

AROUND AUDLEM

The newsletter for residents of Audlem and District

Winter/Spring 2020

Audlem Parish Council

Parish Council News, January 2020

Turnpike Field, Green Lane

The Parish Council and Turnpike Field Working Group are pleased to report Cheshire Wildlife Trust and their designated contractors will be installing three ponds before March so please don't be alarmed when you see diggers on site this Spring! These ponds will provide a sanctuary for great crested newts and encourage flora and fauna in the area, and will be managed for 25 years by a habitat specialist who will visit regularly. There will be a three-metre buffer zone around each pond to protect both the wildlife and residents. Bird and bat boxes have been installed on trees in the field to encourage these creatures to take up residence in our lovely village. Picnic tables have also been installed for residents to enjoy when the warmer weather arrives.

We have had tree surgeons tend to the trees, ensuring they are in optimum health and made safe for residents using the field. An annual maintenance and enhancement plan has been prepared setting out a calendar of work so we can proactively manage the field going forward.

Work on the one-acre green car park will soon commence so that this small 40-space car park can help alleviate the problem of parking in the village. The Parish Council are currently seeking qualified experts to have plan drawings, highways and environment surveys drawn up to progress the project. They will also be appointing an experienced project manager. If you are a qualified expert and wish to volunteer to help with this, then please contact the Parish Clerk.

It is pleasing to see many dog walkers using the field. Please can we ask that you keep your dogs under control and pick up any dog mess. A bin is provided at the entrance on Shropshire Street.

Many residents have made a financial donation towards work to be carried out on the field. If you haven't yet donated and wish to do so, please contact the Parish Clerk.

Playing Field and Audlem Car Park

The Parish Council are in talks with Cheshire East Council to take over ownership of the playing field and children's play area.

Parish Council Precept

The Parish Council has set the budget for the year ahead and agreed its precept for 2020/21 at £52,152. This is the same as the current level.

Grants

So far this year the Parish Council has awarded grants to help put on the wonderful Music and Arts Festival, pay for some of the plants and bulbs that ADAS put in to make our village look beautiful, awarded money to Audlem Football Club for football equipment and also to Audlem Scouts for three tents which the children have enjoyed using. If you wish to apply for a grant, please contact the Parish Clerk.



Recruitment of Assistant Clerk

We are now advertising a job vacancy for an assistant clerk to provide support to the Parish Clerk and members of the Parish Council. The role will include primarily undertaking financial duties and other duties to support the Parish Clerk. Hours of work are 15 hours per month, with the possibility of increased hours and evening work if necessary. Please speak to the Parish Clerk if you are interested in applying.

Other

Our Highways, Planning and Environment Working Group are liaising closely with Cheshire East Council's Flood Recovery Team on problems that residents have reported. We continue to monitor and comment on planning applications and housing developments. Our Community working group have met with some village groups and committees and are currently organising more meetings.

We are a user-friendly council, so please do get in touch if you would like to make us aware of any issues, have any ideas for Audlem's community or would like to meet with Councillors.

Parish Councillors' Contact Details

Steve Boyes, Chairman - 812192

David Higham, Vice Chairman - 812069

Geoff Seddon - 811282

Lynette Hopkins - 811529

Nigel Mottershead - 811537

Lorna Matthews - 811826

Paul Barrett - 811148

Ralph Warburton - 812125

Suzie Warren - 811086

Pat Salt - 812758

George McLaren-Brown - 812011

Your Parish Clerk is **Belen Lopez Bloor** - 07432 332857
or email audlempc@gmail.com.

Parish Council meetings will be held in the Meeting Rooms adjoining Audlem Methodist Church on Mondays, 3rd February, 2nd March and 6th April 2020, starting at 7.30pm. 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.

The White Lion Community Pub

In August refurbishment work was started. Three working parties cleared the internal space ready for the professionals to take over, the building regulation documents were approved and the contractors came in November to undertake Phase 1 of the redevelopment. A new water treatment plant was installed to comply with current drainage regulations: a monster bespoke plant. Inside, the ceilings were removed and this highlighted the need to install additional support to stabilise the structure before further work can proceed on the roof and extension. All this takes time and a lot of money!

