



The newsletter for residents of Audlem & District

Winter 2015/2016

Audlem Parish Council Business Summary, January 2016

The Precept

Councillors agreed the Parish Council budget for 2016/17 in the January meeting, details of which can be found on the Parish Council website. They also set the precept for 2016/17. With significantly increased expenditure predicted due to the anticipated takeover of the playing field, car park, play area and tennis courts and supporting community initiatives such as the Annexe to the Public Hall, together with the halving of the council tax support grant to £872, councillors concluded that there was no other option but to raise the precept by 2%.

Happily, due to a rise in the tax base for Audlem, residents will see no increase in the amount they have to pay. In fact the amount payable will fall by 2p for a band D property from £42.85 to £42.83. The tax base is a figure calculated each year based on the number of homes in the Parish, allowing for properties which attract discounts such as single person occupancy; it is the predicted number of standard household equivalents paying council tax. The rise in the tax base has offset the rise in the amount that the Parish Council receives so the amount each household will be paying will remain the same.

Recycling Bins to Go

The Parish Council is working with Cheshire East Council to arrange for the removal of the recycling bins in the Car Park and hopefully they will soon be gone. This is because they are no longer needed with residents now using their own silver/grey bins for glass rubbish.

Their removal will also create space for the new annexe to be built at the rear of the Public Hall.

Audlem Neighbourhood Plan

STOP PRESS! Brilliant news! The Independent Examiner has confirmed that, subject to some minor modifications, the Plan has been approved and is now recommended for referendum. Further information to follow.

Outdoor Fitness Equipment – Fingers Crossed!

The Parish Council is in the running for a grant from the Tesco Community Fund which provides grants towards community projects on green and open spaces. If successful, we hope to provide outdoor gym and fitness equipment on the far side of the playing field, with eight separate pieces of equipment which will be suitable for anyone taller than 1.4m (4' 7"). It is not just for the young and fit. Those of us who are less supple should also have fun trying out the equipment.

Parish Councillors' contact details

Heather Jones, Chair - 811836

Geoff Seddon, Vice Chair - 811282

Frances Christie - 811340 **Bill Consterdine** - 811647

Kate Down - 811160 **David Higham** - 812069

Mike Hill - 811843 **Phil Johnson** - 811774

Pam Seddon - 811282 **Dave Siddorns** - 811012

John Thompson - 812333

Your Parish Clerk is **Kirstin Dixon** - **01630 658456**
or Email audlemparishclerk@gmail.com

Parish Council meetings will be held in the Meeting Rooms adjoining Audlem Methodist Church on Mondays, 1 February, 7 March and 4 April. 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.

Poorly Trained Dog Owners

Many people have commented about the sad fact that some dog owners leave bags full of poo festooning Audlem's trees and verges rather than carry their dog's detritus home with them - or at very least to a nearby bin. This is a disgusting habit which causes offence to the majority of residents and also to the vast majority of dog owners.

The many footpaths and bridleways in the Parish are maintained by Cheshire East Council not the Parish Council. Even if notices about leaving dog faeces are put up, there is nobody to police them. Nor are there the resources to position dog bins on every footpath in the village or to have someone empty them regularly. We are fortunate to have bins located on the playing field dog walking area and along the canal tow path and urge dog-walkers to use these to dispose of poo-bags.



The only way action can be taken is for people who see this happening to challenge the irresponsible owners although there is a risk that these selfish individuals will respond with language as unpleasant as their dogs' faeces. Alternatively, residents may wish to report known offenders (take

photographs where possible) to the Dog Wardens on 0300 123 5021 or wardens@cheshireeast.gov.uk

Use them or lose them?

Residents may have received a letter from Pharmacy4U which offers to organise your repeat prescriptions and have them delivered to your home. The Patient Participation Group has asked us to point out this is an independent company offering a useful service, but it is important that wherever possible we support our local pharmacy. The helpful team there provides much more than repeat prescriptions. They provide advice on minor ailments, an efficient one-off and repeat prescription service, a wide range of general pharmaceutical goods and cosmetic items and the opportunity to "click and collect" your online purchases.

