



The newsletter for residents of Audlem & District

Winter 2014/2015

Audlem Parish Council

Business summary, January 2015

Neighbourhood planning

After being given a strong mandate from an open village meeting, Parish Councillors worked very hard to put forward a strong case against the Gladman development and it is frustrating that Cheshire East Council's lack of a five-year housing land supply has been the main determinant of this appeal. Combined with the approval of the Heathfield Road application plus other already approved applications there will be 175 new homes coming to the village in the very near future. This will inevitably have a big impact on village life both during the building and afterwards, and will be to the detriment of the medical practice, parking and the creaking sewerage system. The number is also far in excess of the 80-100 houses which we had been led to believe would be required in the Audlem Ward (not just the Parish) as part of the Local Plan.

Last July many residents attended a meeting to discuss the production of a Neighbourhood Plan (which all parties currently seem to support), and in particular a 'fast track' Plan which focused primarily on housing issues. The Parish Council was given a strong mandate to pursue this and work has been going on behind the scenes to produce a draft Vision for Audlem and a Housing Questionnaire. This will give us a strong evidence base to formulate plans and policies that we hope will help to 'protect' the village from speculative development in the future, and determine the design and mix of any further planned developments.

Each household is encouraged to complete the Housing Questionnaire and to attend the various meetings and workshops; this will help us achieve a well-crafted Plan giving a clear indication of what residents really want. We hope to be able to get a draft Neighbourhood Plan together by mid-2015 and go to referendum swiftly thereafter. This document will have statutory weight in planning decisions so please do take this chance to have your say about how Audlem should develop over the next 20 years.

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 Siddons – 811012

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

Superfast broadband arrives in Audlem

Good news! Superfast broadband (SFBB) has now come to parts of Audlem and will be rolled out even further in the coming weeks. Connecting Cheshire is to hold a drop-in session in the Public Hall on Tuesday 17 February between 2.00pm and 4.00pm. If you would like to find out more about SFBB, please come along.

Connecting Cheshire urges residents who are thinking of upgrading to shop around for the best deal as the market is very competitive at the moment. You may well be able to get a cheaper price than you are paying at the moment for broadband – and get a faster speed!

ADCA car scheme success

This new scheme launched in May 2014 now provides transport for three to four clients each week to attend appointments at the Surgery, dentists or Leighton Hospital. This proves we were correct to bid for Cheshire East Funds. Our success, however, means we now need additional drivers to help spread the load.

Drivers receive 45p per mile and are allowed to park free at the hospital. We work within the following guidelines:

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- 1) The client telephones the office as soon as they know of an appointment and speaks to one of the volunteers, or leaves a message on the answerphone.
- 2) The office volunteer then contacts possible available drivers who could fulfil the request.
- 3) Once a driver has agreed to transport the client they are given the client's contact details so timings can be arranged.

Volunteers can drive for as little, or as much, as they desire. Even if you can only spare a few hours per month to help transport fellow villagers to Audlem Surgery your assistance would be gratefully accepted.

To find out more, please call 01270 747163 on Monday or Thursday, 10.00 am to 12 noon, or leave a message on the answerphone. Alternatively call David Higham on 07977 498 910.

Dog fouling

For those who are wondering why some of the public footpaths are being fenced off to restrict access to adjacent fields, this is a direct consequence of some irresponsible dog owners failing to clear up after their pets. Farmers are tired of having their silage and crops tainted and tractor blades fouled by dog faeces.

It is not just the fields which are affected. The Parish Council has once again received complaints about dog fouling on pavements, the canal banks and on the playing field. There are dog poo bins in many places throughout the village, so we are asking you to please behave responsibly. 'Scoop the poop', then dispose of the excrement in one of the bins. Please don't leave poo bags hanging on trees or dump them where they were used: this is unsightly and an on-going health hazard.

Precept frozen again

The Parish Council has decided to freeze the precept (local taxation) again this year at £37,529. This is the total amount that Cheshire East collects on behalf of Audlem Parish Council from the residents of the Parish through their council tax. The amount each household actually contributes towards this total sum relates to the council tax band of their dwelling.

Parish Council meetings will be held in the Meeting Rooms adjoining Audlem Methodist Church, Shropshire Street, Audlem, on Mondays 2 February, 2 March and 13 April 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.