Our last major fundraiser was the 'Groovin on the Green' event which raised in excess of £3,000. Our tea towels have also been selling well. To date we have raised half a million pounds and we aim to raise at least another £100,000 to open the doors and give the community the pub it deserves. Please contact us for more details or if you can help in anyway: www.whitelionhankelow.com



First Anniversary of the Audlem Running Group (ARG)

The first anniversary of the Audlem Running Group was on 11 January 2020; the group was prompted by an Audlem Online news item inviting runners of all ages and abilities to meet at the village car park on Saturday mornings at 8.30am. There is no membership fee and there are no rules - just come along and run with us - we are a friendly bunch. Some people are training for particular events, others simply want to exercise and improve their fitness and the way the runs work caters for all. We each run at our own pace over the same route, but the quicker runners turn back at specific points and return to the back of the group so that no-one is excluded or ever left behind.

There have been many individual achievements and milestones, but as a group, we have run each Saturday through the year, usually on various routes in and around Audlem, but we aim to take part in one of the local Parkrun events (well-organised 5km runs) once a month. In addition, we have had "away-day" runs in Cheshire and Shropshire, which have added to the interest and fun.

In December, we held a Christmas meal at the Lord Combermere and took part in the Nantwich Santa Dash. Tea and scones at the Priest House cafe after the Saturday run are optional! Find us in the "Groups" section of the Audlem Online Directory or contact Matt Eardley on 07837 030768 or matteardley@talktalk.net

10th Season of Audlem Lass About to Commence

We will soon be starting our 10th Season of The Audlem Lass Boat Service and our team of volunteers are busy preparing to have the boat ready for the 21st March which is our first sailing day for 2020. As Mothering Sunday is the following day, we hope for good weather and a busy village. Our sailing times for March and April will be 10.30am from Overwater Marina with the last sailing from lock 15 being 4.15pm. Don't forget that The Audlem Lass offers mid-week charters, for up to 10 people. Charters must be pre-booked.

The Audlem Lass encourages new volunteers and Joe Hoyles will be pleased to hear from anyone interested: info@audlemlass.co.uk or 07880 727870.



Advance Notice of the Famous Music and Arts Festival

This year brings our 20th anniversary - 20 years of presenting to the village and the world a fantastic blend of music and art - in many venues here in Audlem. The dates are 21st to 25th May - the second Spring Bank Holiday. We have to raise about £16,000 to put on the big event and we appeal to all new and past supporters for their sponsorship and donations. We all hope you will once more enjoy this very busy weekend.

Woore Cricket Club - Junior Winter Training

Starts Monday 24th February at Grove School, Market Drayton: 6-7pm (School year Reception to Year 5), 7-8pm (School Year 6 to 9). £2.50 per session, qualified coaches, DBS checked. Any queries please contact Trudie 07985731181, trudie_bloor@hotmail.com

Thank you from Audlem Charity Shop

Audlem Charity Shop has enjoyed another highly successful year, thanks to all the many generous donations and the support of our loyal customers. We will once again be making our donations to local health-based charities at the end of the financial year in March. We look forward to welcoming customers, old and new in 2020. Please support your only village charity shop and pick up a bargain or two.

ADAS News

Autumn was a very busy time for the ADAS committee and volunteers. Our 50th birthday celebration held in the Lord Combermere car park was very successful as was the concert, featuring Audlem Voices and Broad Lane School Choir, in St James' Church. Proceeds from the concert were donated to the church building fund.

ADAS were delighted to be told that Audlem had again been given a prestigious Gold Award by North West Britain in Bloom - a great reward for all the hard work carried out!

At the end of November Santa and his elves arrived at the Wharf on Audlem Lass for the Big Switch On. A large crowd enjoyed the count-down as the lights were switched on and also the chance to do some Christmas shopping at this popular annual event. The lights on the big tree were switched on by Phillip and Barbara Baker and family, the sponsors of this year's Switch On. Many thanks are due to them and the large army of volunteers, too numerous to mention individually, who gave their time to help. Thanks to them the village was beautifully decorated and ablaze with lights over the festive season.



