing environment to aid contemplation. We performed John Rutter's 'Magnificat' with soloist Jane Johnson, as well as other pieces by Handel and Vivaldi.



Our conductor, Jenny Collis-Smith, introduced the choir who were smartly dressed in matching evening attire, as befitted the occasion. They were delighted to see that both young and old had filled the church, and were

equally grateful for the generous public donations made at the end of their performance, which will go towards their ongoing costs of room hire and new music.

Our next performance was a joint venture with Ludlow Male Voice Choir on Saturday 20 July at The Methodist Church, Broad Street, Ludlow.

One of the choir members, Sally, whose mother Maggie Davies is the conductor of this auspicious group, suggested this exciting joint venture. Members of Audlem Voices, quick to take up any opportunity for a fun weekend, turned up at Ludlow in a variety of caravans, mobile homes, tents and for the more discerning, a night at The Feathers!

The two choirs sang four pieces together, as well as their signature piece 'We Are The Choir'. Eager to appeal to a wider audience, Audlem Voices also performed 'A Tribute To Queen', 'Mamma Mia' and 'Can You Feel The Love Tonight', as well as more traditional pieces.

Audlem Voices' next performance locally will be at **7.30pm on 19 October at St James's Church** in aid of ADAS. We hope to see you there.

## ADCA news

Audlem & District Community Action (ADCA), which runs the Thornton House Day and Coffee clubs, recently heard that we have obtained Innovation Grants from Cheshire East Council to maintain and expand our services to older people and their carers who are in need of social activity and support.

This means that we can continue with our plans to increase the membership of our existing clubs, particularly for people who live in the outlying parts of Audlem & District, and develop the new befriending and home library services we have started for housebound people.

Our Co-ordinator, Ronni Briggs, would be pleased to hear from anyone who wants to use our services or who would like to refer people. **Telephone Ronni on 07845 495973 or contact Roger Millns, ADCA's Chairman, on [roger.millns@lineone.net](mailto:roger.millns@lineone.net) or telephone 07807 402348.**

ADCA relies very much on our excellent band of volunteers. We will need even more volunteers, including voluntary drivers, as our services expand. If you can provide a few hours help each month, please get in touch.

Thornton House is to be replaced with affordable bungalows for older people by Wulvern Housing and will close by the end of July 2013. Wulvern is now unable to provide a new communal facility due to the financial climate but has offered to provide land on the site for ADCA to consider building one. ADCA is now a part of the Public Hall Extension Committee which is looking at how such a development could include facilities for older people as an alternative venue for ADCA in the future.

In the meantime, we have been fortunate in being able to relocate the Tuesday Day Club to Hankelow Methodist Chapel from the beginning of August. The Friday Morning Coffee Club will relocate to the Lord Combermere following a kind offer from Alan and Jo Brown.

**Roger Millns, Chairman**



## Anniversary concert

Audlem Methodist Church will host a concert by Winterley Methodist Brass Band on **Saturday 28 September at 7.30pm** as part of the church's 150th Anniversary

celebrations. The band also has a special birthday this year – it is celebrating 75 Years of music-making. The concert, which takes place during Harvest Festival weekend, is in aid of The Farming Community Network, a charity that provides practical and pastoral support for farmers and farming families during times of need and distress. Tickets cost £5 and will go on sale next month. Please come along and give us your support.



## History Society at large

The Wedgwood Museum was the venue of our annual summer car outing and members enjoyed a factory tour and a visit to the superb collection of pottery.

Last month's coach outing saw 40 members and friends first visit the Staffordshire Hoard Exhibition at Hanley Museum, an amazing display of intricately carved pieces of gold and garnet. After lunch we went on to Rode Hall near Scholar Green where Sir Richard Baker Wilbraham, eighth Baronet of this long-standing Cheshire family, welcomed us to his home. The party divided into three groups for a very interesting extended tour, enlivened by personal anecdotes and asides from our guides. This was followed by a cream tea in the Barn, baked and served by Lady Anne and her team, leaving just enough time for a visit to the gardens and walled vegetable garden.

The History Society's regular monthly meetings begin again on **Thursday 19 September at 7.30pm** in the Scout & Guide Hall, when Dorothy Nicolle is the speaker on 'The History of Shrewsbury'. Non-members are most welcome. **Contact Dorothy Jones, Secretary, for details on 811814.**

## Audlem W.I.

At the June meeting of Audlem W.I., retired primary school teacher, Barbara Foster, gave an entertaining account of her time as a National Trust volunteer. One of her many roles was as housekeeper at Dunham Massey. Her late husband also volunteered on his retirement, and Barbara looked back on their many happy years as a double act of housekeeper and butler.

At the July meeting President Irene Cunliffe welcomed John and Annette Christophers for their talk on 'The History of Pottery'. Members had a 'hands on' session and each members' initial was incorporated into a large terracotta bowl which will eventually be raffled.

The next meeting for members will be the annual Garden Party to be held at the home of member Elizabeth Huntbach on 8 August. **For details contact Helen Dunlop on 811995.**

## Carers' coffee mornings

As the official Carers' Centre monthly meetings have moved to Nantwich, the Audlem group continues to meet informally at Jinja Bakes on the second Tuesday of the month, from 10.30am to about noon. Special reduced prices for attendees! Just drop in – all welcome whether caring for children with disabilities, aged parents or neighbours. **For details, contact Celia Bloor on 811260.**

## Diary dates

### Monthly

**ADCA Day Club** every Tuesday at Hankelow Methodist Chapel from 10.30am to 3.30pm. Includes lunch and entertainment. Volunteer transport provided.

**ADCA drop-in Coffee Club** every Friday at The Lord Combermere from 10.00am to 12.00pm.

**Carers' Coffee Mornings**, 13 August, 10 September and 8 October at Jinja Bakes from 10.30am to 12.00pm.

### August

24 Audlem Beer Festival to 26 August.

### September

5 'The History & Making of Walking Sticks', W.I. talk, Scout & Guide Hall, 2.00 pm.

14 Rode Heath Silver Band, St James's Church, 7.30pm.

19 'The History of Shrewsbury' – History Society talk by Dorothy Nicolle, Scout & Guide Hall, 7.30pm.

21 ADAS Table Top Sale, Audlem Public Hall, 10.00am.

28 Anniversary Concert at Audlem Methodist Church with the Winterley Methodist Brass Band, 7.30pm.

### October

19 Audlem Voices Concert, St James's Church, 7.30pm

**The closing date for items for the autumn issue is 10 October 2013 for distribution during the first week of November. Please contact Editor Kira Nicholls on 812485 or at newsletter@audlem.org, or leave your contribution at the Post Office. All items will be carefully considered.**