

AROUND AUDLEM

The newsletter for residents of Audlem & District

Winter/Spring 2018

Audlem Parish Council

Parish Council News, January 2018

Councillor Vacancy

We are sad to report that Dr Ceri Parsons has recently resigned as a Parish Councillor due to other commitments which leaves a vacancy on the Council. If you are interested in becoming a Parish Councillor and helping shape the future for our community, please put your name forward for co-option. Details can be found on the Parish Council noticeboard and on AudlemOnline or contact any Councillor for more information.

Hedgerows

Many complaints are received each year about garden hedges which grow to the extent that they overhang the pavement and make it difficult for pedestrians to walk past safely. If you have a hedge or bushes next to the footpath please take a critical look at them and, if necessary, cut them back in advance of the bird nesting season.

Post Office

Residents of Audlem and surrounding villages are delighted to have a Post Office back in the village. Please continue to support it, and other village businesses.



UPDATE YOUR CONTACT DETAILS

The next edition of the newsletter will contain the directory of businesses, organisations and clubs, so please make sure your contact details are correct on AudlemOnline and delete any entries which are no longer valid. Many thanks for your help.

Post Collection Times

Following representations from the Parish Council the collection time at the postbox at Windmill Drive is now 5pm from Monday to Friday and 9am on Saturdays.

Planning Update

17/0339N McCarthy & Stone application has gone to Appeal. On 10 January a Section 106 application for funds towards Audlem Medical Practice was approved by the Southern Planning Committee. This will now be sent to the Planning Inspectorate for consideration. McCarthy & Stone have made a new application 17/5776N which has yet to be determined but in the unfortunate event the application is approved then we hope the S106 application will again be put forward.

Details of the number of additional homes Cheshire East Council requires from Audlem are expected in the next month or so. Parish Councillors will then carry out consultation with residents with a view to updating our Neighbourhood Plan.

All recent planning applications can be found in the Parish Council minutes which are posted on the noticeboard in the village centre or can be viewed on AudlemOnline at:

<http://audlempc.audlem.org/downloads/parish-council/parish-council-minutes.html>

Parish Councillors' Contact Details

Heather Jones, Chair - 811836

Geoff Seddon, Vice Chair - 811282

Frances Mary Christie - 811340 Tim Lawton - 811899

Bill Consterdine - 811647 Kate Down - 811160

Jenny Carlin - 811733 David Higham - 812069

Dave Siddorns - 811012 Suzi Warren - 811086

Your Parish Clerk is Sandie McBennett - 07432 332857
or email audlempc@gmail.com.

Parish Council meetings will be held in the Meeting Rooms adjoining Audlem Methodist Church on Mondays, 5th February, 5th March and 9 April 2018. 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.

Audlem FC

The team was re-formed back in 2012 and we were very lucky in getting sponsorship from both the Lord Combermere and Audlem Dry Cleaners. This enabled us to buy our strip.

Over the years since then, the team has changed in personnel reflecting what occurs in the professional FA leagues; but for us, no fees paid in getting new players.

Today we have a stronger team and, having finished just one from the bottom of the league last season, we are now mid-table and playing with great heart. We have won 6, drawn 1 and lost 7.

This season we did not play any home matches between August and the end of November, in order to allow the playing field to get to its best possible state following the remedial work carried out by Cheshire East last April.



We now begin a series of home games up to the end of March. We play on Sundays at 11am. It would be good to have any villagers there to cheer us as we strive to climb up the league. A big plus is that we are in a semi-final for the FA Vase Competition on the 21st January. In addition we have the new Annexe with the best changing rooms and showers of all the teams in the Crewe Sunday leagues.

ADAPT Highlights

Having distributed 6,000 copies of the 'ADAPT cycling for all' map in 2017, a grant from the Cheshire East Community Grants Scheme means another 3,000 maps are now available from local establishments, nearest towns and in venues along the routes. The quiet routes are attractive to new or casual cyclists of all ages. Detailed guides to each route are on the Audlem website. Organised rides take place on the second Sunday of each month, leaving the Bridge Inn at 10.30am and stopping for refreshment along the way. Under 18s must be accompanied by an adult. For the winter months we have chosen shorter rides.

Our Food Group meets monthly, sharing knowledge of growing and preparing seasonal food. In winter we plan for the year ahead, get our plots ready, and plant onions, salads, sweet peas and broad beans, some indoors some out. In April, look out for our first Saturday stall of the year, selling mainly seedlings to get Audlem's growers off to a good start.

10th Anniversary Concert

Audlem Voices led by their conductor Jenny Collis Smith invite you to their 10th Anniversary concert at St James' Church on Saturday 21st April at 7.30pm. We will be singing Rutter Magnificat, Faure Requiem and the Easter Hymn from Cavalleria Rusticana. We are pleased to announce soloists Denise Leigh and Kevin Whitfield will also join us. Tickets priced £7.50 will be available from Williams Newsagents, Pat Jones 811005 or any member of the choir.