Similarly, the Post Office is once again under threat of being closed and its services moved elsewhere - either into another local shop or possibly out of the village altogether. If everyone makes a point of supporting these and the other well-stocked local businesses, then Audlem can remain a thriving community into the future.

Audlem Traders' Association

Owners of the shops, pubs and cafés in Audlem have been meeting four or five times a year for many years to discuss topics of common interest. These include wide ranging subjects such as trading conditions, parking, "The Big Switch On" and other annual events in Audlem, business rates and utility costs, joint marketing and promotion, roadworks etc.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 2 March, mainly to consider costs and potential savings on utilities such as electricity, oil, phones etc. We would love to see more local traders at our meetings – for more information, please contact Hugh Pocock at hugh@oxtailandtrotter.com.

Audlem Youth Club

Audlem Youth Club was re-launched in July last year and currently meets at the Baptist Chapel meeting room on the first Friday of every month, and every Wednesday in between, 7pm - 9pm.

We have a lot of fun, try not to be too serious, have a great tuck shop and would love to see you if you are in Year 7 or above (weekly subs £1). Contact Kate on 07789 915940 with any questions.



Audlem District History Society

At our meeting in October John White spoke about the History of Wistaston. He commenced his talk by saying that "the man who forgets his history is often condemned to re-live it".

He told us about some of the families that had lived in Wistaston Hall and how several local streets had been named after them eg Stewart Street, Walthall Street and Broughton Lane.

In November we were privileged to listen to Reverend Jennifer Matthews who told us about growing up in Barbados where church-going and religious debate were a natural part of family and community life.

She spoke movingly of the influence of her mother whose deep religious convictions had shaped her outlook on life. She described her story as a journey from belief in a God of judgment to one of trust in a God of love and redemption and concluded by saying how welcome the people of Audlem had made her and her family feel since they had moved here.

The year concluded at "The Hinds Head" in Norton-in-Hales when a large group of members and friends gathered for a very enjoyable Christmas lunch.

We look forward to 2016 when we have talks covering a wide range of topics. Forthcoming events are listed in the Diary Dates.

Dorothy Jones

Audlem Special Events Team

ASET is pleased to report that the annual Bonfire event was a great success with a record crowd in attendance enjoying the £7,200 firework display by national champions Blitz Fireworks.



ASET is now working hard on its 2016 programme of events which will include: Saturday, 2nd July, Party on the Park; Sunday, 31st July, Festival of Transport and Sunday, 6th November, Bonfire Night.

ASET depends on sponsorship to help finance these events. Advertising space is available in both The Party on the Park and Festival of Transport programmes. Telephone 811211 for information.

Lynne Smith

APHAx - New Public Hall Annexe Dinner Dance

The big move towards the exciting works that will transform the Public Hall into the best around for miles continues apace.



As a marker for this excellent news for our fine village, the Celebratory Dinner dance will be held on the 19th of March in the hall itself. We are transforming the inside with a huge marquee look. There will be dancing to the wonderful music of the 22 strong VCO band, playing all the great tunes. Dining will include a three course dinner prepared and served by JA's of Audlem. The event offers a wonderful chance to put on your bling and dust out those dinner suits as we all enjoy a superb night.

Tickets are going fast. They cost £25 and are available from Ralph Warburton at 01270 812125 or rjw@notrubraw.com.

Canal Art Exhibition at Audlem Mill

The annual Canal Art Exhibition at Audlem Mill will be held from Sunday 13 March to Sat 9 April 2016, ie two weeks either side of Easter.

This exhibition, held in conjunction with the Guild of Waterway Artists, is probably the largest collection of canal art anywhere. It will be the eighth exhibition, and visitors will see around 150 works of art, mainly paintings (but some photographs), from at least 15-18 artists. Most Guild members will be exhibiting, including Eric Gaskell, Dusty Miller, and Sarah Pressland. Also included are watercolours by Audlem artist Sheila M Webster.



Audlem Mill is open every day, including Sunday, from 1 March.

