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Early years in the Navy

New Methodist Minister arrives

Calender Girls show stopper



Audley

community news 2013

ISSUE: 42 DECEMBER 2013 DONATIONS WELCOME Your local Newsletter to service the needs of the people from the parish of Audley.

50 Years Celebration for The Rotary Club of Audley

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

Robert Edwards
PRESIDENT
AUDLEY

Left Column:

- ROB HOLLAND 2012-13
- JOHN W. R. BRUNT 2010-11
- GEOFF MACKEY 2008-09
- PAUL BARROW 2006-07
- J. A. C. BALL 2004-05
- COLIN PEARSON 2002-03
- N. GINNIS 2000-01
- K. EARDLEY 1998-99
- K. G. PARRY 1996-97
- G. A. HENSHALL March 1996 - June 1996
- G. A. HENSHALL 1994-95
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- W.J. RILEY 1973-74
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Right Column:

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- JOHN W. R. BRUNT 2005-06
- BRIAN DODD 2003-04
- MALCOLM GRIFFITHS 2001-02
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- RALPH LAWTON 1966-67
- W. C. EDWARDS 1963-65

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Dear Readers

Welcome to our Christmas 2013 issue of the Audley Community News.

We have been so lucky this year, the summer weather has been fantastic.

We once again report on another successful year for our magazine and we hope that 2014 will continue in the same way.

Our magazine is always on the lookout for interesting stories from our parish and news and events to promote.

We also give the opportunity for our readers to help try and find a long lost friend or relation. Our magazine has brought so many people back together.

Our village life has not changed for many years, shops and businesses have changed hands, but they have so much competition from the big supermarkets and shopping centres.

On my rounds as the Editor, I often call into the local stores just for a chat and I'm often asked 'why does our village stick to the old routine of Wednesday half day closing?' Comments often are, no wonder the village is empty when half the shops are closed, by closing it may send out the message: don't bother visiting the

village on a Wednesday, shops are shut. We would love to hear your thoughts on the matter.

We need to congratulate The Rotary Club of Audley who are celebrating their 50 Years Anniversary. What a fantastic job they do in raising money to help good causes throughout the area. We are so lucky to have groups like the Rotary in our parish.

Our parish is also proud of its schools, often these are taken for granted. Sports and recreation is provided by our local Football and Cricket clubs and over the past twelve months we have reported on a number of successes. All these clubs and groups are run by local volunteers, how lucky we are to have so many.

As we now move closer to the festive season, we need to remember all those families and friends who have lost a loved one, many whom were readers of our magazine. I wish to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the News team who help to produce your local village newsletter.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS & A VERY
HAPPY NEW YEAR.**

Editor E.Moulton

Contents:

News
Views
Sports
Recipes
Memories from the past
Poetry & Rhyme
Forthcoming events
School information
Readers letters
Bereavements

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Remember you can subscribe to this magazine, contact the Editor.

Border History Fair 2013

The Border History Fair is an annual event that brings together various historical societies, groups and individuals. Family, local, military, trade, maps and many more aspects of historical research are well represented. This year the event was hosted by the Audley and District Family History Society. The location was centred on St. James' Church, with stalls in the Church Hall and the Pensioners' Hall.

The day went very well with about two hundred people attending throughout the day. They were kept well fed and supplied with tea and coffee by the wonderful volunteers from the Audley Society. The stall holders were kept busy by the steady stream of historians, local, national, amateur and professional, that attended the event.

The Church itself hosted three separate talks throughout the day. All were well attended and very well received. The Audley group itself had a good day, we sold lots of books, chatted with lots of Audley folk and had some positive results for our current research project on the Minnie Pit Disaster.

I would like to thank everyone from the Society, the Church, the community and anyone I have not mentioned for all their help with organising the event. Overall the day was a success. We had a good turnout, we had good history and we had fun!

See you next year...but not in Audley!
Stewart Baker. Chairman, Audley and District
Family History Society.

NOW! on sale throughout our outlets in the Parish
The 2013 Issue 19 of the Audley Historian
Price £5.



The photograph shows members of the History Society left to right in red T shirts: Terry Bennett, Clive Millington, Christine Huxley, Joan Dobson, Ron Burndred (in grey top) and Paul Elborn talking to visitors at the event.

Audley Rotary 50 years celebrations

Audley Rotary Club celebrates 50 years of **“Service Above Self”**

This year the Rotary Club of Audley celebrates fifty years of service in Audley and its surrounding parish. The club began in 1963 under the sponsorship of the Newcastle Rotary Club with twenty-four founder members coming together to volunteer their services for the benefit of the local community. In doing so they joined an international network that now comprises 33,000 Rotary clubs with 1.2 million members worldwide, all united by the motto “Service above Self”. Pictured top right founder members.

Since that first year the club has gone from strength to strength. Over the subsequent years 135 local people have served as Rotarians, each of them with the desire to make a difference in their own way, harnessing the collective power of Rotary to make a positive impact in the local community and internationally as well as in their own lives.

Through the years we have supported efforts to improve our community by developing successful relationships with many of our local voluntary organisations including the Audley Brass Band, the Children of Audley Residents’ Association, the Scouts and the Community First Responders.

There have been many accomplishments in Rotary’s fifty years in Audley, from promoting a charity boxing match in Sir Thomas Boughey High School to bringing a Life Education Centre to the local schools to help our children make positive health and lifestyle choices.

Celebrating and supporting the achievements of our young people have been central to the activities of Audley Rotary Club for all of its fifty years. We work closely with our primary and secondary schools to sponsor Young



Front Row: Ned McEllin, Jack McEllin, Charles Edwards, Douglas Moss, Rev J.L.D. Lewis.
1st Row: Albert Forster, Dr Ferrington, Tom Peake, Bernard Latham, Arthur Bateman. 2nd Row: Graham Heath, John Riley, E Drewe, Philip Broadhurst, A McConnell. 3rd Row. George Hackney, Cyril Proctor, Frank Phoenix, Fred McEllin, Robert Edwards.

Achiever awards and to encourage innovation and creativity through Young Chef and Young Innovator competitions. Over recent years we have developed a very successful mentoring programme with one of the local secondary schools. Several young people from the parish have benefited from the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, Rotary’s leadership development programme.

The history of Audley Rotary Club has seen many friendships forged and

developed through service and a full programme of social activities. It is these friendships that enrich the life of Rotarians and that have enabled us to work together to make a tremendous difference to our community over the past fifty years.

As we celebrate our fiftieth anniversary our members, past and present, can take pride in what has been achieved and look forward to the next fifty years of Rotary in Audley.



Rotary making presentation to the 77th Audley Scouts in 1980 far right John Adams, Colin Pearson and Ken Jones representing Rotary

Rotary Santa at CARA FUN DAY, left to right representing Rotary Nigel Withers, Robert Edwards, Neil Ginnis.

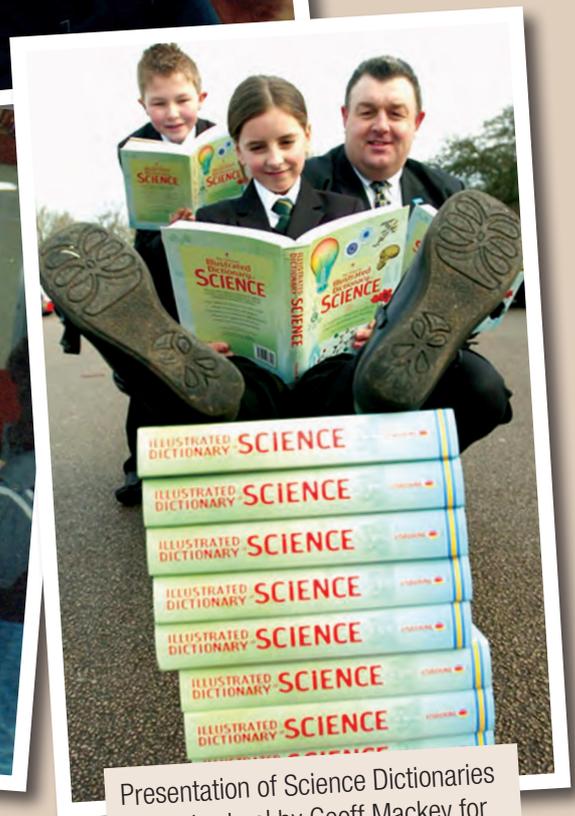




Rotary member Philip Broadhurst seen centre at the Sir Thomas Boughey School Halmer End visiting their Life Education Centre event.



Terry Ball of Ravens Lane Bignall End can be seen pictured above with Rotary members John Briscoe, Robert Edwards and Deryck Swindells. Terry said "Receiving my electric wheelchair totally changed my life at the time. To be able to go out and about independently, especially with my young daughter, meant so much to me."



Presentation of Science Dictionaries to local school by Geoff Mackey for the Rotary Club of Audley.

The Rotary club has also supported international projects, including building schools in The Gambia and disaster relief activities such as coordinating the overwhelming response of people in the parish to the Indian Ocean tsunami in December 2004. We are proud to support Rotary's global project to eradicate polio. Today there are just 3 countries in the world where polio

is endemic, down from 125 in 1988. The fight against this crippling and potentially fatal infectious disease continues.

Perhaps the most visible sign of Rotary in Audley is the bearded face of Santa who has been making his annual tour around the parish for longer than most of us care to remember. It is your generosity during these collections that

lets Rotary continue to work for the benefit of our local community. Santa's dates for 2013 have now been agreed and a list can be found on the events page of this magazine. The Rotary Tree of Light provides some festive cheer for the village as well as an opportunity to remember loved ones at Christmas. The proceeds from the Tree of Light go to the Donna Louise Trust. Neil Ginnis.

