



## Audlem Parish Council Parish Council News, October 2020

Despite the challenging circumstances we have all faced over the last few months the Parish Council has continued to meet monthly using the Zoom technology which I know many of us have grown to love!

The Parish Council worked closely with ADCA and the Lord Combermere in helping to assist with delivery services of hot meals and supplies to local people particularly the elderly and the most vulnerable. A special thanks goes to all the ADCA volunteers during this time and also the staff at the Lord Combermere.

During this period it has been difficult to move a number of projects forward but the Parish Council continues to raise highways issues with Cheshire East Council and has commented on a number of planning applications within the village.

New markings have appeared outside the Fire Station to hopefully stop people blocking the access.

Turnpike Field has proven to be a tremendous asset for the village at this time, it is good to see so many people using the space as a recreation area. It has also been fascinating to read about the plants and wildlife which frequent the field thanks to the wonderful articles penned by Adrian Leighton.



The maintenance of the field has also provided a major point of debate within the village, as I write this article the field has now been cut. I would also like to thank ADAS and AWEG for all their recent work in the field including the removal of the Himalayan balsam.

New signage is to be erected in the field advising people of no camping and no littering. It is also hoped to erect a barrier above the main gate in the near future. New drawings will also be commissioned to illustrate what the proposed green car park will look like. A 12-month maintenance plan is also going to be drawn up for Turnpike Field.

If you would like to have your say on issues and future opportunities for the village now is the perfect time to join the Parish Council as we have a number of vacancies for Parish Councillors.

If you would like further information please email the Interim Parish Clerk at [parishcouncil@audlemnpc.co.uk](mailto:parishcouncil@audlemnpc.co.uk)

A up-to-date list of our Councillors can be found here <https://audlemnpc.audlem.org/councillors.html>

The next meetings will be Monday 9th November 2020, Monday 7th December 2020 and Monday 4th January 2021. All meetings start at 7pm.

### Farewell to Ann Bowles

After 22 years of working in Audlem Charity Shop, 19 of those as Chair, Ann Bowles has decided to retire. She has worked tirelessly, along with our very dedicated volunteers, to raise thousands of pounds for our local charities. She has helped raise the profile of the shop into a well-respected and very well-supported part of the local community. She always made an effort to get to know people and as a result had many returning customers.

There was a small Covid-secure gathering where she was presented with garden centre vouchers from all the volunteers and all present enjoyed a magnificent cake. She will be greatly missed but we welcome our new interim Chair, Helen Beardshall, and look forward to working with her.



## Summer Planting Provides a Bright Splash of Colour

In common with all other groups in the village ADAS activities and projects have been limited throughout the summer months due to Covid-19. However, as the restrictions eased, the Committee decided to plant summer bedding in the centre of the village. Some local residents agreed to plant and maintain the tubs outside the centre. The resulting displays have provided a bright splash of colour and have been much admired.

A bench has been installed adjacent to Boots Chemists - you can now sit in the sunshine and admire the flowers! In addition, ADAS and AWEG volunteers have spent around 150 hours helping to clear Himalayan balsam from the stream in Turnpike Field as well as doing general weeding at the Public Hall Gardens and Medical Centre.



The children at St James School received seed potatoes in June to grow during the summer. It will be interesting to see photos of the resulting crop!

The next ADAS project is to install two benches underneath the beech tree by the Co-op. The funding for this has been kindly donated from the Co-op Community Fund.

During October it is hoped that funds may be available to plant some winter bedding - please see Audlem Online for details of clearing out and planting sessions.

Don't forget, you can visit the ADAS website to find out details of our activities at: <https://www.adasaudlem.org>

This year due to the situation during lockdown it was decided not to collect the ADAS annual subscriptions. However, if you feel you would like to contribute to our funds there is a collection box in Mckelvey's Newsagents. You can also donate online via the link: <https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/8379> Please remember to add gift aid if you are eligible. Finally, we would like to thank all volunteers who have supported the ADAS activities during the past few difficult months. If you would like to become involved in any of our projects please contact Neil Goodyear email: [neilgoodyear@me.com](mailto:neilgoodyear@me.com) or tel: 07564243996

## History Shorts

Obviously, in the current situation our society has not been able to hold any of our planned meetings or events. However, thanks to all our contributors, we have been able to continue with the weekly series of History Shorts covering a wide range of interesting topics. We're very grateful also to AudlemOnline for reproducing them and taking them to a wider audience. There's an archive of all the pieces and notes at: <https://www.audlem.org/features/history-shorts.html>

Wherever possible the "shorts" have been published to commemorate historical events, some hugely significant, others less so, eg the founding of the NHS, the 1940 east coast evacuations and a Lancashire wakes week. We hope to be able to continue with these for the foreseeable future and would welcome more contributions. These should ideally be 200-400 words and can be on any subject with a historical angle. Please provide photographs, if possible, but we can help to find suitable ones. Please send your contribution to [jeremy@jeremynicholls.co.uk](mailto:jeremy@jeremynicholls.co.uk)

At this present time we are planning to begin holding meetings from March 2021 and are looking forward to welcoming you all back.

