



Audlem Parish Council

Business summary, October 2014

Neighbourhood Plan news

The Residents First Neighbourhood Plan process has taken a giant step forwards as the Steering Committee has now been set up. This committee, which comprises three Parish Councillors, two Parish Plan committee members and six independent residents, has taken over the whole process from the Parish Council.

Over the coming months, there will be another public meeting about the Neighbourhood Plan. Residents will also be asked their opinions on a range of issues via a questionnaire. Many of these will relate to the Parish Plan but there are some that will guide the Neighbourhood Plan process. The Plan will not just be about where development should take place but on issues such as preserving open spaces, car parking and traffic management. All residents are urged to get involved and state their views.

Planning developments

The Parish Council is still waiting for the result of Gladman Developments Limited's appeal which would allow them to build 120 houses on the land near Bennions Farm at Little Heath. After their original application was turned down, they then put in both an appeal against the refusal and a second application. The Planning Inspector, Frances Mahoney, heard the appeal over a period of seven days in May this year and we were expecting to have received her verdict in August. It has not been forthcoming yet and we await it with interest.

A second major planning application followed by Hockenhull Properties Limited to build 36 houses off Heathfield Road/Mill Lane. Cheshire East Council turned down the first application. Mr Hockenhull then put in a second application to build 26 houses off Heathfield Road, which was turned down. Now there is a third application (again to build 26 houses off Heathfield Road) and we are due to oppose this at the Cheshire East Southern Planning Board's meeting on 19 November 2014.

Parish Councillors' contact details

Heather Jones, Chair – 811836

Geoff Seddon, Vice Chair – 811282

Frances Christie – 811340 Kate Down – 811160

Richard Furber – 811598 David Highman – 812069

Mike Hill – 811843 Phillip Johnson – 811774

John Langston – 812395 Pam Seddon – 811282

David Siddorns – 811012

Your Parish Clerk is **Kirstin Dixon – 01630 658456** or email **audlemparishclerk@gmail.com**.

Superfast broadband still on the way

Some time ago Connecting Cheshire promised that the majority of Audlem would receive superfast broadband by 'the end of the summer 2014'. Then it was to be September/October. Now the likelihood is that this phase of work will be completed some time between December and March 2015.

Connecting Cheshire has apparently found it difficult to push the fibre optic cables through the underground ducting in some areas and, unfortunately, Audlem is among them. However, superfast broadband will arrive eventually and once it does we are assured that it will be worth the wait.

Awards galore!

Representatives of Audlem and Hankelow attended the awards ceremony for the Cheshire Community Action Community Pride competition in Congleton last month – and what a night it was!

First, the Methodist Chapel was awarded a 'Little Gem' certificate for its garden. Next, *AudlemOnline* won Best Village Website. Then Hankelow won the Best Kept Village award for villages with a population of under 400.

Finally, Audlem won the category of Best Kept Village with a population of 1,001 to 2,500.

As if that wasn't enough, news has reached us from ADAS that Audlem has won a Silver Gilt Medal for the village's beautiful floral displays, awarded by Britain in Bloom North West. Well done everyone who was involved in any way in achieving these amazing results. Here's to next year!



Summer competition

Many thanks to everyone who submitted entries to the Summer Competition. Judging has recently taken place and the winners are being notified as we go to press. We hope to be able to display the winning entries in the near future.

Parish Council meetings will be held at the Audlem Methodist Church on Mondays 3 November, 1 December and 5 January 2015. 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.

School report

The start of the school year at Audlem St James' C.E. Primary School has been full of exciting activities and events. Recent highlights have included:



Ruby class archaeological dig

The children in Ruby class had great fun digging up parts of our school field recently. As part of their prehistoric Britain topic, they have been looking at the work done by archaeologists. Their teacher hid various artefacts on the school field and Ruby class had to use all of their skills to locate and dig up the items, and try to work out what they could be.

Quad Kids athletics success

Congratulations to the 20 children who represented our school in the Quad Kids athletics at Malbank School this month. The children all took part in sprinting, long distance running, jumping and throwing events. Our Year 3/4 team came fourth overall out of the 13 schools and first

in the small schools competition. Our Year 5/6 team came fourth overall and second in the small schools competition. Well done – we are really proud of you all!