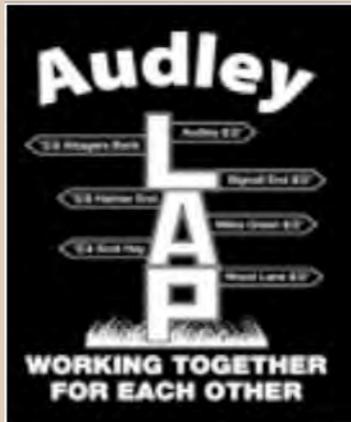
Audley LAP

**(LOCAL ACTION PARTNERSHIP)
COMMUNITY GATHERING
(October 2013)**

It was very satisfying to see that so many parish residents and group representatives came to our first ever LAP community gathering on the 19th October at the Audley Community Centre. We had representatives from Aspire Housing, Audley Allotment Association, Ladies Choir, Millennium Green, the Methodist Church, the Parish Council, the Patients' Panel, the Police, the Sir Thomas Boughey School, Rotary and Newcastle Borough Council whose leader, Gareth Snell, came to support us.

The event was an opportunity for visitors to suggest and discuss what ideas we could support for young and old people, community safety and local, environmental issues.

After these discussions, a committee was elected by those present. The committee will consider all the suggestions made and then draw up an



action plan within the next few weeks.

When the business part of the meeting concluded, a delicious lunch was enjoyed, supplied by local caterers.

We are very grateful to the people who gave up their time to talk to us. We are also very grateful to Dot and Ron Bourne for allowing us use of the Community Centre.

We hold a general meeting every two months at Durber Close on a Tuesday morning at 10 am. – all are welcome. If you would like to become a member or you need more information, please contact Jane Lancaster –

Telephone 01782 720231
Or e-mail: j.lanc@icloud.com



Tomb Vandals

It cannot have escaped anyone's notice (yes not even the police), that St. James' churchyard is a favoured haunt of our drunken 'kidwinks'.

I have seen on numerous occasions, youngsters (boys and girls) surrounded by cans and bottles sitting in the tomb recess of the church on the south side aisle of the building.

In early October, it seems that two large pieces of stone from the church have been used to smash a 13th century tomb lid in the recess. It speaks volumes of today's society that a tomb which has lasted for generations has been smashed by our modern tea-cosy clad intelligentsia.

I am informed that the latest craze is lighting aerosol cans.

One must ask yet again "where are the police", "where are the parents"? The usual excuse peddled out is that the children must be seen drinking the alcohol that is in their possession. How come adults can be breathalised or blood/urine tested?

We all know what this village can be like on a Friday and Saturday night, so can we get our acts together while we still have a decent village to live in.

Concerned villager.

OCCASIONS

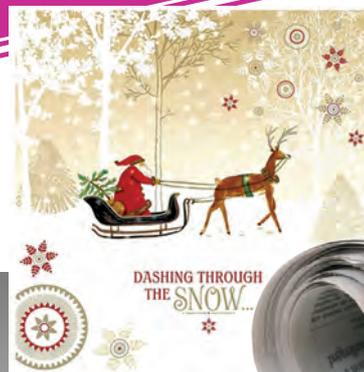
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Methodist Church UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT!

Hello, you may have heard that Audley, Bradwell and Halmer End Methodist Churches are under new management - true - well, it's me.

My name is Helen Hoe, and I come hot foot from Chesterfield in the lovely Derbyshire Peaks. You may realise that Methodist ministers tend to move every five years. Rev. Jenny McGregor left Audley in August, 2012. From there, Rev. Margaret Eaton from Congleton became caretaker minister until our Headquarters stationed me here, and we moved at the end of July this year. We are delighted to be here, and look forward to working alongside you in the time we have together.

I have been married to Graham for 37 years, we have two children, a son and a daughter. Our son and his family live in Northwich, Cheshire and our daughter lives and works in Beverley, East Riding of Yorkshire. I received my theological training at Hartley Victoria Methodist College, Luther King House, Rusholme - at the heart of



curry mile, Manchester. Was then stationed to Newbiggin by the Sea and Lynemouth on the beautiful North East coast. Five years later, I became Superintendent Minister for the

Berwick Circuit (on the Scottish Borders), then found myself in Chesterfield in the heart of the town centre (quite a change from rural Northumberland).

Prior to ministry (yes, there is life before ministry), Graham and I spent 13 wonderful years as Joint Wardens to the Methodist International House in Kingston upon Hull.

This organisation provides a home for overseas students during their studies in our University towns and cities, provides a home from home, someone to talk to when college/university is hard, when homesickness kicks in, when you cannot fathom out the new fangled tin opener. A challenging but thoroughly enjoyable time, leaving us with many memories, and an extensive Christmas card list. We housed not only Christians, but most world faiths, all continents represented, but foreign

student or not, providing a home for young people at their most vulnerable.

Now having 3 churches and communities to serve is again a challenge, but a privilege.

As you can imagine we have already celebrated Harvest, and it will not be long before we plunge headlong into Advent and Christmas. May I extend a very warm welcome to you and your family to visit any of the churches in the area during this precious and holy season. There are Christingle services (designed for children but enjoyed by families), Carol Services, Holy Communion.

Something for everyone. Halmer End would welcome children to their 'Messy Church' on 7th. November as they celebrate 'Light'. Audley and Bradwell would love to see you at **their autumn fayres (look out for the adverts around the villages).**

I look forward to meeting with you, either in one of our churches or shopping in the village, over refreshments during coffee mornings.

We have been welcomed most warmly, and I look forward to meeting with you during our time here.

Sincerely, Rev. Helen Hoe.

Audley Methodist Church Invite you to their Christmas Celebrations

Sunday 15th December 10.30am

- Morning worship celebrating Baptism and Children's Nativity
- Blessing of toys for the Salvation Army Toy Appeal

Saturday 21st December 10.30am -12noon

- "Meet & Greet for Christmas with
- Coffee and Mince pies

Sunday 22nd December 6.00pm

- Carol Service

Tuesday 24th December

- 4pm Crib Service for children of all ages
- 7pm Christmas Eve Family Worship

Wednesday 25th December 10.30am

- Christmas Day Family Celebration All Welcome.

Audley & District Probus Club

As the year draws to a close and we look forward to celebrating Christmas, it is also a time for reflection on the enjoyment our members have experienced during the last few months from the Speakers who have come along to our monthly meetings. They have covered a range of subjects and have proved to be both amusing and interesting.

During 2014 some of the subjects we can look forward to hearing about are the history of Audley, the Duties of a Town Crier, the organisation of major sporting events, local business Peak Pursuits and a talk by Ernie Moulton, the Editor of the Audley Community News.

So you can see, we offer a mixed and varied programme, so why not come along to see for yourself?

We meet on the 3rd Friday of each month at the Butcher's Arms for lunch at 12 30 followed by a speaker.

Please feel free to contact me for more information either on 01782 721894 or email me at: donald.caton321@btinternet.com

May I on behalf of our members wish you a Happy Christmas and a healthy and peaceful New Year.

Don Caton Secretary.

Sir Thomas Boughey School

After less than one term into the new academic year, there is already much to report. Within the first week of September, preparations for this year's school production (which is 'Return to the Forbidden Planet') began and it is impressive to see, once again, the vast range of year groups involved in this event, including a number of our new Year 7 pupils who have made the decision to take part after only a few weeks at the school, demonstrating just how well they have made the transition from primary to secondary school and are firmly settled into life at Sir Thomas Boughey. This annual school production will take place from Tuesday 11th February to Thursday 13th February. Whilst on the topic of productions, our Year 7 Christmas Concert is to be held on the evening of Wednesday 18th December 2013. Your support at such events is always much appreciated.

There are also performances which have already taken place this term. In October **'Harmonize'** (our singing group) pictured above performed in St. Giles Church in Newcastle. Six schools took part in the 2013's 'Paint The Town Pink' event, which was part of a breast cancer campaign. In December, Harmonize are also due to perform at Freeport, in Talke.

The New Intake Evening, as held on 19th September, was a huge success. Year 6 pupils and their parents got involved in a wide range of activities, some of which included sampling the food prepared by our GCSE Catering students, watching (and taking part in) Science experiments, watching Drama performances, producing their own creative writing, and the list continues. A number of prospective pupils entered various competitions on the evening, including a creative writing competition, where budding writers were invited to select at random an object from a box and write about their chosen object with creativity and accuracy. Amalia Gherman, from Richard Heathcote, was the winner of this particular competition. Chloe Moreton, also from Richard Heathcote,



was the winner of our **'Name the Car'** competition in the Technology department – her name of Gertrude was considered fitting for the battery-powered vehicle. We would like to forward our congratulations to all pupils who won the various competitions – we hope this certificate will be the first of many Sir Thomas Boughey certificates received by these pupils.

On 21st November, we were pleased to hold our annual Awards Evening: a formal and very important event, where we celebrate the many successes of our pupils. This year we were honoured to have Mr. Andrew Topham as our guest speaker. Being an ex-pupil of the school, it was wonderful to hear him talk about his many achievements in life and preparing for his next immense challenge: his trek across the South Pole in 2014. Mr. Topham is the team coordinator for this British South Pole record attempt and it was amazing to hear about the challenges ahead, and his rigorous training programme. He really is a true example of how success is driven by ambition, preparation and sheer hard work.

For the first year, we were also pleased to introduce our Thorley Platt Award at this event. In the June and September 2013 editions of Audley Community News, it was explained how we were incredibly fortunate to have received a sum of money from Mrs. Thorley Platt. For those of you who didn't read the articles, unfortunately Mrs. Thorley Platt passed away in 2011, and it was her request that when her estate was sold, the local schools (primary and secondary) would each receive a sum of money to be spent on improving the education of young people. In order to remember Mrs. Thorley Platt's immense generosity, we decided to put some of that money to fund the award, which is aimed at recognising the work in the community.