Audlem Methodist Church

Parents of primary school-age children can look forward to another of our popular morning Holiday Club sessions during the February half term. **For more information contact Janet Taylor at holidayclub@audlemmethodistchurch.org.co.uk or telephone 07854 884364.**

There is to be no production this February half term as the cast of about 20 children and 24 adults performed in December instead. *The Glory of Christmas* was watched by a full church on two evenings, in place of the carol concerts held in previous years, and was greatly enjoyed. We are making a donation of £400 to Action for Children. We hope that the performers can be reunited for a showing of a DVD of the production at some time in late February or March.

An informal monthly meeting for women is now taking place on the first Wednesday evening of the month. Newcomers will be very welcome.

Lent will begin on 22 February and we will host simple lunches of home-made soup on every Sunday during this period at 12.30pm, the soup being

provided by all three churches in the village. Collections will be made for charity, and all are welcome. This year we will join with the other Audlem churches in inviting people to take up 'The Living Lent Well Challenge' – a set of small individual challenges to reflect on during Lent. Details of



Easter services are in the Diary Dates.

Occasional Saturday coffee mornings will take place in the hall. Cakes and other items will be available for sale, with proceeds for church funds. All are welcome.

Room hire is available for both our large hall and the small modern meeting room, which can seat up to about 24 people and is very good for small groups. **Phone 01270 812886 or email rooms@audlemmethodistchurch.org.uk.**

Audlem Mill nominated

Congratulations to Audlem Mill on being nominated in the national British Craft Awards by its needlework customers as a contender for Best Stitch Shop in the North West 2015. The winner will be announced at the annual Craft, Hobby & Stitch International Trade Exhibition at the NEC, Birmingham, later this month. Audlem Mill was runner-up last year.



School report

Autumn term at Audlem St James' C.E. Primary School was full of exciting activities and events. Here are just a few highlights:



Outdoor learning

Ruby class have been having lots of fun with outdoor learning. As part of their prehistoric Britain topic they have been learning how to light fires and even toasted marshmallows!

A trip to Tesco

Meanwhile Sapphire and Pearl classes found out what happens to milk after it has been transported from the dairy as part of their topic on Farms and Farming. They met a farmer from the NFU and had the opportunity to milk a cow. On their visit to Tesco they searched for dairy products and the team that remembered the most products won a prize. They also



learnt about the process of harvesting wheat, separating the wheat from the chaff and then grinding the grains into flour. The fishmonger talked to the children about the fresh fish on sale in the shop. It was a packed afternoon!

Father Christmas flies in

Santa flew in by helicopter in from Lapland in December to collect letters from our children and to speak to them all about their hopes for Christmas. They also had the opportunity to meet his pilot, Flight Lieutenant Mike Barnett from Royal Air Force Shawbury in Shrewsbury, and explore the helicopter themselves.



Mend Our Mum appeal

Amazing! The village has now raised more than £90,000 for the Mend Our Mum campaign and that target figure of £100,000 is getting closer every day.

Berni Cliffe's daughters, Terri and Hannah, started the campaign to raise funds to treat their mum's cancer. The treatment is not available on the NHS. After a number of successful fund-raising events, Ralph Warburton masterminded the *Amazing Grace* DVD which stars 1,100 local people. It has been a massive hit, spreading news of the campaign around the world and reaching Number One in the Religious & Gospel chart. Donations have flooded in, some from as far afield as Canada.

DVDs priced at £5 are still on sale at various outlets in Audlem. Alternatively you can order them by post. Just send your address with £5 per DVD, plus 50p for post and packing, or a donation made out to Mend Our Mum, to: **Ralph Warburton, Buerton House, Woore Road, Buerton, Audlem, CW3 0DD.**

Donations can be made by post to Ralph at the above address or online at www.gofundme.com/cij464.

The long and the short of it

ARS (Audlem Ramblers Society) started almost 20 years ago and has gone from strength to strength. We now have two walks a month, Long ARS and Short ARS – please see the Diary Dates for details. New members are always welcome. We charge a membership fee of £5 per annum to cover the cost of insurance and affiliation to the Ramblers Association. **To find out more, email us at audlemramblers@hotmail.co.uk.**



Overwater Wheelyboat project

The Overwater Wheelyboat project, a non profit-making organisation, is mounting an appeal for funds to acquire a Mark III boat to offer trips on the Shropshire Union Canal to the 17,000 handicapped wheelchair users who live within 40 minutes by car of Overwater Marina. This includes people on Zimmer frames, crutches or with walking sticks, with or without carers accompanying them.



The Wheelyboat Trust has offered the project a 50 percent grant and other sponsors are in the offing. The official appeal will be launched in the middle of February 2015 and we expect to be in operation in time for the Overwater RNLI Festival on May 30 and 31.