Fundraising and helping others

Our School Council has been busy organising a Smartie challenge for each class in school to collect money for the 'Mend our Mum Appeal' and they also chose the charity 'Save the Family' for our Harvest Appeal.

Meanwhile, as part of our Keeping Safe week in school, our Year 5 and 6 children worked with ChildLine and decided to hold a Cake Bake Sale to raise money for this worthwhile charity. They brought in a wonderful array of cakes and raised over £50!

Mammoth maths

Diamond Class have had a fabulous couple of weeks working on their 'Mammoth' Maths project. They began by learning and practising how to draw to scale and to understand ratio. They then drew massive mammoth pictures and worked in teams to find a way to paint their mammoths on our school field to scale using sticks, string and paint.



ADAPT makes the juices flow

ADAPT held a very successful apple pressing session last month for members and other folk from the village. We also had some pears to press with a very pleasing result. Our picture shows the various processes – cutting the apples, crushing them, pressing and bottling the juice. Now we can't wait for next year when we hope to press not only apples and pears, but other fruit and even vegetables.



Looking for peace and quiet in a busy, stressful world?

We live in a noisy and busy world. If you would like somewhere to sit and be still in quiet then St James is open from 8.45am till dusk each day for people of any faith or none. However, we would recommend you avoid Thursday morning during term time until 11.00am because this is when we hold Praise and Play for pre-schoolers and their carers. It is not quiet in church then.

Rev'd Helen Chantry, Vicar

Towpath Taskforce achieves makeover

Three cheers for the volunteer Towpath Taskforce that has kindly given Audlem the canalside equivalent of a makeover during the last year – thanks to them, it's never looked lovelier!

Led by organiser Dek Owen, the first volunteer lock-keeper back in 2010, the team of volunteers started last autumn with basic tidying before planting thousands of flowering bulbs



Dek Owen, Volunteer Team Leader for the Canal & River Trust



Canal &
River Trust

Keeping people, nature & history connected

and clearing mud from the towpath surface during winter.

In spring they began the laborious job of painting the locks and canal infrastructure in their trademark 'Shroppie grey'. More recently, the volunteers tidied and weeded the wharf area in front of the Shroppie Fly pub. They have also completed the refurbishment of the Lock Hut and Lock 4, as well as the former mason's and blacksmith's workshops at Lock 10, repairing and painting the fences there and revealing heritage brick paving.

The volunteers, many of whom have been Network Rail staff like



A job well done: the volunteers by the canal

Dek himself, hope to join forces with ADAS to tend to the area in front of Audlem Mill. During the winter months and into early spring 2015 they plan to plant bulbs, clear more of the towpath and refurbish the yard next to Audlem Mill. **If you would like to lend a hand, please contact Dek Owen on 07771 831340.**

Big Brownie birthday

The Big Brownie Birthday to mark the organisation's centenary is now over. All but the newest recruits have been to one or more events around Cheshire since the celebrations started in January, and we have lots of memories and badges to sew onto our uniforms.

We have managed to subsidise all of these the outings through fundraising and grants. Thank you

to every one who has helped us this year.

Any one wishing to place their daughter's name on the Brownie waiting list should do so via the 'Get Involved' section at www.girlguiding.org.uk. It is advisable to put your daughter's name down before she reaches seven years-old as the pack is always full.

Jane Dale, Brownie Leader

Charity shop

Audlem Charity Shop continues to flourish. We are confident that this year will break the record set last year when £27,500 was donated to local good causes.

We are most grateful to ADAS and ASET for organising village events. The Arts Festival and Carnival weekend, and the Festival of Transport weekend, including the Gathering of Historic Narrow Boats organised by Peter and Christine Silvester of the Audlem Mill Shop, attracted huge crowds who seemed eager to take advantage of our bargains. We look forward to the



Big Switch On and arrival of Father Christmas on 27 November.

Many thanks to all our customers, donors and volunteers for their help in the shop's continued success.

Audlem Lass

Audlem Lass has had another fantastic season. Between 5 April and mid-October the canal taxi carried 3,039 adults, 944 children, 351 dogs of assorted shapes and sizes, plus a variety of pushchairs and bikes. The total donations (fares) amounted to £3,945.50 – pushchairs and dogs travelling free of course.

Since the service opened four years ago, Audlem Lass has travelled almost two thousand miles and she now has 22 skippers, almost all of whom have an RWA Inland Waters Certificate thanks to Cheshire Cat Training.