In years gone by, our Awards Evening has been an opportunity to recognise the achievement of pupils both past and present. It is the evening where Year 11 pupils who left the previous summer collect their official GCSE certificates and current pupils receive awards for a wide range of categories. However, this year we decided, through the **Thorley Platt Community Award**, to recognise the work of people within our community, not simply our pupils. We felt this was a very fitting award, given we as a school value the work of our community, and is in honour of a lady who invested so much time in the local community.

Every year, Awards Evening helps to emphasise the far-reaching talents of our pupils, which extend to life beyond school. We have pupils who have recently appeared as extras in soap operas, and in the professional productions of 'Miss Saigon' and 'Guys and Dolls'. Many of our musicians have also gained great success in various fields, including achievements from Grade 1 to Grade 8 in musical examinations, and a Year 11 pupil has won a number of national titles, including Young Guitarist of The Year Award and Nickelodeon Rising Star Award.

At the end of the summer term, one of our Year 9 pupils also accepted an invitation to visit the Sixth Form College in order to perform at a lunchtime recital to celebrate their newly restored grand piano. And the list of achievements doesn't end there: in terms of sport, some of our pupils have recently been selected to play football and netball at county level.

We are very proud of the achievements of our pupils, both academic and extra-curricular, and we are certain that they will continue to impress.

Chancel Repair Liability - St. James' Church Audley

The Responsibility of certain Property/Land owners to fund repairs to the chancel of our church of St. James the Great, Audley.

It all started with the matrimonial affairs of Henry V111 when he decided to remove the authority of the Pope from our religious buildings and took control of all the associated lands. This was known as the dissolution of the monasteries.

Each church was set up with income or Tithes from the lands within their parish to support the running of the church. Over time many of these tithes have disappeared or have been incorporated into other responsibilities and hence not appropriate. However, some still remain and in the original parish of Audley, there are 74 plots of land that have the responsibility of supporting any required repairs to the chancel (area where the priest or vicar carries out his duties) of the church in Audley.

Under the 2002 Land Registration Act, there is a responsibility identified for the local Parochial Church Council (PCC) to locate these plots of land and register the responsibility of the current owners with the land registry office. This could come as a very unpleasant surprise to land owners or dwelling owners who have property

on any of these plots of land. The PCC recognised that they had to carry out an investigation into this situation. The investigation started by locating a document which was generated due to the Chancel Repairs Act 1932 and the Tithe Act 1936 called "The Record of Ascertainment" for our parish. This lists the plots of land and the percentage of responsibility for each plot if a repair was required.

The next problem was to locate the plots of land and this was done taking copies of part of the map of our parish (located at Stafford and Lichfield Archives) showing the division of the total area of the parish into plots.

This map below left was produced in 1838 from many other records but is now recognised as the prime source.

The map consists of 2 sheets about 20 feet by 8 feet showing 2560 plots altogether but only 74 of these were of interest.

Other pertinent features were also recorded such as roads or tracks and any buildings so as to help recognise where these plots are when looking at a modern map but it must be remembered that these were the features of the area in 1838. Opposite is the area of the centre of the village where it can be seen that Wilbraham's Walk does not exist.

The next objective then was to locate these plot outlines on a modern day map and this meant recording accurately the shape of the plot together

with its orientation, scale etc together with pertinent features to help identify its current location. Some of the boundaries of the plots line up with current boundary features such as hedges and roads etc but many have had their boundaries changed as fields have been made bigger or roads changed. For example, two of the plots cut across the M6 motorway.

Altogether, 10 maps have

been created showing the location of the 74 plots of land. A small section of one of these maps is shown below with the plots overlaid on a current view of the area.

Some of the plots are between Audley Road and Merelake Road (Talke) with more lower down the hill towards Dunkirk. Another swathe of plots are towards the Alsager boundary and around Higher Foxely Farm. There are more plots around Knowlebank Road and across to Shraleley Brook with others on the edge of the parish around Heighly Castle. There is one plot in Talke Pits



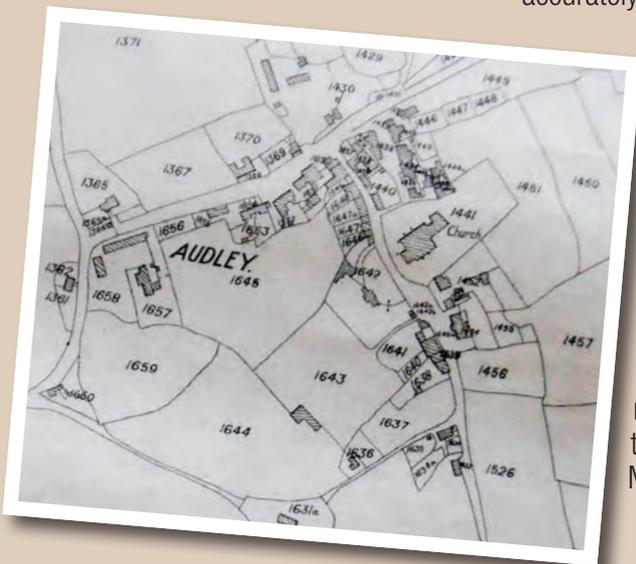
which is no longer part of Audley Parish which has 23 properties on it thus sharing the responsibility.

To take this project to a conclusion and register responsibilities would take a considerable amount of money from the PCC but to be legal would need to be completed by October.

The PCC have made a decision not to register this claim due to the financial cost to complete but also because it would be contrary to the Pastoral endeavours of the Church's Ministry. It is also worth noting that we consider the Chancel part of the church to be in a good state of repair and unlikely to need any work requiring to be carried out in the near future.

So all land owners and property owners in the parish of Audley can be relieved that they are free of any responsibility due to Chancel Repair Liability.

Trevor Carman -
Church Maintenance Officer





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Audley Model Village



It wasn't hard to recognise our village on the front cover of the last magazine issue. Thanks to the hard work and patience of Terry Mainwaring he created a scaled model of our village High Street that would put to shame our attempt at doing something similar in our Audley Village "themed" Santa's Grotto.

We were, in many ways wanting to achieve the same thing, to bring our village to life and to celebrate the joy of living in a small yet busy village environment. What a pity that the only possibility that the villagers were able to share in Terry's creation was from the pictures in our local magazine.

The article had said that Terry had been looking for someone to look after and display his model and fortunately he had now found a new home. How great it would be if the model were to be displayed as he had wished and where better than at the Audley Christmas Market having pride of place in Santa's Audley Grotto.

Through Ernie Moulton, the Committee for Audley and District Community Centre approached Terry with a view to borrowing the model from the new carer to display at the Christmas Market. Unfortunately the arrangements made had fallen through and Terry still had the model and was pleased to donate it to the Community Centre for safe keeping and display. As this issue of the magazine may be with the printers at the time of our Christmas Market on the 23rd of November we hope that the model which took pride of place at the summit of our Grotto gave pleasure to you all.

Thank you again Terry. To those of you who missed it this year, we hope to see you in 2014. Ron Bourne, Chairman of Audley and District Community Centre.

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Funds to help fight against Bignall End Opencast

Mothers' Union at St James

It seems no time at all since last year and here we are approaching Christmas again.

Mothers' Union has had a packed summer and autumn which included a delightful meal on a canal boat, a day out in Nottingham, a Diocesan council meeting, Deanery Advent lunch and Deanery and Diocesan Festivals. All this whilst helping raise funds for a refurbishment of the kitchen in our well used Church Hall.

How do we find the time? During a particular hot spell of the

summer we once more spent an evening writing 450 Christmas cards for prisoners. These cards are sent to local prisons and from the feedback we receive we know that they make a huge difference to many of those who are in prison over the festive season. For some it is the only card they ever have. After Christmas if you have one or two unused cards with envelopes, why not contact us or leave them at the Parish Office? We will be doing it again next year.

Jesus said "I was imprisoned and you visited me" so we seek to continue this ministry. One more way MU makes a difference.

Our Christmas Special is on 19th December at 6 30pm. It will begin with a Bring and Share meal followed by a short talk by Mrs. Dorothy Wright called "Tudor Yuletide". Do come along!

Branch Meetings 2014

16th Jan. AGM and plans for 2014
20th Feb. Mrs. Mackey. Games maker for the Paralympics.

All meetings are in the Church Hall at 7.15pm and are open to all ladies and gentlemen who wish to come along.

We continue to hold our increasingly popular Friday morning "Coffee Time and Book and Bric-a-rac sale" every week from 10am till 12noon in the Church Hall. We would love to welcome you for a drink and a chat. Please call in.

Finally, may we take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy and Blessed Christmas.

Our prayer for you is that the peace and love of Christ will be present in your homes not just at Christmas but throughout your life.

For further information please contact:

Dorothy 721576 or Annette 721058

Audley & District WI News For September 2013

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

I am writing this in October, recalling our lovely summer and autumn.

We enjoyed a pleasant walk on the 9th August along the salt line at Alsager, calling for morning coffee at St. Philips pink church at Hassall Green, kindly organised by Pam Bickerton, one of our members, then we returned to enjoy lunch at the Wilbraham Arms.

We also had an outing to the Arboretum in September. How inspiring it was, and a must for a visit. The larger memorial on the hill was magnificent, truly memorable but sad when you read all the names of people who have

lost their lives on our behalf. But the saddest part is that the inscriptions go to 2013 and then there remains space for entries that will reach far into the future.

You can observe a narrow gap in the two adjacent walls, and when the sun reaches a certain position a beam shines through and illuminates the central memorial. This essential alignment of sunlight through the two gaps happens (when the sun isn't behind clouds) at the 11th hour, and it is always hoped it all comes together on the 11th month, November.