## Onwards and Upwards at The White Lion

The demolition is done (!) and the rebuilding has begun in earnest. The sudden death of our chairman, Tony Lee, in May was a great loss to us all but made us more determined to see the project through. The pouring of the concrete floor and installation of the final steels will allow the construction of the rear extensions to be completed.

The directors have been "zooming" regularly and are engaged with plumbers, heating engineers, kitchen designers/advisers and electricians as well as providers of cellar equipment. Early discussions have also taken place with individuals interested in managing the pub.

The shareholders are forming various sub-groups to focus on internal and external design. Opportunities for fund-raising and investment are also being targeted. Keep an eye on our website for updates and appeals - "Be Part Of It". [www.whitelionhankelow.com](http://www.whitelionhankelow.com)



## Appointment of Rev A Fulford

The churches of St James Audlem, St Chads Wybunbury and St Johns Doddington are pleased to announce the appointment of the Rev Alison Fulford to the post of Vicar subject to all the legal formalities being fulfilled. She will take up her appointment at a date to be announced.

A brief hello from Alison: "I am really looking forward to being your new vicar and getting to know you. Just so you know a little bit about me here's an introduction. I was brought up in a Christian family so have been to church all my life. After university, I carried on studying as I went to 'vicar school' (theological college!) at Ridley Hall, Cambridge. I have been fortunate to work in a number of churches over the years; in Norwich, Nottingham and surrounding countryside and here in lovely Cheshire. I am married to Ben and have two children. To relax, I like drinking coffee with friends, gardening, reading, having fun days out, knitting and Netflix." We look forward to welcoming her.



## ADCA is Back! (Pssst! We never went away!)

Like every organisation and individual in the country, ADCA (Audlem & District Community Action) has been caught up in the maelstrom of Covid-19. When lockdown was announced we immediately stopped all our face-to-face activities for older people and carers – no clubs, no carers' coffee mornings, no Friday Fun, no anything! We know it left a big empty hole in the lives of our members and carers – not to mention our volunteers. So... what to do?

The trustees took the decision to use ADCA's resources to set up a Coronavirus Home Support Service, with the aim of providing telephone support, shopping and prescription deliveries to people who are self-isolating or who live alone and whose family, friends or neighbours are unable to help them. Over the past six months this service has regularly supported around 80 older people and 100+ carers we already work with, plus a growing number of new people who approached us for help across the six local parishes of Audlem, Buerton, Hankelow, Hatherton & Walgherton, Dodcott-cum-Wilkesley and Newhall.

We have been overwhelmed with offers of help from many new volunteers, and have worked closely with Allan and Jo Brown at The Lord Combermere to deliver meals, fresh fruit and veg, celebration teas for VE Day and picnics.

All this activity made heavy inroads on our finances, and called for many hours of work on grant applications to bring in more funds to keep us going. We are very grateful to the funding bodies whose grants have enabled us to continue into next year, and to all the individuals who have given personal donations.

Staff, volunteers, members and carers were consulted on a Recovery Plan. Understandably, many people felt nervous about re-opening services. However, many members also made it plain that they were longing to get together again, even in restricted conditions to keep everyone as safe as possible. And so, after careful risk assessment to work out robust safety protocols, the doors are creaking open again.

Small groups of eight can now meet in Hankelow Methodist Chapel Hall or in the Thornton Room at the Public Hall Annex. Tracey Humphries and Lynn Morear, our coordinators, are managing an invitation rota to ensure that everyone gets a chance to be at one of these meetings approximately once a fortnight. The first group into Hankelow were unanimous – "It's so wonderful to be together again and to enjoy Helen's superb Mediterranean Tart and Salad, not to mention the cake and cream!"



In addition, our Medical Transport service, in association with Overwater WheelyBus, is back in action to take people to GP / hospital appointments – call 07984 785907 to book.

As government guidance changes, we may be able to do more, or may have to do less, but the main thing is, we're back! And our home support is still available for anyone who needs it, on the same number - 07984 785907.

