



## Audlem Parish Council Chairman's Report, May 2016

The year started with Parish Council elections which resulted in Bill Consterdine re-joining the Council. He has been joined by two new co-opted Councillors, John Thompson and Ceri Parsons, to whom we extend a very warm welcome.

There have been two significant successes for the village in the last twelve months.

- After many, many hours of volunteer commitment involving some very complex documentation, the Audlem Neighbourhood Plan successfully cleared the Referendum hurdle, with 96.7% voting in favour. It was then 'made' (approved) by Cheshire East Council on 12th April 2016. This has now become a statutory document which must be given weight as a 'material consideration' in future planning decision-making.
- The efforts of Audlem's large and enthusiastic contingent of volunteers were rewarded when the village swept the board at the Cheshire Community Action Awards last Autumn. Successes included winning the Community Spirit Award, Best Kept Village for its size, Best Community Website and Best Overall Village/Small Town in Cheshire.

Both of these successes were due to people giving up their own time to help the community; a real demonstration of 'localism' in action. A huge vote of thanks to everyone involved.

We are still waiting for the outcome of the Council's request to Cheshire East Council for the Playing field, car park, tennis court and play area to be transferred to its ownership and will update everyone as soon as we have more news on this.

## Update on Recent Planning Applications

**Little Heath (120 dwellings)** The application was approved by Cheshire East Council (CEC) and is now at the "reserved matters" (ie design) stage. The Parish Council is currently putting together a report indicating where the proposal is in conflict with the "made" Audlem Neighbourhood Plan, and the Village Design Statement, and what modifications it would like to see.

**Mill Lane (2 dwellings)** This application was refused by CEC.

**Heathfield Road (26 dwellings)** Outline planning permission has been granted by CEC. We are awaiting details of the design.

**Bird's Nest** – opposite the Little Heath development above **(21 dwellings)** The original outline planning application was withdrawn by the applicants.

**Moorsfield Avenue (87 dwellings)** This application is at the outline planning stage. (See map below)



The Parish Council and a group of residents are both putting together cases against the proposal on the basis of non-compliance with the "made" Neighbourhood Plan and

other material considerations. The Medical Practice has also put forward an argument that the Practice is full and unable to take on any additional patients.

## 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

**Ceri Parsons** - 811176 **Pam Seddon** - 811282

**Dave Siddorns** - 811012 **John Thompson** - 812333

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

Parish Council meetings will be held in the Meeting Rooms adjoining Audlem Methodist Church on Mondays, 9 May, 6 July and 19 July. (There is no meeting in August.) 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.

## Clearing up the Canal Towpath

On Saturday the 9th of April 2016 volunteers from ADAPT worked under the guidance of Dek Owen (Volunteer Task Leader, Canal & River Trust) in a massive clear-up of the canal towpath area around Audlem.



The day, which included training on the use of strimmer and mower tools for the volunteers, also involved:

- cutting back vegetation along the canal and at paths adjoining the towpath and around the Audlem Lass pickup/drop off point;
- the sowing of 8 boxes of wild flower seeds, donated by the volunteers, bringing colour to the area and growing flowers that will attract wildlife;
- cleaning and servicing the brown sign directing visitors to local businesses and the village;

- clearing out the lock hut at Lock 15 in readiness for forthcoming restoration work and heritage brickwork training;
- painting the two picnic benches at Lock 15, the pedestrian fence along the access ramp at Bridge 79, the Audlem Lass direction post and 11 totem posts for moorings, fishing prohibition and overhead wires warning.
- cleaning up smashed glass on the ground at the wharf.

In his report on the day's event Dek Owen wrote: "A real big thank you to all who assisted on the day, the efforts were immense."

## Proms on the Park

Audlem Special events Team is pleased to announce that this great musical event will be taking place on Saturday, 2nd July. Music will be provided by ABBA Reunion & The Pure Presley Show plus support. It will be hosted once again by Signal Presenter Dave Johnson. Tickets are now on sale. Contact **Andrew Smith** on **01270 811211** for details.