The Arboretum covers a very large area but there is a little train, and a recorded commentary, to take you around and explain all the many different memorials. Help is also available for those with mobility difficulties. There is so much to see you really need a second visit to have any chance of taking it all in.

Did anyone go to 'The History of Audley Day' at the Church and Church Hall? David Beckett gave a slide show so you could experience how Audley has changed through the years. As I was born in Audley it brought back countless memories. Philip Leese also gave

an interesting talk on 'Murder on the Canal'. Both were brilliant and funny. Some ventured up the tower (but not me with my back!). Many thanks to all the volunteers.

Last night, which was 16th October, 26 WI ladies went to our local theatre, complete with sunflowers on our chests, to watch 'Calendar Girls'. It was produced sensitively and if Oscars were available the courageous ladies deserved one. I have never known, in all the years I have been going to Audley Theatre, there to be a standing ovation from the WI until that night.

It was richly deserved and the performance was on a par with the professional performance at Salford Quay with Linda Bellingham. We found it hilarious at times as it was similar to our own meetings; full of laughter and tears.

If you would like to share this regular enjoyment with us you would be most welcome.

Telephone Anne 721957 or Glenis 722009 for more info.

It will soon be Christmas but starting the new year will be Alison Lingwood, local author, to talk about her novel, 'Portal to Murder'. Best wishes Anne.



Stuart Bentley

Stuart, formally of The Gables, Park Lane, Audley passed away peacefully at The Princess Alexandra hospital, Redditch on the 1st July 2013 aged 90 years.

Stuart was born in Park Lane, Audley on the 1st June 1923 and married his

wife Rosemay in 1946. They lived at The Gables until 2004 when they moved to Evesham in Worcestershire to be close to their daughter and son, Susan & David. He passed away peacefully after a short illness.

A Tribute to Hilda Howell

How saddened I was to hear of the death in August of my old friend Hilda Howell (nee Lewis) of Rye Hills.

We first met at the age of eleven when Hilda came to live next door to me in Church Street and we were good friends

for well over twenty years. After I left the area to live in County Durham (and over time) we drifted apart. I have often thought about Hilda and the good times we shared.

I will always treasure those precious memories.

Betty Cope (Austin) East Sussex.

Cyril Prince

Sadly on the 13th September 2013, Cyril aged 85 years peacefully passed away at the University Hospital of North Staffordshire.

Cyril, a resident of Westfield Avenue, Audley was the beloved husband to wife June and a loving dad to son Neil and daughter-in-law Sandra, a treasured grandad and great grandfather.

He was a former member of the Halmer End outdoor bowling club and a very keen gardener and was well known for showing his produce at local and district shows.

The funeral took place on the 8th October at St. James' Church, Audley and was followed by burial at the Audley Cemetery.

Please accept our condolences.

Achievement For Local Primary School

Ravensmead One of Only 17 Schools Nationally to gain the Inclusion Quality Mark Flagship Status



"Ravensmead Primary is a welcoming, highly inclusive and innovative primary school. The school staff are constantly reflecting on existing practice through processes to ensure that it is "the best that it can be"

In June, our school had a reaccreditation for the "Inclusion Quality Mark" award including Flagship school status. We had previously held the status of IQM for 3 years, but made the decision to go forward for the Flagship status this time too. This was a two day assessment for our school, where an assessor came in to inspect all aspects of school life reflecting on the inclusive practice for all pupils. The assessor was extremely thorough focusing on 10 areas which included Pupil progress, Pupils' attitudes and developments, Leadership and management, Teaching and learning and Parental views to name but a few. She also held discussions with Steve Swatton, the Chair of Governors, and Sam Jones, the School's Link Governor for Special Educational Needs.

Professional discussions took place, which provoked thought and reflection on how to move the school forward. Pupils, Parents, Staff, Senior Management and outside agencies who work with the school were all consulted with thorough discussions. At the end of the two day assessment the assessor fed back on her findings.

"Ravensmead Primary offers a stimulating yet calm,

happy, safe and secure learning environment. School personnel prioritise courtesy, consideration and respect as being key features of the school alongside nurturing a love of learning and underpinning this is positive relationships with pupils, peers, parents and the wider community. Personal achievement is valued and celebrated. Learning differences are understood and effectively managed through early identification and intervention. Cultural differences are respected and celebrated as opportunities to extend the children's understanding of society. Teaching is stimulating, thoughtfully differentiated, monitored, evaluated and constantly reviewed and developed and resources are carefully chosen, accessible and respected."

We are extremely proud of this award, which celebrates all of our achievements with all members of our school community.

Mrs. Goodall, the school's Assistant Headteacher and Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator, led the school through this assessment. In October Mrs. Goodall and the School's Deputy Headteacher travelled to London to receive the prestigious award. Only 17 schools nationally currently hold the Flagship status. The Chair of Governors quoted "The Governing Body thank very much Julie Weston (Deputy Headteacher) and Melanie Goodall (Assistant Headteacher) for the hard work involved in presenting the evidence leading to Ravensmead Primary School being awarded the prestigious Inclusion Quality Mark Flagship Status. They were supported by all members of staff.

This award evidences the inclusive nature of Ravensmead Primary School".

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Audley Village Late Night Shopping!

A number of our local shops have decided to stay open later on Saturday 23rd December this year.

ACN Back Issues Wanted!

We have had a request to ask our readers if anyone has spare copies of issues number 2 & 3 of the Audley Community News to help complete a set for one of our readers. **Contact the Editor if you have.**

Can Our Readers Help?

My name is Jeff Potter and I am wondering if you can help to identify what the title on the photograph attached (Halmer End H. S. 1924) stands for. My mother, Constance Muriel Edgeley's side of the family were the Edgeley's from Roberts Close, The Drive, Alsagers Bank.

Constance was one of the 7 children of Alfred and Lillian Edgeley. She had 3 brothers, Jack, Dan and Ernest and 3 sisters, Alice, Kathleen and Nora.

My grandfather was Alfred Edgeley and he is on the attached photograph from 1924.

He was an avid Chrysanthemum, tomato and vegetable grower and I wondered if the H.S. was the abbreviation of Horticultural Society.

If you can help in anyway please contact the Editor of the magazine who can forward the information to me.

Jeff Potter.



Halmerend H. S., 1924.
J. MAINWARING, A. BROCKLEY, A. FAIRBANKS, F. BROCKLEY, F. BROADBENT.
F. WEST, D. J. HOLLAND, W. TURNER, A. W. JANION, F. WHITEHURST.
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The Newsteam would love to receive your letters. Why not put pen to paper and let us publish your letter. Send your letters / emails to the Editor details on page 3.

Dear Editor

My name is Tony Cox and I am the Conservative Parliamentary Candidate for Newcastle. On Friday the 11th October I had the pleasure of being interviewed on Hitmix radio by 2 students from Sir Thomas Boughy High School.

They interviewed me on the topic of Education and I would like to say that Marcus and Jess did a fantastic job of representing their school. It was a delight to have the opportunity to interact with such fantastic students and I know they have a bright future ahead of them in whatever they choose to do. Also, Hitmix needs recognition in giving local people a platform to have their say.

Long may it continue.

Tony Cox.

Dear Editor

Thank you once again for the last issue of your magazine which I received through your subscriber service.

This particular issue was of much interest to me as it contained an article about my old school days.

The article I refer to was the one showing my former school friends, Bertie Proctor, Trevor Sproston, Raymond Dale and Eileen Bourne, who had recently met up at an event held at the Sir Thomas Boughy School, (formerly Halmer End Secondary Modern as it was known when we were pupils. It shows them standing holding an old school class photograph of which I have a copy as I was also a pupil in that class.

Another of the articles which I found very interesting was the Thorley Platt tribute.

I well remember visiting her family shop in Church Street Audley as a child.

The shop stood back off the road and as you entered, Thorley's mother would emerge from the room at the rear of the shop to serve you. She had grey hair, always on top in a bun with wispy bits hanging down.

How on earth she ever found anything in the shop is beyond me, but most times she seemed to find whatever you asked her for. It was such a small shop, there was hardly enough room to turn around especially if you had an armful of goods which you had bought.

But what lovely memories I do so have.
Kind regards

Pam Stevenson Poole Dorset.

Dear Editor

My name is David Millington and I live in Braunton in North Devon. Wendy Millington, who is my cousin and lives in Exeter, telephoned me last week to tell me that should I require any information to help me compile my family tree that you could appeal for help in your magazine.

In my infancy from 1947 to 1958 I used to live in Hall Street, Audley. I have many happy memories and since my retirement I now have the time to carry on with the research on the family tree which was started by my late father John Hector Millington and Fred Millington of Exeter.

I have a fair amount of information about the village including photos and a video but should any of your readers remember the Millingtons it would be interesting to hear from them.

My email address is drjcmillington@tiscali.co.uk.
Many thanks David Millington.

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To advertise or to submit items for publication call 01782 721565 or you can e-mail audleycommunitynews@yahoo.co.uk

Dear Editor

I was idly searching on the internet when I came across a copy of one of your magazines dating back to 2008. After contacting you it was reassuring to find out that the magazine was still a successful editorial and I was wondering if the story below would be of interest to your readers.

My father, John William Rowley was born in Halmer End in 1913 and lived as a child in Victoria Place, Miles Green. He was the son of a miner who worked at the Minnie Pit where many of his relations sadly died in the mining disaster in January 1918.

Opposite you can see a photograph which I recently found of my father and uncle and 3 other boys dressed in running kit who were members of the Ravens Lane Old Scholars Club Harriers. I guess it was taken in the late 1920s.

From left to right the runners are:

Norman Crosby, Herbert Rowley (uncle), Sidney Riley, John (Jack) Rowley (father) and George Davies.

My father left work in the Minnie Pit to join the army in 1932 and was posted to India for what was known as "The Emergency" - trying to keep the peace in the North West Frontier between India and Afghanistan. Some things never change!