A large crowd enjoyed the Carol Singing in the Square on the Friday before Christmas and Crewe Brass accompanied the singers. For details email: adascontact@gmail.com or visit our website at adasaudlem.org

A Busy Few Months for PCSO Jarvis Around the Village

We continue to engage with members of the public and community groups to give the best possible service. We have been using Audlem Annexe for the past year for our police surgeries. We try to hold one a week and all dates can be found on Audlem Online, social media and the village notice boards. If you need a chat in confidence about any problems or require some advice please call in.

Speeding vehicles is still one of the main issues with residents. Speed enforcement takes place on a regular basis and we will continue this during 2020. We are in the process of setting up Community Speed Watch working with the Parish Council; two volunteers will be trained in January and we are hoping to recruit more during the year. If you are interested in joining this scheme, please email Nick Jarvis (see below).

Scams are on the increase and we would ask people to take care when receiving phone calls from people asking for payments such as from the Inland Revenue or BT. Never give your bank or credit card details over the phone no matter how genuine it may seem. If you receive a call like this, you can call Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040.

Crime figures are very low for the area but we still ask members of the public to be vigilant. Rural crime can have a massive effect on the community and only recently two quad bikes were stolen from a farm in Buerton. Cheshire Police now have a dedicated Rural Crime team, which includes PC Sarah Marson. They will be tackling all aspects of rural crime. They will be working with our neighbouring forces to combat cross border activity and already the team have had some positive results and arrests.

You can follow us on Facebook: Audlem & Wybunbury Police and on Twitter @audlemwybunpol. You can email PCSO Nick Jarvis: Nicholas.jarvis@cheshire.pnn.police.uk In an emergency, please call 999. The non-emergency number is 101.

Spring Among the Audlem Voices

Thank you to all the wonderful Audlem Voices supporters who came along to our Christmas Concert - it was really heart-warming to see you all and it encourages us to keep on seeking out lovely new music to sing for you! We are already working hard on our next concert, which will be a performance of Mozart's dramatic and justly famous Requiem. Details will appear in the next issue of Around Audlem and on our website. We are always looking to add new recruits to our lively mixed choir. We are a friendly bunch of all ages. We sing a wide variety of classical, modern and popular songs. Ability to read music is not required (although a willingness to work hard is very useful!). So if you want to make new friends, or to try singing, why not come along and listen to us at one of our rehearsals? We meet on Tuesdays from 7.30 to 9.30pm in St James' Church, but in the winter months we opt for the warmth of the Methodist Chapel Hall. More information is available at: voices.audlem.org

Audlem Probus Club

On 18th November members enjoyed a visit to Bentley Motors, Crewe. The visit was arranged by our social secretary who found he had more interest than could be dealt with on one visit. So a subsequent visit is to be arranged. On 9th January David Cummings gave a very interesting talk on 'The Wonderful World of Wildlife'.

On 23rd January we are looking forward to hearing Sarah Douglas speak on her 30 years with Cheshire Police and subsequent 11 years as a funeral director and on 13th February we shall be addressed by Hazel Griffiths on the topic of Argentina's Eva Peron.

2020 is a most important year for us ... we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the founding of the club. The committee, under the guidance of our president David Hughes have decided to hold a dinner on Monday 27th April. Members and guests will be treated to a three course meal and afterwards will be entertained by Gabriel, 'The Ukulele Lady'!

ADAPT Welcomes Environmental Strategy 2019-2024

In November ADAPT welcomed Cheshire East's draft Environmental Strategy 2019-2024 in light of the climate and nature emergency, and contributed to the public consultation. We will be monitoring implementation of the strategy and looking at how we can help achieve goals on going carbon neutral, reducing waste and pollution, using sustainable transport, and restoring nature.

