

ADAS AGM was held on 7th March 2019 having been moved from the end of 2018, one of our busiest time of the year.

Janet, our treasurer gave a report on our finances which are in good health having had a very successful Open Gardens event, two quizzes (due to our extended reporting period) and the receipt of gift aid funds from HMRC. The response to the subscription envelope drop was again very successful, which together with fund raising and grants from the Parish Council enables ADAS to continue its work to make the village look as pretty as possible.

Neil, our Chairman, gave his report, which as we enter our fiftieth year covered how and why ADAS was formed and some of the people involved at its inception. During this part of the report Judy Evans came forward to donate £600 from funeral donations for her father Derek McKelvey, an ex - chairman and life member of ADAS. The remaining part of the report covered:

- Events held during the year such as Open Gardens, the Big Switch On and Carols in Square, which are only possible with the many hours of volunteer work put in by our community
- In March of 2018 Suzie Warren who having already spent time on the Audlem in Bloom committee, took over secretary duties from Judy Tarrant, who is now retiring from ADAS.
- In May, we planted the summer flowering scheme, which delivered a very colourful display. It was a challenge to keep them alive during the dry months in June and July, but our new water bowser certainly helped. In October we ripped out the summer plants with the help of around 25 cubs one Wednesday evening, which was then finished by the gardening volunteers on the Saturday morning. On the following weekend we planted 1,200 pansies, 1,250 blue crocus, 800 Princess Irene Tulips and 350 yellow Hyacinths.
- In 2018 Audlem in Bloom were delighted to receive a GOLD award for the village and an award for the Canal area tended by the C&RT volunteer group. The school also attended to receive their award, one of only five schools in the north west to be invited to Southport.
- The School growing competition was run again this year with the school parliament choosing to grow pumpkins and deciding on the judging criteria. ADAS judged the entries and presented prizes in October.
- The response from residents to the envelope drop has once again been wonderful, with many people filling in Gift-aid details, which provides an invaluable contribution to ADAS that enables us to keep on doing the work we are doing.

- In late 2018 we were accepted by the Co-op community fund as a beneficiary for the period which ends in October this year. This money will be used to provide benches in the village.
- In recent weeks we launched the ADAS website so that more information on ADAS is accessible to village residents.
- In 2018 we instigated “tidy up” sessions and we are continuing this work this year and have published a plan of work for 2019. If you know other areas that need attention, please let us know.
- In 2019 we hope to hold an Open Gardens event alongside a scarecrow competition, site new benches in the village, creating raised planters at the front of the Charity shop and raised planters at the front of the Methodist church. We have agreed a plan for 2019 to help improve the village which was published on AoL . Also, we will soon be announcing plans for our 50th celebration event.

Also covered in the Chairman’s report was a brief summary of the history and work of Audlem Medical and Nursing Trust (AMNT) which was formed by an idea from ADAS in 1989. As such although it is not part of ADAS, it is very closely associated with us. It buys equipment for the Medical centre and relies on donations, to fund these purchases.

The annual awards were announced and presented to

- ADAS Senior Citizen of the year – Megan Goode (Post Office)
- ADAS Young Citizen of the year award – Meghan Brookes
- ADAS Best Kept Garden - Michael and Sally Cookson
- ADAS Best Commercial premises – Brambles

Thanks are due to Andrew Bradshaw, who audits our accounts and who was appointed again for 2019.

Following the reports, proposed changes to the ADAS constitution were read out and voted on. The changed constitution will be published on our website.

The election of officer and ADAS committee were then voted on resulting in the ADAS committee being voted back on and officers elected as follows:

Janet Warrington - Treasurer

Suzie Warren - Secretary

Bryony Nixon - Vice Chair

Neil Goodyear - Chair

The meeting closed at 20.18 and refreshments were enjoyed by the attendees.