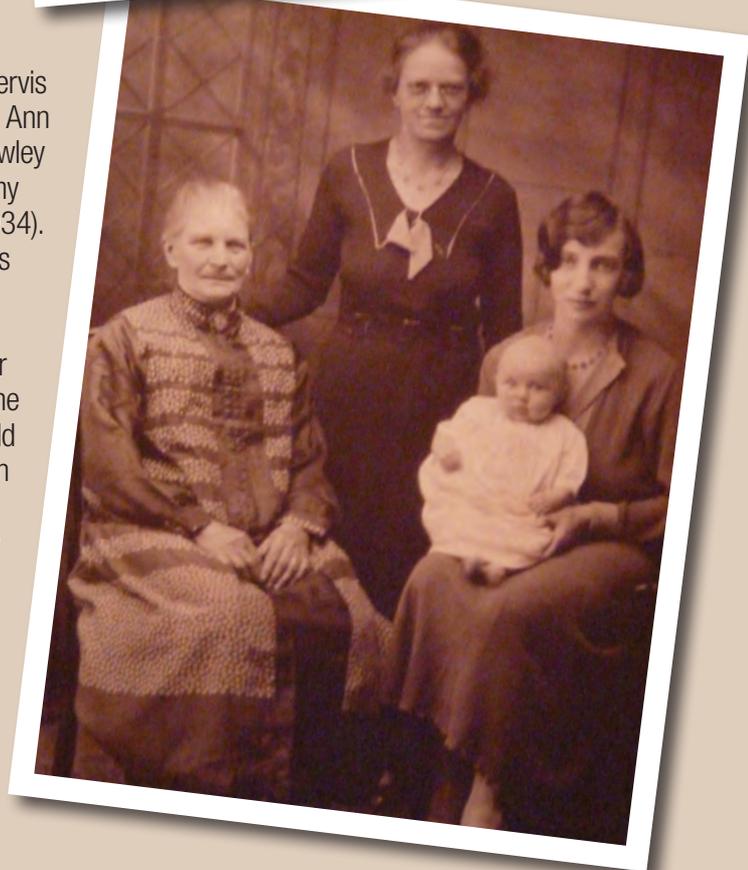
On his return in 1938 he lived briefly in Halmer End and was married to Rosa Johnston in 1940. He was then recalled into the army and after his war service he joined the Metropolitan Police Force in London. In 1948 his wife, Rosa passed away after contracting TB. In 1949 he met and married Joan, my mother, and I arrived in 1951.

My father was a very private person and my mother Joan, my sister Joan and I knew little about his childhood and army service, apart from it was very tough. Consequently we have very few photos of his younger years. Fortunately I have found another photograph that was taken some time around 1935 that shows from left to right, my great grandmother Eliza Jervis (1863-1939), my grandmother Eliza Ann Rowley (nee Jervis 1897 to 1935), my aunt Ann (Nancy) Capper (nee Rowley 1911 to 1970) holding my cousin Peter Capper (1934).

I do hope some of this information may be of interest to anyone who may be researching their family tree concerning the above names and I would welcome any information or photographs they may have which may be relevant to my family.

If you have any information please contact the Editor who has my details.

Kind regards
Phil Rowley.
Cricklewood,
London.



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Calendar Girls Bloom At Audley Theatre



THE CAST OF CALENDAR

GIRLS Front row: Kate Quick, Carol Thomas, Yvonne Johnson, Lynne Williamson, Susan Henshall, Jane O'Reilly

Backrow: Bryan Williams, Margaret Williams, Chris Salt-Mountain, Pauline Johnson, Martyn Kerr, Arlene Bailey, Phil Quick, Rebecca Salt-Mountain, Rob Burdred.

It was the talking point in the streets and shops during the middle of October. "Have you got tickets?" "Have you seen it?" "I wonder how they are going to do it". A lot of people couldn't get tickets (it was a sell out!) so many missed out on seeing how they did it!

STUNNING, WONDERFUL, BRILLIANT, VERY TOUCHING, BRAVE are some of the comments I have heard. Someone told me that she had never before left Audley Theatre with quite such a good feeling after experiencing their production of "Calendar Girls".

It was an excellent team effort. We have come to expect this from the offerings of our local drama company - but this one had something more. There seemed to be an extra element here.....TRUST.

It was moving and funny. It was bitter-sweet. It was emotional without being sentimental. It was professional and a great success.

The characters were well defined from the off - all credit to casting, directing, costume department and, of course, the actors. The set appeared

simple but it was the transformation of it that was clever and creative.

Props and lighting played an important part too. The delivery and timing of the familiar lines (for those of us who had seen the film or play before) were perfect. The audience also seemed to have a role - laughing and clapping but keeping quiet in the right places.

It was a bold decision to put on this play.

Thank You and Congratulations.



PURE CHARITY!

Purity Hair & Beauty Salon wish to take this opportunity to express their gratitude to all the customers and people from the parish who made a donation during their recent annual charitable fund-raising event in September.

This year the management and staff of the salon have helped to raise £500 by running a raffle, supplying chocolates and Bucks Fizz to their customers and also making a collection throughout the local parish area all in aid of the Douglas Macmillan charity.

Andrea Middleton, the owner of Purity, said her staff were very proud of their achievements and wish to thank the generosity of the local community in giving support to such a worthwhile charity.

Thanks to all who took part. Andrea





MONDAY
 Indoor Bowling Club
 1.30pm - 3.30pm Contact:
 Annette 01782 720646

Weight Watchers starts:
 Mon 6th Jan 2014 - 6.30pm
 Info: LIZ 07531507855

TUESDAY
 Soccer Lions
 12.30pm - 2.30pm
 Contact Karl 07747867745

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THURSDAY
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 10pm. Contact: Deb
 01782 785791

FRIDAY MORNING
 Audley Community News
 10.30am - 12.30pm
 Contact Ernie 01782 721565
 audleycommunitynews@yahoo.
 co.uk

FRIDAY EVENING
 Audley Youth drop-in club
 7pm to 9pm Entrance 50p
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 07506 159834
 Caretaker Enquiries:
 07587 177637
 Chairman Ron Bourne:
 07946 734008



77th - 1st Audley Scouts Group

The group has had a hectic period so far this year. The Beavers once again were awarded prizes for their scarecrows at the Betley show, a first for the gardening guy, a second for the sporting guy and a third for the mummy fawkes.

The culmination of our nature based programme for the Beavers has resulted in the back walled garden blooming, pictured opposite, so much that the pumpkins are creeping over the patio area, they are worse than triffids growing everywhere alongside the courgette, sweet corn, beetroot and carrots which are also thriving. The strawberries and lettuce have finished except for two which are being allowed to go to seed. We hope for apples next year from our dwarf Cox and Bramley.

Scouts had a hectic canoe training camp at Lake Bala, where both the Scouts, Explorers, Leaders and Parents participated although heavy rain, sleet, high winds and low temperatures made it a far tougher camp than anticipated. Luckily it went without any injuries though at some point everyone suffered from hyperthermia to a varying degree.

The Scouts are having weekend camps during the rest of the year. October's is at Consoll camp site where the scouts will be specialising as a survival camp, outdoor cooking, building a bivvy to spend the night under. In November they will



be hiking from Audley to Kibblestone then spending the night there. The Cubs and Scouts had a good time cycling the Manifold Valley in September. In November Cubs will be at Kibblestone in hatted accommodation with the Beavers joining them on Saturday and the Scouts joining them after their hike on the Saturday.

The group is having its annual Ice Skating at Trentham Park; this is an event all look forward to. Although more leaders and helpers are required

we still manage to run a hectic programme.

Although the Explorers are not part of the group but are controlled by the district, we allow them the use of our equipment and facilities with the hope that some 14 –18yr olds from Audley will participate in the adventure.

They started this term with helping at Madeley Fun Day, continuing to complete items from the Science and Technology Badge. Long hikes and overnight camps are planned; this is to increase their skills to pass the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze stage next year.

Chris Symonds is the Scout Leader. For information call him on: 01782 723139 or email - gsl@audleyscouts.org.uk

Meeting times.

Mondays - Scouts 10 1/2 -14 years old - 7pm to 9pm.

Tues - Beavers 6 to 8 years old - 6pm to 7.30pm.

Weds - Cubs 8 to 10 1/2 years old - 7pm to 8pm.

Thurs - Explorers 14 to 18 years old - 7.30pm to 9.30pm.

Everyone is most welcome.

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The Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes (RAOB)

Since our last article in Audley News our Provincial Primo, Brother Terry Peters charity appeal is currently standing at £5,500.

He is hopeful that much more money will be raised before his term of office finishes next year. During the last few months, a number of fund raising events have taken place, including race nights, quizzes, car boot and bring and buy sales in addition to our regular raffles and individual donations.

Brother Terry would like to thank everyone who has

contributed in any way. Also, he is still asking for donations of 1 foot square pieces of any sort of material or fabric which will go towards making, hopefully, the largest patchwork quilt produced. It will then be stitched together, measured and then cut up into bed size pieces and given to British soldiers. All the money raised will be divided between Brother Terry's nominated charities.

If anyone would like to donate a piece of material or if any man over the age of 18 would like to find out more about our organisation with a view to becoming a member, please contact me on 01782 722287

David Heath

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Contact: Deb on 07515103411
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Champion of Champions

The annual competition between the leading players from the Newcastle Wednesday Night Bowling League was won by Christine Amos who was representing Halmer End Bowling Club. Congratulations go to Chris not only from her colleagues at Halmer End Bowling Club but also from Audley Bowling Club where Chris is a member of the ladies team. Chris not only topped the second team ladies averages but was the divisional leading player. A season to remember.

Well done Chris.



MACCAS Project.