In 2020 keep an eye out for news of a book of seasonal recipes to be published by the ADAPT Food Group. We haven't been idle since the end of the Saturday markets in the autumn, being busy running our Homemade Christmas event, tending our winter gardens, and supporting 'The Store', a mobile shop operating from Doddington Park and selling loose goods so we can reduce our use of plastic and other packaging. On the social side 19 of us enjoyed a festive Christmas meal at the Lord Combermere and our monthly meetings are great fun, always involving coffee, tea, delicious snacks and lots of chat! Contact: jane@day-star-theatre.co.uk



The Cox Striders Fund-raising

Local ladies, Karen, Tessa, Celee and Suzanne (aka The Cox Striders), are fundraising for Macmillan Cancer Support. The Cox Striders team took its first strides in the leafy lanes of Cox Bank and Audlem, stomping over hills and stiles in search of personal fitness and some degree of sanity! In recent years we have unfortunately all been affected by the devastating impact of cancer. So we decided to raise some cash to support a charity which offers immeasurable care and comfort to cancer sufferers in many different ways. The tireless efforts of Macmillan Cancer Support offer a lifeline for patients and their families, making difficult times bearable and offering hope when there seems very little.

We hope the money we raise from attempting two 'Mighty Hike' challenges in July of this year around the Northumberland coastline and through the Peak District (52 miles in total) will enable more resources to become available to help fund the incredible care given by Macmillan Cancer Support. To see the full story and donate: <https://www.justgiving.com/team/coxstriders>

A Successful Year of History talks

Our 2019 programme of meetings ended with a talk by one of our members, John Whitehead, who spoke of how St Margaret's Church, Betley has played a part in the history of the village. The talk was beautifully illustrated with photographs of the church and others linked locally. Due to unforeseen circumstances our annual lunch in December was postponed, now to be held on 25th February. 2020 promises to be another enjoyable year with a wide range of subjects planned including an outing to Whitchurch and a visit to Norton Priory.

All are welcome to attend our meetings. It's just £3 (students free). Please see diary dates for information.

Audlem WI

Audlem WI got the new year and decade off to a good start with a very enjoyable talk from Alison Jury who told us all about her fundraising for Marie Curie, in particular her cycle ride from Warsaw to Vilnius in Lithuania. This was particularly impressive as before she signed up she did not own a bike and committing to it meant being able to ride at 10mph for a considerable distance as well as being able to raise £2,500. It was heartening to hear of the camaraderie in the cycling group and of lasting friendships that were made. Our Anniversary Lunch takes place on Friday 17th January to celebrate our 101 years. Future events include 'The Magic of Swans', 'A Lancashire Lad and his Ukulele' and a members' evening. There are a number of active clubs including a Lunch club, Bridge, Scrabble, Rummy, Mah Jong and a Book club.

Volunteers for Audlem Flower Festival

Volunteers are needed for Audlem Village Flower Festival which is to take place on 11 and 12 July, hosted by St James' Church. Individuals, clubs and sponsors can get involved, have fun and get creative with flowers and other mixed media based on the theme: 'Spirit of the Community'. All proceeds to ADAS and St James' Church Restoration Fund. Further information: sallymcookson@btinternet.com or 01270 811055 and Sam Burden - theflowerdivas@hotmail.co.uk.

Diary Dates

February

- 20 History Society Meeting at 7.30pm in the Scout and Guide Hall. Speaker: Robert Ginder on 'Chalk and Cheese - local trade and agriculture during the canal era'.
- 25 History Society Annual lunch - 12 pm at The Lord Combermere.

March

- 19 History Society meeting at 7.30pm in the Scout and Guide Hall. Speaker: Roger Wickson on 'Thomas Becket - saint and martyr or turbulent priest?'
- 28 TAVA presents ... Quick Duck Theatre at 7.30pm in Audlem Public Hall. Tickets: tava325@gmail.com and 01270 811250.

April

- 16 History Society Meeting at 7.30pm in the Scout and Guide Hall. Speaker: Graham Dodd on 'Andrew Fuller Chater - Rector of Nantwich - his role in the 1849 cholera epidemic'.