Peter and Christine Sylvester

Audlem and District Probus Club

Our (all male) club meets on alternate Thursday mornings at Brookfield Golf Club to hear guest speakers on a variety of topics. We also organise monthly visits and walks for members and friends.

Recent visits have included the impressive Gro-Continental distribution centre in Whitchurch, Wightwick Manor and Gardens near Wolverhampton and Media City in Salford.

Our programme for 2016 starts with our Annual Lunch at Brookfield, and a social evening on 4 March, reviewing our activities since our formation in 1995.

Lucy Davenport

Audlem Friday Art Group

The Friday Art Group started over a year ago with the aim of experimenting with different ways of drawing and painting and to visit art galleries and events.

The programme for this year includes life drawing, work developed from Indian art, architecture and textiles, different drawing styles of artists and visits to Birmingham Art Gallery, Tate and Royal Academy in London and Art in Action near Oxford.

To find out more or to get involved please contact Christine Johnson 01270 811774 or email christmijdill@live.c.o.uk.



Audlem Methodist Church News

In Christmas spirit, we welcomed back "The Grove Singers" in December for a musical version of Dickens "Christmas Carol". A full audience was delighted with both the quality of singing and with the accompanying small band, and the evening raised £634. Also, Christmas service collections raised £228 for Methodist Homes (previously MHA).

Looking forward to Lent and Easter, we shall be hosting weekly ecumenical Sunday soup lunches (homemade of course), between 14 February and 20 March, with donations for charities. All are welcome to join us, starting at 12.30 pm.

A special Maundy Thursday Communion Service will be held at 7.30pm, followed by "The Gospel of the Watch". The Good Friday Walk of Witness (25 March) will start at the chapel car park.



Following their success last year, Audlem Methodist "Thespians" are planning to present a murder mystery set in the Egyptian desert. A superb dinner will be served whilst the mysterious events are unravelled. Details and exact date to be available shortly. (Feb/March).

Christina Lawson

News from St James'

At St James' Church we will be celebrating Lent with the Methodist and Baptist churches by joining together to enjoy soup lunches each Sunday at 12.30 pm in the Methodist hall starting on 14th February for 6 weeks. There is usually a large variety of home cooked soups to choose from! There is no charge although a voluntary donation can be made, all of which goes to charity. Do come and join us all or any Sunday in Lent and savour the many flavours on offer.

If you prefer an individual challenge then there is a leaflet "Living Lent Well" which will be available in church and on the website www.stjamesaudlem.org.uk. Services during Lent and Easter will be on the church website as well as advertised on the notice board outside church.

Anne Draper

A Cracker of a WI Christmas Party!

Fortunately Audlem WI members have recovered and forgotten the excesses of our Christmas Party, and with short term memory loss as an excuse, we are ready and

willing to take up a new set of challenges for 2016.

February brings Susan Leicester to our meeting, talking about her time as a "Woman in the White House".

I wonder if she was around when Bill Clinton was President? It should prove interesting!

March 3rd brings us a Members' Meeting. We ladies love these as we get to find out about other members' lives, so permission to gossip is granted!

Finally, April 7th brings us the now legendary Diana Beard who will be talking about her time in "The British Bake Off!"

Remember, all ladies are welcome to attend as visitors before joining our friendly, active group, so maybe this would be an opportune time?

Stephanie Richardson



Dates for Your Diary ...

February

- 10 Ash Wednesday service at St James' Church at 10.45 am.
- 14 Joint churches Lent Soup Lunch at the Methodist Church after 10.30 am service.
- 14 Methodist Church at 6.30 pm – Music and Meditation.
- 18 History Society meeting at 7.30 pm at the Scout & Guide Hall. Speaker: Mavis Smith on "Education in Betley before 1885".

March

- 3 WI meeting at 2pm at the Scout & Guide Hall. Competition: A Spring Posy.
- 17 History Society meeting at 7.30 pm. Speaker: Peter Denny on "The Delves-Broughton of Cheshire".
- 19 APHAX Dinner Dance in the Public Hall. Tickets cost £25 from Ralph Warburton (tel 812125).

April

- 23 Audlem Voices Spring Concert: 7.30 pm in St James's Church.