The 'MACCAS' project has evolved through the sad loss of Thomas McCauley son of retired Newcastle fire-fighter Harry McCauley. Tom or 'MACCAS' was an average 19 year old young man. But for Tom life was a battle. He had developed psychosis and for several years had struggled to come to terms with his condition. In October 2012 Tom committed suicide.

The charity 'Younger Mind' was gifted a donation raised at Tom's funeral and at that point the 'MACCAS' project was born. The project raises awareness around young male mental health; it creates a HUB for information and signposting for young people and their parents and runs school and college programmes.

The 'Alessi Indian Restaurant & Bar' in Audley has supported the project with 2 charity events which have raised £1,200. Our grateful thanks go to Fayak Akther and his staff at 'Alessi' for their support and getting involved with the project.

As a resident of the parish it is nice to see local businesses supporting these type of charity events.

Should any readers wish to know any further information about the project or are able to offer support please contact

Caroline Scot on 01782 262100.

The attached photo shows Harry McCauley, Fayak Akther & 'Alessi' staff with the £1,200 cheque.

Kelvin Chell



Blaze it up the Trail

Rudolph this year is having a rest,
While Santa puts his engine power sleigh to the test.

Piloting the skies he simply enjoys,
Delivering presents to the girls and all the boys.
As he approached Audley, from behind a cloud,
The engine roared noisily sounding quite loud.
This caused all the Angels to come venturing out,
And on seeing dear Santa, they started to shout.

They shouted:

“Pull out your throttle! Give it some bottle!

And blaze it up the trail.

Plug in the socket, fire up the rocket

And hammer it like a nail.

Ram it like the devil, down to the level, and

Make it pin back your ears.

Kick up some dust, show it some thrust,

As you shove it through the gears”.

“Oh! Pull out your throttle! Give it some bottle!

And blaze it up the trail.

Plug in the socket, fire up the rocket

And hammer it like a nail.

Ram it like the devil, down to the level, and

Make it pin back your ears.

Kick up some dust, show it some thrust,

As you blaze up the trail”.

Peter W Hodgkins.

MENORCA MAGIC

Derrick Bate is one of our local parish poets who makes regular contributions to the magazine. The following article is his fond memories of a summer holiday. Approaching midnight at the end of a glorious late September day.

I sit on the balcony of a Menorca hotel overlooking the picturesque horseshoe shaped, steep sided bay, renowned for its crystal clear, blue, green and turquoise coloured Mediterranean waters.

Stars look down from a cloudless sky onto the white sandy beach where earlier today sun worshippers delighted in the 28 degrees temperature.

Now a little lower, yet still a most pleasant comfortable 22 degrees a couple of crickets call out from their respective hideaways whilst voices echo along the well lit romantic promenade and occasional bursts of laughter add to the atmosphere.

Yet nothing interrupts the constant rhythmic sounds of waves lapping along the shore by virtue of a gentle incoming tide. Music surely to anyone's ears and I feel relaxed and contented.

Soon I know it will be time to return to England's cooler climate but looking forward to seeing again friends and family, I will in no way feel regret or resentment only thanks and gratitude for this most enjoyable experience.

Derrick Bate

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The Old Tin Bath

I remember the old tin bath

Oh what a sight

In front of the fire

On a winter's night.

A kettle of hot water pored into the bath
Carbolic soap or Lifeboy if you were lucky

To wash us down

If we were mucky.

Bed clothes and towels

Hung in front of the fire

Over the fireguard

To get warm and drier

We all then sat on the couch

Snug and warm

Ready for bedtime

As cocoa time was drawn

Sadly the old tin bath

Is used no more

It spends its last days on a nail

Outside the back door.

Barry Worthington.

A Proud Moment

On the 23rd August 2013, at the Wychwood Park Golf Club Crewe, Christopher Proud of Wood Street Bignall End married Abigail Christopher of Nantwich.

Christopher attended the university at Crewe and obtained a degree in teaching. He then completed his studies in London where he obtained a masters degree in youth work and is now a youth work tutor.

Abigail is at present in her last year at Liverpool University studying for her degree in education with religious studies. They met in a church group which they were both attending.



Audley Community News wishes to send their congratulations to Christopher and Abigail and hope that they enjoyed their honeymoon in Cyprus.



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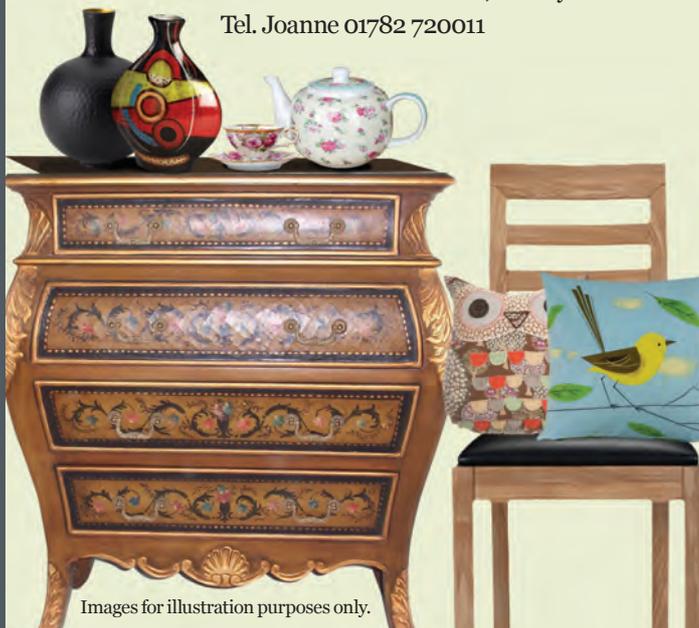
Issue No 4 of the Audley Historian please contact the Editor, contact details on page 3.

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Halmer End Stay & Play Group

New group starts in Halmer End for the under 5s with parents/carers.

A Stay & Play Group started on 2nd October sponsored by Halmer End Methodist Church, where it is based, and St. John's Anglican Church in Alsagers Bank. Stay & Play meets each Wednesday morning from 9.30 til 11.30 am during school term time. Come along and join the group or call AVRIL on 729078 or RACHEL on 721518 for more information.

Forthcoming Events

Autumn Fayre on Saturday 30th November from 12 noon to 2.30 pm Many stalls, light lunches and children's games room. All welcome. Proceeds for Church Funds.



Advent

You will be welcome at any of our services at 10.00 am each Sunday during Advent from 1st December to Christmas Day.

Food Bank Day at Halmer End – Saturday 14th December from 10.00 am till 12 noon.

On this Saturday Halmer End Methodist Church will be open for members of the public to bring gifts of food for the

Newcastle Food Bank (packets, tins, bottles and jars but not perishable food). The food will be used by the Newcastle Food Bank to help its supplies for needy people over Christmas. The Food Bank is experiencing a big demand for help with gifts of food.



Christmas Services and Events

Christingle Service on Monday 9th December at 6.00 pm with Rev'd Helen Hoe – all welcome, bring your children along and make a Christingle.
Christmas Chip 'n' Hymn on Wednesday 11th December at 6.30 pm
Christmas Praise with the Unity Choir and tenor soloist Philip Chartwright and congregational carols followed by a sharing together with Chip butties.
Christmas Day Wednesday 25th December Family Worship at 9.30 am with Rev'd Helen Hoe. All are welcome.

Minnie Pit Remembrance Day Sunday 12th January 2014

Halmer End Methodist Church will be open from 10.00 am until 2.45 pm for members of the public to call in and share in remembrance for all who died in the Minnie Pit Disaster of 12th January 1918. The day will conclude with a short Service of Remembrance at 3.00 pm led by Rev'd Helen Hoe. During the day drinks will be served and there will be a small exhibition of memorabilia associated with the disaster.

RSPCA Microchipping

Following an extremely successful RSPCA Micro chipping event held at the Audley Post Office in the summer, a further event was held in October at the Halmer End Methodist Chapel.

This event also proved to be a great success and has led others to offer venues to hold similar events throughout the Audley Parish for the forthcoming New Year.

The Staffordshire North Branch of the RSPCA would like to offer its most sincere thanks to the Halmer End Chapel for allowing the use of the building.

A truly excellent and well appointed venue. R. Rutter.

St. James' Church Wall response.

In response to Mr. Hickson's letter in your last edition, the retaining walls have not been the responsibility of Audley Parish Church for more than ten years. The responsibility was passed to Newcastle Borough Council once the church yard was closed.

The PCC of the church actually share Mr. Hickson's concerns and have written to the Council expressing those concerns. As a result we have been told that the walls have been inspected and found to be in a safe state. It is difficult to see what further action we as a PCC can take. Perhaps if Mr. Hickson and anyone else who has concerns write to the Council some action may be taken.

In view of the above, Mr. Hickson's comments about serious money being

spent on the church without forethought of an accident waiting to happen, are both unfounded and unwarranted.

We presume the money Mr. Hickson is talking about is for the work done after the fire damage of 2007. This work was actually to remedy a dangerous situation in the tower, where the main beam was found to be damaged. Being pedantic this was remedial and not refurbishment.

We now have a tower, and church, that is safe and inviting which plays its part in the life of the village, offering all the services that you would expect from a village parish Church.

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Vicar
Elizabeth Broadhurst
Brian Dodd
Church Wardens

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A Bright Future for Our Responders

As Christmas quickly approaches we start to look at a new year plan for the future. 2013 has proved a good year so far for Audley responders and Coordinator Paul Sargent, who is looking to secure the future of the volunteer service supplied by the dedicated responders of the area. As well as receiving much needed funds to continue the lifesaving work, Paul has also gone to the rescue of Kidsgrove First Responders who were in the process of ending their service which was previously run by St Johns Ambulance. By running both groups in conjunction with each other, this will provide many opportunities and

the continuation of the service in both areas.