ADAS News

Audlem was again successful in the Britain in Bloom competition and received a Silver Gilt award at the presentation ceremony in Southport. Many thanks are due to all the volunteers who helped with the planting and watering of the summer bedding. Planting for this year will take place in May - if you would like to help please send a message (contact details below).

The Big Switch On was very well attended. The big tree was kindly donated by Angela and Graham Allinson of Hatherton Lodge and Ralph Warburton sponsored the Switch On. After Santa had switched on the lights, the pupils of Audlem St James' School entertained the crowd with some festive singing.



Children enjoyed visiting Santa in his grotto and the shops were busy.

Similarly there was a record turn-out for the annual carol singing event in the Square accompanied by Crewe Brass.

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of these two events.

In spring ADAS will be working with the Canal and River Trust to refurbish the flower bed that runs alongside the canal from the Mill Shop to the Shroppie Fly. This will be funded by a donation of £1,159 from the Cooperative Community Fund.

On the weekend of 23rd and 24th June ADAS is hoping to hold an Open Gardens event. If you would like your garden to be included please email for further details. This event is an important fundraiser for ADAS but also attracts many visitors to the village.

Thank you again to all the volunteers who have helped make 2017 such a successful year for ADAS - your help is much appreciated. Finally, if you have any suggestions for projects in the village or would like to volunteer, please get in touch. Contact: adascontact@gmail.com

Another Successful Year for the History Society

Our 2017 programme of meetings ended on a fitting note with a talk by our chairperson Celia Bloor - a founder member of the Society.

Celia charted the history of Audlem from its early beginnings when it was first mentioned in the Domesday Book in 1086 to 1655 when the Grammar School was completed.

She explained that Audlem has had various spellings over the years including Aldelyme meaning formerly of the Lyme Wood. Audlem has never had a Lord of the Manor - Moss Hall was often rented out - and this helped to keep the village free. Her extremely interesting and informative talk left the audience keenly awaiting Part 2 and even 3!

2018 promises to be another enjoyable year with a wide range of subjects planned, including trips to Highfields and The Catalyst Science Discovery Centre in Widnes.

Our meetings are open to everyone - it's just £3 on the door (students free) - you can be assured of a warm welcome. For more information please see Diary Dates or contact Dorothy Jones on 01270 811814.

Audlem Methodist Church

Many thanks to all who supported our Christmas Coffee Morning and Charity Fair in December. We are happy to report that £513 was raised, which has been split equally between Macmillan and Church funds. In total we have now donated £1,173 to Macmillan Cancer Care from our varied events over the year.

In November, the year 6 class at our village school were welcomed for a packed morning of drama, film and craft organised by our own Methodist circuit on the theme of remembrance, particularly of the First World War and Christian acts of remembrance. The response of the super children from St James made worthwhile all the preparation needed for this 'premiere'.

Preparations are now in full flow for our annual production. Please note the change of date from February to Wednesday 7th-10th March at 7.30pm. We shall present 'The Vicar Of Dibley' (written by Richard Curtis and Paul Mayhew-Archer with Tiger Aspect Productions). Dibley is a sleepy village populated by parishioners of the maddest variety – sound familiar? Join us to get to know them and their new vicar. The young cast will be supported by our much-loved choir, who will rock the house. Tickets (£6) are being sold by Julia Parton, 01270 811761.

Canal Art Exhibition

We have now been at Audlem Mill for just over 11 years - though we are currently closed for our normal winter break. Do come in soon after we reopen on 1st March, and you'll see that we have refitted parts of the Mill – it seemed the right time to make some changes.

Our annual Canal Art Exhibition, held in conjunction with the Guild of Waterway Artists, starts from Sunday 18 March to Saturday 14 April. We will have at least 150 paintings, linocuts and photographs from about 20 artists, so do come along and have a look.

The Annexe

The Annexe was formally opened by the High Sheriff of Cheshire Sarah Callander Beckett. Around 500 residents attended and viewed the facilities. They were also entertained by local musicians including the Duffey Boys with their special song describing the Annexe as a 'bit on the side' and the whole afternoon was available on YouTube. Since the launch the small team of volunteers have been working hard organising how the Annexe will operate.



The Audlem and District Community Action hold their regular Luncheon Club and activities in the Thornton Room, the Youth Club meet in their own room furnished and decorated to their choice and Audlem Football Club now has the best facilities in the league and the results on the pitch have been much improved. Our community not-for-profit gym, which is now open 15 hours a day, 7 days a week, has proved hugely popular with over 160 members. 5A's Drama Group will be using the Annexe as their 'back stage' for the pantomime productions and we are trying to improve the storage available. The Annexe has hosted a meeting of the Cheshire East Council Cabinet, Audlem Parish Council held its Finance Committee there and both the Thornton Room and the Youth Club have been hired by villagers for private functions with more in the pipeline.