More information on our website: [adca.audlem.org](http://adca.audlem.org)

## Audlem Charity Shop Thrives

Audlem Charity Shop continues to thrive despite remaining closed to customers inside the shop. We are now having several stalls outside the shop on a Saturday and then usually a Thursday (weather permitting) from 10am to 1pm. There is an eclectic mix of items for sale, including clothes, bric a brac, DVDs, CDs to name a few. We have had an enormous amount of donations (which are always quarantined prior to sale), so there is always something new to browse and buy.

We also have a plant sale at 32 Windmill Drive, Audlem on a Sunday from 2pm, in aid of the shop. Come along and choose from a selection of hardy perennials and some lovely succulent plants. We look forward to seeing you!

## ADAPT Highlights

Since lockdown was eased, Canal and River Trust's contractors have been making great progress on the towpath upgrade between the bottom of the lock flight and Coole Lane. ADAPT's Transport Group supported CRT in developing the project and obtaining funding for it from Cheshire East Council's New Homes Bonus Scheme. The scheme is one stage of a project to provide an improved walking and cycling route between Audlem and Nantwich, which in turn will connect Audlem to Cheshire East's developing cycle network. The current works are nearing completion, but the improved section is already being well used by walkers. Its use after rain and in the coming winter will now be much more comfortable.



Although the usual activities of ADAPT's Food Group have been curtailed this summer, we have been busy in our gardens. We're hoping that next season things will return to near normal and we will be able to resume the market stall and other activities. See Audlem Online for updates.

## An Update from TAVA (Touring Arts Visiting Audlem)

TAVA has been exploring possible ways forward for future events and will post information locally and on Audlem Online as and when information becomes available.

Cheshire Rural Touring Arts (who we get the shows from) have been actively exploring possibilities – and are planning to offer a mix of live events in Cheshire (indoor and outdoor), online performances including dance shows and shows for young people. Updates about Cheshire Rural Touring Arts events can be found at: [www.cheshireruraltouringarts.co.uk](http://www.cheshireruraltouringarts.co.uk)

TAVA would be delighted to hear from you about any ideas you have. Your support will be even more important as we look at future plans and we look forward to the time when we can welcome you back to a show in Audlem.

Would you like to go on TAVA's mailing list for information about future events? Please contact us on: [tava325@gmail.com](mailto:tava325@gmail.com)

What is TAVA? A small and friendly group bringing high quality arts to Audlem. Hosting professional arts events at affordable prices. We are part of Cheshire Rural Touring

Arts and are a "not for profit" group. We are grateful to all our supporters including Cheshire Rural Touring Arts, Audlem Parish Council, Cheshire East Council & Cheshire West and Chester Council.

## A Whisper from Audlem Voices

A double coronavirus whammy knocked out choristers everywhere this year – and Audlem Voices were sadly no exception! Not only could we not sing together during lockdown, and had to cancel the spring concert on which we had been working so hard, but then we found out that the general easing of lockdown enjoyed by the rest of the country did not extend to choirs... It turns out that communal singing is one of the riskiest activities for spreading the infection. Experimental studies have shown that the louder and more vigorously we sing, the further and wider the tiny droplets from our breath spread. Apparently, if you all sing in a whisper, it would be somewhat safer. But who would want a whole concert of whispers? So no, it looks like we will not be singing together this year. And we don't know when we will be able to resume. But we WILL resume! And when that time comes, we will be making a lot of noise (ha!) about it, and once again looking for new members to join us. It can't come too soon!

## ACER (Audlem Carbon Emissions Reduction) Project

September sees the launch of a new local project aiming to help people to cut their carbon footprint and contribute to the UK's net-zero ambition. Future generations will be irreparably damaged by global warming if we fail to act now. Of course, government and business have to do their bit, but so do we. Getting started is easy! Learn about your carbon footprint using the online WWF environmental footprint calculator and explore the tips on cutting emissions related to food, home energy, travel and 'stuff'. Discuss with family and friends. Soon, you will be able to chat with others about cutting emissions on an ACER website. Don't delay, cut your footprint today!

ACER is your community team with representatives from Audlem Parish Council, ADAPT, AWEG, Audlem Women's Institute, 1st Audlem Guides, Audlem Cubs. Contact: [acer@audlem.org](mailto:acer@audlem.org)



## Audlem Guides recycle with Terracycle

Audlem Guides collect crisp packets, toothbrushes and now... cheese pouches! Please drop off packaging in the boxes outside the Scout and Guide hall. We have recycled over 73kg of crisp packets since we began, please help us recycle more, and earn more money for charity.

If you have any questions please email [audlem.guides@btinternet.com](mailto:audlem.guides@btinternet.com)