So far in 2013 Audley Responders have been activated to 174 "999" calls in the area which is all made possible by the dedication of the volunteers and the funds from the community. Aspire residents from Durber Close, Kelsall Way & Maddock Street have decided to help raise funds for the responders as a continued project.

Coordinator Paul said "it is through help such as the residents fundraising that we are able to provide the lifesaving service as we are totally self-funded".

The responders are beginning to increase their numbers with new volunteers and also those returning to the area. With the new responders coming on board this will help to keep a

good level of cover in the area. With winter approaching there will be an increase in calls for which such a service will be greatly welcome.

Audley responders also provide training to the community with the emergency life support Heart Start course which is a FREE 2 hour training course aimed at those 10 years and above which has recently been given too Audley Scouts. The course has been put together and supported by the British Heart Foundation and taken on by West Midlands Ambulance Service.

Anyone wishing to find out more and how you could help the responders, contact Paul Sargent

on 07962 265 868

Audley Responders wish everyone a Happy & safe Christmas. Paul Sargent

Christmas Fayre

Saturday 23rd November
2013 Audley & District
Community Centre 2pm to 6pm



Santa is on his way - Why not visit

Visit Santa in his Grotto for £2.50 and this will include a toy.

Also there will be stalls, refreshments and entertainment from our village Brass Band and Ladies Choir.



“Singing For You” ~ Since 1954! Audley Male Voice Choir

Although writing this with the exhilarating experience of our Autumn “Gala Concert” still fresh in my mind for there is little that can ‘beat’ the atmosphere created by a packed ‘Victoria Hall’ audience thoroughly in the ‘mood’ and enjoying the choir singing and the band playing at our “Gala Concerts”. I suspect that by the time this is published the choir will be recovering from having experienced a distinct sense of déjà vu after another combined brass band/Audley choir concert on the 17th November when the choir will have been guests of the Crewe Concert Band at Nantwich Civic Hall; helping to raise funds in aid of the “Dougie Mac”, more properly known as “Douglas MacMillan Cancer Support”.

Many of you will have been in that Victoria Hall audience and, hopefully we look forward to seeing you all again for our “Celebrity Concert” next April! As a chorister; entertaining our friends and supporters to their obvious delight makes the time and effort of rehearsing and performing very worthwhile; whilst raising money for charity puts the ‘icing on the cake’! And we are always as delighted to welcome ‘new’ gentlemen simply turning up to sing with us at a rehearsal as we are hearing from ‘new’ concert organisers looking to ‘book’ the choir.

August 2014 will see the choir reach the 60th anniversary of the first-ever rehearsal of the “Audley & District Male Voice Choir”, now better known as “Audley Male Voice Choir”, and the start of twelve months of celebration running

through the choir’s Diamond Jubilee Year until August 2015. Planning is already well in hand to make it a year to remember for all of us.

Of course we have many more fund-raising concerts lined up before all that starts to happen.

Saturday, 25th January sees the choir returning to the Methodist Chapel in Wagg Street, Congleton, a lovely modern building with a set of three beautiful stained glass windows and excellent acoustics which promises to be another ‘packed out’ occasion judging by previous concerts the choir has given there.

Our following two concerts also see the choir singing in Cheshire.

On Saturday, 1st March we will be very close to home when we sing in concert at the church of “St Mary Magdalene” in Crewe Road, Alsager and hope to repeat the success of this year’s extremely successful concert there in aid of the “Alsager Friends of Christie’s” efforts to raise funds for the Christie’s Cancer Hospital in Manchester. Before that (on Saturday, 15th February) the choir will be performing a concert at the “Clonter Opera Theatre” near to Congleton; where we will be helping to raise money for the “Music in Hospitals” charity, a national charity that takes ‘live’ musical performances to brighten the lives of patients in hospitals across the country! Although a first-ever visit by the choir to the Theatre; it is being eagerly anticipated by one and all as the choir’s patron, Ingrid Surgenor, will also be ‘on stage’ that night as she accompanies two very talented soloists, Eimear Collins (Soprano) and Trystan Griffiths (Tenor), on the piano. It should be a night to

remember.

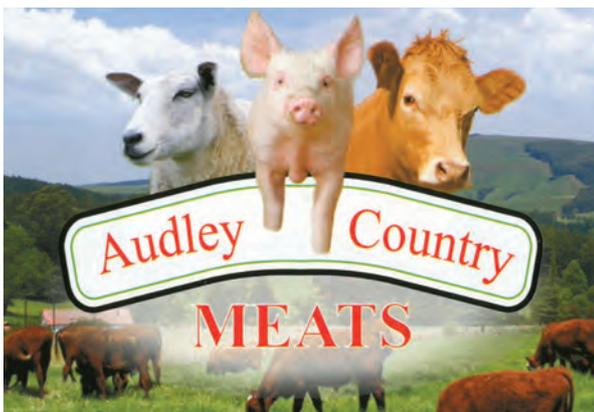
For those who cannot get to the “Clonter Opera Theatre” concert ~ don’t worry; less than two months later Ingrid will be back to accompany two ‘rising stars’ of the international opera world at the Victoria Hall when the choir stages its famous “Celebrity Concert” there in April!

Despite having all that to look forward to in the New Year, many people will feel that I have left the best til last with Christmas not far away and the choir giving its traditional biennial Carol Concert at “St James Church”; right here in the centre of Audley!

Always a special occasion; we hope as many of you as possible will join us there on Saturday evening, 14th December to share this very special evening of Christmas Carols as we ease ourselves into the season of “Peace and goodwill to all mankind regardless of race, religion, colour or creed!” and, for this one evening at least, escape from all the commercialisation and pressure of expectation that seems to surround Christmas these days and remember what Christmas is actually about!

And with that thought it seems appropriate to finish by wishing everyone a “Happy & Peaceful Christmas”; especially those who have lost someone ‘near and dear’ to them during the past year; and the hope that 2014 will see all your dreams fulfilled and your problems erased.

For full details about Audley Male Voice Choir’s concerts, venues, events, concert ticket sales, soloists and guest artistes, booking or joining the choir; visit the website at: www.TheAudleyChoir.co.uk or send an e-mail to: publicity@theaudleychoir.co.uk



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AND A HAPPY AND
PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR"**



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Santa Competition

Hiding within the magazine are 12 Santa's. The first 12 under 9's that find all 12 and let the Editor know the page numbers they are on before 20th December win a yummy selection box. Find the Editors contact details on page 3.



Audley Patient Panel

We are looking for New members

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- Call our Secretary David Hardy on 01782 723712, 07765177239
- Email the Secretary dwh0101@gmail.com
- Or audleypatientpanel@yahoo.com
- Contact our web-site www.audleypatientpanel.btck.co.uk
- Or simply ask in the Health Centre

Come and Join Us Make a Difference

Railway Inn Charity Event

support of our nominated Charity Help for Heroes. I am proud to say that standing close by me wearing the beret was Jamie Howell from Newcastle, Jamie wasn't playing toy soldiers like the rest of us, he is a serving



soldier with the Queen's Royal Lancers based in Catterick, North Yorkshire, and has seen action and loss in both Iraq (2006/2007) and Afghanistan (2010), he is also a mean poker player finishing 7th in the tournament .

for me) however, when I arrived I was genuinely impressed to see so many people in fancy dress which not only put myself to shame but put all current service dress to shame (Codder (Dave Willett) the desert SAS commando for one).

They said it was fantastic and very poignant to see so many people supporting the charity and to be so generous in their donations. I have first hand experience of how important this charity is and how each and every penny makes such a difference to both past and present service men and women. I look forward to seeing everybody again next year for whatever charity they may choose. Thanks to Julie and Steve at The Railway... A good day had by all." Jamie Howell CPL. The Queens Royal Lancers.

The day was a great success and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone who took part, the highest hand of the day was quad queens with an ace kicker, winning Sarah Dale from Congleton a bottle of whisky and the outright winner of the tournament was Sam Machin of Audley who took the shield. We are pleased to announce that the biggest winner on the day was the Help for Heroes Charity who will be presented with a cheque for £200 and I would personally like to thank everyone who helped us to achieve this.

P.S. Thanks for the mention Jamie. Your fiver is in the post !. Dave Willett.



The fifth annual Charity poker tournament (fancy dress) was held on Sept 28th 2013.

It was probably back in the Halmer End carnival days of the 60s and 70s that I last saw so many Armed Forces personnel gathered at the Railway Inn. In those days it wasn't uncommon to see members of the Red Arrows, the Army Display Team or members of the Parachute Regiment enjoying a pint and on Saturday 28th September those memories came flooding back.

I was one of 13 of the 18 entrants in this, the 5th annual Charity Poker Tournament who had dressed up in

Commenting on the day Jamie said "As an avid poker player who regularly takes part in the open tournament on a Friday night at The Railway, Halmer End, I was excited to hear that the beneficiary for the all day charity poker shield this year was Help for Heroes. You can imagine, as a serving soldier, I certainly jumped at the chance to take part in what I believe to have been a very well planned and successful day.

With it being fancy dress I found it necessary for me to turn up in my current service dress (an easy choice

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A Lifetime in the Navy My Early Years David Lovatt MBE.



In issue 41, we told the story of David's life as a boy living in the village and his decision to join the Navy. We now continue with his story as to what Navy life was really like in the 1960s.

On Monday morning 17th April 1967 I bade farewell to my parents and boarded a PMT bus in the village for the careers office in Hanley. I recall chatting to Michael Fairbanks on the bus as he was on his way to High School. Once in Hanley I purchased a newspaper for the long train journey down to London, and then to Ipswich to join the training establishment HMS GANGES at Shotley point on the convergence of the Rivers Orwell and Stour. The back page headlines showed that Stoke had signed Gordon Banks the England goalkeeper. It was a wrench to miss seeing him and the team but I had made my decision and off I went. Little was I to realise that my association with the RN would last for 39 years.