## Audlem Youth Club News

On the last day of last term, Youth Club bid a fond farewell to our lovely hosts at the Baptist Chapel in readiness for our new chapter at the Public Hall.

We marked the occasion with a bit of an Easter bash (games, chocolate, you know the drill) and presented Alan and Judi with a card of thanks signed by all of our young members. There is something else on the way for them, but we didn't get organised in time...I blame the EU referendum. Our new start time is 7.15pm but do note that we will still be finishing at 9.00pm.

We hope to return to the full two hours as soon as we are able.

To find out more, contact



**Kate Parkes** on **07789 915940**

## Post Office Closes

After many years at the counter, Andrew Smith has decided to call it a day. We wish him and Lynne the very best of luck for the future!

The Post Office authorities say they are working on providing an alternative service in the village.

## Audlem District History Society

February's talk on "Education in Betley before 1855" by Mavis Hill charted the development of how the rich and poor were taught.

In March, Peter Denny told us all you need to know about the local Delves Broughton family (latterly of White Mischief fame) with lots of facts and interesting asides. This gave rise to many searching questions and feedback.

Bill Pearson gave a talk in April on "Food and Farming in South Cheshire around WWI". May's talk on "The Life and Times of Admiral David Beatty" by Paul Blurton promises to be highly entertaining.

On Carnival Day we are hoping to mount a display of photographs and articles chronicling Audlem Carnivals throughout the years. This year our Drive Yourself Outing is an afternoon visit to Whitmore Hall, Staffordshire on June 15th (2.00 pm).

Everyone is welcome to attend any of our meetings - it's just £3 on the door and for more information on any of these events please contact **Dorothy Jones** on **01270 811814**.

## The Annual Audlem Music and Arts Festival

The free festival takes place from May 26th to May 30th, with the traditional Carnival on the 30th.

A full day's performance on the 28th in the splendour of St James Church will be a star part of this, the biggest free Music and Arts Event in Cheshire.

**On that day, we will present the following:-**

- 12.00 The Cheshire Guitar Ensemble**
- 13.00 The Stapeley Broad Lane School Choir**
- 14.00 The Loud Mouth Women**
- 15.00 The Funky Community Choir**
- 16.30 Nantwich Young Voices Choir**
- 17.30 Nantwich Voices Choir**
- 19.30 Audlem Voices Choir**

PLUS the children of St James' Primary School will present their poems and their art as part of the Arts element of the long weekend.

**Ralph Warburton**

## ADAS News

Once again the spring flower display provided a splash of colour throughout the village - many thanks to the committee members and volunteers who helped with the autumn planting,

During the next few weeks ADAS will be delivering the annual subscription envelopes. As you are aware, the money donated is used to improve and enhance the village environment by funding summer planting and Christmas decorations as well as organising social and festive events throughout the year.

PLEASE return your envelope to Williams Newsagents. Your support is vital if these activities are to continue!

The next ADAS event will be the Open Gardens weekend which will take place on Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th June. Why not take a gentle stroll around the village whilst getting some inspiration for improving your own garden?

In July the children at St James School will be receiving sunflower plants to nurture over the summer holiday. Prizes for the most successful gardeners will be awarded in September.

We are all looking forward to seeing Audlem in full bloom during the summer months. This can only be achieved with your support!

If you would like become involved in any event please contact **Bryony** at [adascontact@gmail.com](mailto:adascontact@gmail.com). Your help would be much appreciated!



## Gathering of Historic Boats

On July 30 to 31 the canal outside Audlem Mill will be the place to go. This will be the eighth annual gathering of historic boats at Audlem, and we expect around 30-35 boats to line up along the canal from the main road bridge down to the bottom of the locks. They will come from all over the midlands and northwest, some having come from events a month earlier at Braunston, near Rugby, or Lymm.