To help, make a donation or find out more, please contact either Janet Maughan at Overwater Marina on 812677, Rodney Cottrell on 811454 or John Kemble on 812887.



ADAPT-ing for the future

A fantastic event at the Buttermarket saw ADAPT's Homemade Christmas offering ideas for the festive season with lots of free goodies to taste. Crafts and decorations as well as food were on display and the folk who dropped by clearly enjoyed the event.

We have had very successful talks recently on domestic Biomass Boilers

and Solar PV or Solar Thermal as alternative ways of generating heating and electricity. Our final talk on the Domestic Renewable Energy theme is on Wednesday 4 February when Alan Draper will talk about heat pumps. A series of food-themed talks begins in March. Why not come along and join us?

News from the W.I.

The National W.I. celebrates its centenary this year so there will be some lively activities taking place. The W.I. is enjoying a huge resurgence and the Audlem W.I. is no exception – what's more we know how to party!

Despite the cold and icy roads, our members turned out in droves for an afternoon of Christmas fun and frolics. What with glasses of mulled wine, bags of

(chocolate) money and all that laughter, passers by must have wondered what on earth was going on in the Scout & Guide Hall! All of our members gave thanks to the W.I. Committee for creating such a memorable Christmas Party.

The W.I. is a great way of getting to know new people in your area and taking the opportunity to discover new interests. Details of our monthly



meetings are in the Diary Dates. We are always looking to embrace new members, so come along and give us a try. You won't regret it.

Dates for your diary...

February

- 4 ADAPT meeting: Talk on heating pumps by Alan Draper. Baptist Church Hall, 7.30pm.
- 5 W.I. meeting and talk by Barbara Taylor on the 'Norwegian Vice Consul'. Competition – Design a Valentine's Card. Scout & Guide Hall, 2.00pm.
- 14 Long ARS walk. A variation on the Lyme Park Circular, starting at Nelson Pit, taking in Sponds Hill and Black Hill. 10.5 miles with 1,830 feet of climbing.
- 17 Connecting Cheshire Superfast Broadband drop-in session, Public Hall, 2.00-4.00pm.
- 18 Ash Wednesday Service, St James's Church, 11.00am.
- 19 'The Geological Evolution of Cheshire', History Society talk by Professor Peter Styles, Scout & Guide Hall, 7.30pm.
- 28 Short ARS walk, Nantwich via Hurleston and Swanley.
- 5 W.I. Members' meeting. Competition – Design an Easter Egg. Scout & Guide Hall, 2.00pm.
- 7 Silk Painting Workshop. Learn the basics at Audlem Mill. Tutor: Katherine Edge, Designer Silk.
- 14 Long ARS Lancashire Walk from Beacon Fell Country Park over Fair Snape and Parlick Fells. 16.5k and 600 metres of ascent.
- 19 'Food and Farming in South Cheshire around the time of WW1', History Society talk by Bill Pearson, Scout & Guide Hall, 7.30pm.
- 22-19 Canal Art Exhibition, Audlem Apr Mill. The largest collection of canal-based art in Britain.
- 28 Short ARS walk: Hales & Cheswardine.

April

- 2 Maundy Thursday Service for the three Audlem churches. Holy Communion followed by Service of Light and Darkness, Audlem Methodist Church, 7.30pm.

March

- 1 Audlem Mill reopens after its winter break.

- 3 **Good Friday.** Walk of Witness by the Audlem churches from the Methodist Church Car Park, 10.30am.
- 5 **Easter Sunday:**
[Holy Communion](#), Audlem Methodist Church, 8.30am.
[Easter Service with Holy Communion](#), Audlem Methodist Church, 10.30am.
[Easter Service with Holy Communion](#), Hankelow Methodist Church, 10.30am.
[Easter Celebration Service](#), St James's Church, 11.00am.
- 11 Long ARS walk in and out of the Teme valley, Leintwardine to Downtown Castle circular. 10.5 miles, 1,600 feet of climbing.
- 16 'Recent Archaeology around Nantwich', History Society talk by Malcolm Reid, Scout & Guide Hall, 7.30pm.
- 25 Short ARS Walk: Browns Moss.
- 26 Rag Rugging Course. Learn the basic methods at Audlem Mill. Please bring T-shirts or other materials to cut up into strips to make your rug. Tutor: Alison Rose, Rose Tinted Creations.

The closing date for items for the spring issue is 15 April for distribution during the first week of May. Please contact Editor Kira Nicholls on 812485, at newsletter@audlem.org, or leave your contribution at the Post Office.