The committee has decided that fares will remain the same next year for the fifth year running. The season starts on Good Friday, 5 April 2015.

Rodney Cottrell



History Society

At our very successful September meeting Celia Bloor spoke about Audlem during WW1 and Maureen Morgan recounted her research into the wartime experiences of her grandfather.

The impressive display of artefacts created huge interest and much reminiscing. Many of the items will be on view again in the Lady Chapel at St. James's Church from 2.00pm on 6 November to 4.00pm on 11 November. Our forthcoming events are listed in the Diary Dates below. Non-members are always welcome – £3 on the door (students free). **For more information contact Dorothy Jones on 01270 811814.**



THE 5A's AUDLEM DRAMA GROUP PROUDLY PRESENTS ITS 21ST PANTOMIME

Jack and the Beanstalk

at Audlem Public Hall on the evenings of
Wednesday 28 January to Saturday 31 January 2015
plus a Saturday matinée.

Tickets are £6 each and orders can be placed now with Margaret Scott on 01270 811743.

Dates for your diary...

November

- 4 Annual Memorial Service for those we have loved and lost, organised by the three Audlem churches. St James's Church, 7.30pm. All welcome.
- 6-11 WW1 artefacts on display, Lady Chapel at St. James's Church.
- 8-7 'Glorious Colour', an exhibition of textiles. Some pieces will be for sale. Audlem Mill (first floor), 10.00am to 4.00pm daily (except Mondays).
- 8 ASET's annual bonfire and fireworks display. Tickets from Audlem Post Office or Blitz Fireworks in Crewe. Gates open 4.00pm, bonfire lit 6.30pm, fireworks 7.00pm.
- 9 The Village Remembrance Service, St James's Church, 10.45am.
- 11 Carers' Support Group with speaker from Cheshire Carers' Centre, Lord Combermere, 10.00am to noon.
- 20 Short History Society AGM followed by 'Aerial Audlem', History Society talk by Geoff Farr, Scout & Guide Hall, 7.30pm.
- 25 Carer's Support Group, coffee and chat, Lord Combermere, 10.00am to noon.



- 27 The Big Switch On of the Christmas Tree Lights, late night opening and arrival of Father Christmas, begins 6.00pm.
- 30 Christingle Service, St James's Church, 4.00pm. The collection will go to **The Children's Society.**

December

- 5 Audlem Voices Carol Concert, Blakenhall Village Hall.
- 9 'Take Time for Yourself at Christmas', Carer's Support Group, Lord Combermere, 10.00am to noon.
- 14 Carol Concert: Audlem Voices and The Band of The Cheshire Constabulary and Corps of Drums. Musical Director David Woollam, St James's Church, 7.00pm. Tickets will be limited – watch *AudlemOnline* for details.
- 16 History Society Christmas Lunch, White Lion, Hankelow, 12.30pm. Tickets £17.
- 19 ADAS Carols in The Square, begins 7.00pm.
- 20 Audlem Voices Carol Concert, The White Lion, Hankelow.



- 21 The Village Carol Service, St James's Church, 6.30pm.
- 22 Audlem Voices Carol Concert, The White Lion, Hankelow.
- 23 Carers' Support Group, pre-Christmas get-together, Lord Combermere, 10.00am to noon.
- 24 **Christmas Eve Services:** The Crib Service, St James's Church, 4.00pm. Christmas Eve Service, Hankelow Methodist Church, 7.30pm. First Communion of Christmas, St James's Church, 11.15pm
- 25 **Christmas Day Services:** Holy Communion, St James's Church, 8.15am. Family Communion, St James's Church, 10.00am. Christmas Service, Audlem Methodist Church, 10.00am. Christmas Morning Worship, Baptist Chapel, 10.30am.
- 31 Fireworks in The Square.



January

- 15 'Magna Carta and All That', History Society talk by Roger Wickson, Scout & Guide Hall, 7.30pm.
- 28-31 The 5A's Audlem Drama Group presents *Jack and the Beanstalk*, Audlem Public Hall, Tickets £6.



The closing date for items for the winter issue is 15 January 2015 for distribution during the first week of February. Please contact Editor Kira Nicholls on 812485, at newsletter@audlem.org, or leave your contribution at the Post Office. All contributions will be carefully considered.