All the boats are former cargo carrying boats, mainly dating from the turn of the twentieth century to about 1960. Saturn, a former horse-drawn fly-boat was based locally, and often traded from Audlem. We will also have a major attraction for the first time at this event - the steam powered President, which will have towed butty boat Kildare from their base at the Black Country Living Museum in Dudley.

**Peter Sylvester**

## Audlem Carnival

Audlem Carnival began in 1812 and has gone from strength to strength, with its traditional approach of free entry for all.

This year we are eager to have more local stalls so if you would like to get involved or simply share an idea, please contact Gwen Moss on 811467 so that we can work together towards an enjoyable and successful Carnival this year.

## News from Audlem Lass Boat Service

It is with great pleasure that we were able to welcome 5 new volunteers to our Crew this Season, plus ... a Mascot: Alf Allweather.

We spread the word of his arrival and sought suggestions for a name from our membership and the wider social media. The response was excellent with nearly 60 suggestions to choose from. The judges' decision to settle for Skipper Alfred Allweather (his formal title) was deemed to best represent the service the Audlem Lass provides, as the volunteers do turn out in all weathers and with a smile.



On a more serious note, we carried over 4,500 visitors last year and we aim to increase our numbers for this 2016 Season, so please come on down and meet us. We would love to see you on board.

**Joe Hoyles**

## Outdoor Gym Equipment

Sorry, but the Parish Council failed to get the grant it had applied for from Tesco to purchase a set of outdoor gym equipment.

## Hankelow Fete

Hankelow Amenities Group will be holding its latest village fete from 1.00 pm on the 19th June, 2016 – Father's Day – on the village green.



There will be various attractions including:

- Vale Royal Falconry
- Crewe Concert Band
- Tug of War
- Fun Dog Show
- Sports for all ages
- Stalls and games
- Tea and cake marquee
- BBQ
- Snugbury's ice cream

There will be free entry for all the family.

Proceeds from this year's Fete will be supporting the Group's chosen charities which are "Bloodwise" and St. Luke's (Cheshire) Hospice.

## News from the Methodist Church

Having now successfully completed her training, our minister, Rev. Jennifer Matthews, is to be ordained in London on July 3rd. Prior to that we look forward to her 'Testimony Service' here.

This will take place in our church on Friday 27th May at 7.30pm, and visitors will be very welcome.

The Ecumenical Soup Lunches, supported by all three Audlem churches on each Sunday in Lent, raised a total of £834, which has been divided between four charitable causes.

We were happy to welcome 18 primary-age children to an Easter Holiday Club on March 31st, with much fun involving craft and games on the theme 'Spring Into Life'.

Many thanks to all who helped or supported our Murder Mystery and Meal evening on March 2nd, making a contribution of £508 towards church funds. A full hall enjoyed a splendid meal, interspersed with the acting efforts of a cast of 12, who succeeded in being both entertaining and baffling!

**Christina Lawson**

## Dates for Your Diary ...

### May

- 14 ADAPT produce stall at the Buttermarket at 10 am
- 19 History Society meeting at 7.30pm in the Scout and Guide Hall. Speaker: Paul Blurton on The Life and Times of Admiral David Beatty
- 26 to 30 May inclusive, Music Festival events around the village
- 30 Carnival at 1.00 pm

### June

- 2 WI meeting at 7.30 pm at the Scout & Guide Hall
- 25 & 26 June - ADAS Open Garden Weekend

### July

- 5 12, and 19 - Audlem Cycling Club Road Race Series
- 7 WI meeting at 7.30 pm in Scout & Guide Hall. Musical entertainment from Back Row
- 16 May Hunter Garden Party at Buerton House
- 26 Audlem Cycling Club – National Championships road race
- 30 & 31 Historic Boats annual gathering event along the canal
- 31 ASET's Festival of Transport at 12 noon