A lot of interest has been shown by health professionals in the Treatment Room. We now have a local physiotherapist providing services by appointment in the Annexe and are expecting other services to be available, all of which will save travel to Crewe or Nantwich. We now have over 250 people using the Annexe with over 25 volunteers. It is early days but the signs are Audlem people are making good use of the new facilities.

St James' Church: A Fragile Building

The picture of St James' Church is often used as a symbol of Audlem. It is a place of worship, week by week, for people of all ages, for the happy occasions as well as the sad. It is open every day for visitors, either to explore its history or to be quiet and pray. It is at the heart of the village in every sense and is a tourist attraction. Today it is in a rather fragile condition.

Every 5 years the building is inspected, and the last 2 inspections have highlighted several areas in need of attention. We have already carried out expensive internal repairs to stabilise cracks and the column supports. Our church finances are entirely dependent on the generosity of our group of regular worshippers, but the building is also used by the wider community. We have managed to cover our running costs and repairs over the past few years but this is not easy.

The work that needs doing is not glamorous but essential. We need to do the work before it becomes a 'health and safety' issue. The work is to the tower roof, the tower masonry and the wall above the west door. We cannot be certain how much this work will cost, but we expect in the region of £75,000. Once we have raised a certain amount of money then we can apply for 'match funding' grants – so first we need to do what we can by fund-raising here in our community.

One of the events we will be holding is a concert, please see the Diary Dates section for details. If you would like to make a donation, or organise a fund-raising event then do get in touch with Helen Chantry 01270-811543 helenchantry@btopenworld.com or Church wardens.

AUDLEM PARISH COUNCIL Councillor Vacancy

"The role of Audlem Parish Council is to promote and manage the smooth running and sustainable development of our community in a democratic, prudent and non-discriminatory way, achieving this by adherence to the highest standards. Further it should represent the views and aims of the parish in external affairs, directly or via devolved bodies."

Could this be you?

Would you like to get involved in making decisions about your local community and local issues?

Could you make a significant contribution to the village in which you live or work?

Do you have an interest in your local environment, local transport, local government finances, amenities, planning and housing issues, community events and policing?

Want to make a difference?

Applications are open to anyone aged 18 years and over; eligible to vote and have lived or worked in the parish for 12 months or more, or within 3 miles of the parish boundary.

To find out more about being a Councillor please contact the Clerk at audlempc@gmail.com or speak to any Parish Councillor.



New Year's Eve 2018 Appeal

The tradition of a wonderful display of exploding rockets over the Square as the clock strikes midnight on the last day of the year was broken at the end of 2017. The three bodies which had funded the event over the years had pulled out.

We began this practice back in 1999 when we welcomed the new Millennium with a colourful display in the night sky. The whole event was very popular, with the Square packed with hundreds of villagers, many in fancy dress.

We then decided that we would continue to mark this date and it has been very welcome over the past 18 years.

Following the non-event at the end of 2017, I am seeking to re-introduce it for December 2018. I wish to appeal to all for help with raising the funds needed and I am pleased to say that I have already obtained £500 from people towards the fee from Blitz Fireworks.

Please do come back to me with a pledge to help with this plan. Big or small – all will be very gratefully received. At the moment, all I need is your pledge.

Contact details: Ralph Warburton: 07813 820157 rjw@notrubraw.com

Audlem WI

In December we held our Xmas party, but this time we had a surprise for our members who, after completing a Christmas Carol Quiz, were taken on a journey into the mysterious world of the impossible and the unexplained!

Our entertainment was a magician, performing feats which tested our knowledge of the laws of science, although disappointingly he failed to saw any of our members in half as we never stayed still long enough and the equipment looked too much like a coffin for our tastes!

We are looking forward to our annual lunch at The Lord Combermere in January, followed by a talk on 'A Year in the Garden' by Phil Smith from Wollerton Old Hall Garden on the 1st February. March 1st will see Audlem WI being taken on 'A Tour of New Zealand' with Mike Hines and Hazel Rowlands, with the added bonus of no jet lag!

Diary Dates ...

February

- 15 History Society Meeting at 7.30pm in the Scout and Guide Hall. Speaker: David Cooke on 'Crewe – The Railway Colony 1837-1853'.

March

- 11 ADAPT cycle ride - Route modified L18 to Pipegate, approx 17 miles.
- 15 History Society Meeting at 7.30pm in the Scout and Guide Hall. Speaker: Pam Sambrook on 'The Servants of Trentham in the 1830s'.
- 17 Concert at St James Church – Eric Newton and Friends – at 7.30pm. Contact Frank Shenton on 812432.
- 22 The Chef Show (TAVA) at Audlem Public Hall at 7.30pm. Tickets: 811250 or tava325@gmail.com

April

- 8 ADAPT cycle ride – Route MD1MD2 Market Drayton circular trip, 21 miles.
- 19 History Society Meeting at 7.30pm in the Scout and Guide Hall. Speaker: Claire Moore on 'How to read a landscape'.