GANGES (Motto: Boys into Men) was the training establishment for 2000 15 year olds. I was one of 200 or so boys joining every 5 weeks. Interviewed on arrival whilst still in 'civvies' it was the last opportunity to back out of 'signing on' for boys time until age 18, then 9 years man service which would take you to age 27. It was a big commitment, and at that time there was no right to

purchase your release. Once signed on, it was a quickly regimented routine, mess and bunkbed assigned in the new entry annex, then over to the kit store for an overwhelming amount of oversized kit - best uniforms, working kit, down to underwear, razor, sewing kit etc.

Few personal possessions were allowed and all our civilian wear we arrived in was parcelled up and sent home. Accommodation and all the facilities were basic, and designed to prepare us for living in the cramped conditions of a warship. Strict discipline and rules covered every aspect of life - it was even a disciplinary offence not to attend meals, because each day's routine from dawn to dusk encompassed a wide range of demanding activities which built up our stamina and strength, and punishments made Ken Taylor's cane akin to an itchy palm. Training was divided into three equally important parts. Education: (Maths, English, Naval History and Navigation). Technical training: (Morse code, Flags and their meanings, Typing, Radio Operations and Procedures. Finally, Naval General Training: (Marching Drill, firing weapons, boat work on the river, Seamanship, and numerous sports). The only method of contacting home was mail, and we eagerly looked forward to the arrival of letters. A few of the boys got seriously homesick and totally regretted their enlistment. Relief came after a few months, when the right to purchase release was introduced, for the sum of £20.

Each mess had an old fashioned radio as a means of entertainment and we were blessed with excellent reception from the pirate radio station Caroline which was anchored not too far away in the North Sea. There were some serious challenges, like climbing the majority of the 143 foot high mast with no safety harness should we slip!

But overall it was enjoyable and we were a happy bunch for which we were rewarded with 30 shillings (£1.50) pay each week!

After almost 4 months of training I went home for my first long leave of 4 weeks and had quite a shock. All the activity had given me a growth spurt. I was several inches taller and my joining medical weight of 93 pounds (6 stone

9lb) had increased, so that none of my civilian clothing fitted. So it was off to Newcastle to get something to wear after constantly being in uniform. As in past years, 2 weeks in August were spent at Blackpool thanks to the generosity of Dad. In the sole company of males since enlisting I was fortunate to meet up with Pat and Sue, two Yorkshire lasses of similar age. After two weeks together we exchanged addresses and became pen pals for a couple of years and I did meet up and go out with Sue for a period. However, communications was not as instant as today and I was busy travelling. Little was I to know that our paths would cross 20 years later, which would eventually see us getting married in 1994. There was also the opportunity to see Stoke, with a draw against Sheffield United and a resounding 3-0 win over Manchester City.

Back at Ganges in early September it felt like the initial months had been the hardest and although there were challenges ahead and still lots to learn, living with a bunch of lads had brought us together as a team and we were all determined to pass out of Ganges together in the Spring. Pirate Radios were being outlawed and at the end of September we would have the corny jokes and music from Tony Blackburn on the newly launched Radio 1 as our entertainment. The highlight of the autumn term was a weekend trip to Ostende, Belgium in the MV Bembridge. We were all assigned duties and tasks as the small boat wallowed in the swell on a blustery day. Not only was it the first sea trip but also the first visit to a foreign country for most of us.

Christmas and then Spring came and after a passing out parade we moved onto HMS MERCURY, the RN's Signal Communications School set in the Hampshire countryside. Leydene House as it was known and the 600 acres of mainly woodland had been the home to a family who had made their fortune in the linoleum business. The rose bed at the back of the house was laid out in the pattern of their best selling linoleum. When Portsmouth became heavily bombed during World War II, the MOD requisitioned the estate and slowly the camp grew into a large establishment

with a mix of old Nissan huts which were heated with coke stoves and modern buildings. A main public road ran through the camp and there were no fences and little security. We had 6 months of in depth Signal training on radio equipment and a coding device which must have been based on the German ENIGMA machine. We also increased our morse code reception to 20 words per minute. Some of the things we had to do during our duty days were right out of 'Dads Army'. Because we were so far away from the nearest Fire Brigade station, we had an initial action to attempt to extinguish any fire. This was exercised every day. A large wooden handcart which housed a diesel pump, plus hoses, fire extinguishers etc., had to be pulled at top speed to the designated 'fire', with a few hanging onto the back as the brake!. Once their hoses etc. were set up to fight the imaginary fire. However, the diesel was a devil to start and on many occasions the exercise was never completed. The other duty was the 'Bike

Patrol'. This was carried out throughout the night and one might be unlucky enough to be allocated 0200 to 0400! There was no bike, just a tin helmet, torch, whistle and a small pick helve which would deter few. The patrol was carried out singly, and consisted of selecting a route card at random, which could involve a walk into the depth of the woods to a remote building just to check the locks and windows were secure, then to sign a chit to substantiate the visit. It was a little scary, especially as the woods were full of wildlife with plenty of sounds.

Towards the end of our course we submitted our 'dream sheets' - what type of ship we would like to join and where it would be

serving. I had no preference of ship, so submitted 'Any ship in the Far East Fleet'. Successfully completing the course it was sheer delight to be drafted to the Assault ship HMS Intrepid to commence its second commission in Singapore.



Ostende, Belgium

AUDLEY THEATRE

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ALI BABA AND THE FORTY THIEVES

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All aspects of joinery and building work can be undertaken from small jobs such as hanging a door to a full scale re-furbishment or extension.

We can also help you with heating, plumbing and security systems.

To find about all our services we offer call Simon or visit our website.

Mobile: 07506 141 141 Landline: 01782 935 317

www.audleyjoinery.co.uk

KITCHENS • BATHROOMS • ROOFS • HEATING

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

St. JAMES CHURCH, AUDLEY
SATURDAY 14th DECEMBER 2013
 7.00 p.m.

Audley Male Voice Choir
Audley Ladies Choir
Cheshire Brass
Philip Cartwright
& Audience Carols

Tickets £5 from Church Office, or
Audley Male Voice Choir
Audley Ladies Choir.

Refreshments will be served after the Concert.

G&L.J. Fairbanks & Son

Pool End Nursery, Leycett Lane, Leycett ST5 6AN

Seasonal Baskets, Bedding plants,
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 Wreaths and Holly.



Free range eggs - FOR SALE
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*Please join us
 for any of the
 listed services*



Dec 1st Advent 1 Morning Prayer 10.45am
Dec 8th Advent 2 Christingle Service 10.45am
Dec 15th Advent 3 Holy Communion 10.45am
Dec 22nd Advent 4 Morning Prayer 10.45am

*Sunday Dec 22nd Carols by Candlelight
 starting at 6.30pm*

*Tuesday Dec 24th Children's Crib Service
 starting at 3.00pm*

*Tuesday Dec 24th Christmas Eve Communion
 starting at 11.15pm*

*Wednesday Dec 25th Christmas Day Service
 starting at 10.00am*

St. James Church, Audley

Audley Library

Opening hours

MONDAY	2.00 – 7.00
TUESDAY	9.00 – 1.00 2.00 – 5.00
WEDNESDAY	CLOSED
THURSDAY	9.00 – 1.00 2.00 – 5.00
FRIDAY	2.00 – 5.00
SATURDAY	9.30 – 1.00

TEL. 01782 720527

The Audley Rotary SANTA TOUR 2013

Monday 9th December - Waterhays

Tuesday 10th Dec - Red Street

Wednesday 11th Dec - Wood Lane

Friday 13th Dec - Betley

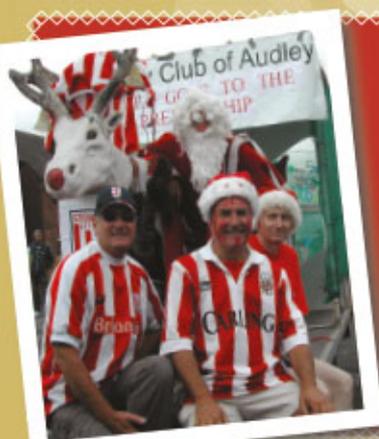
Monday 16th Dec - Madeley

Tuesday 17th Dec - Scott Hay,
 Alsagers Bank & Halmer End

Thursday 19th Dec - Bignall End

Friday 20th Dec - Audley

Saturday 21st Dec - Church Street Audley



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 NEW YEARS EVE KARAOKE AND FANCY DRESS
 9PM - 2AM

ALL STOKE GAMES SHOWN

5 CASK ALES
 CASK MARQUE AWARD



MONDAY & TUESDAY 2PM - 11PM
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 SUNDAY 12PM - 11PM

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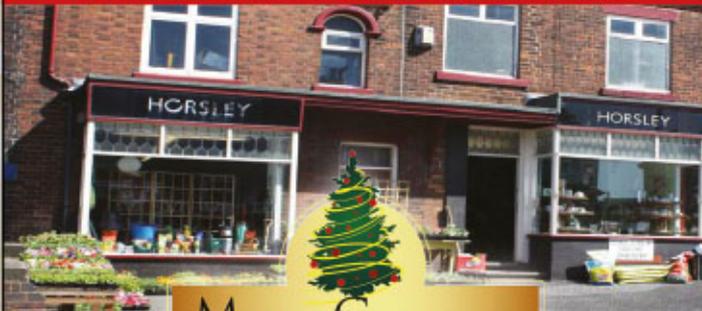
Open: Monday to Friday 9am to 12.30 - 1.30 to 5.30. Saturday 9am to 12.30.



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 WEB: www.seedmerchants.com EMAIL: rileys@fsmail.net

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MERRY CHRISTMAS

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