

# Bear Necessities

With News from Congleton Town Council & Community Groups  
Spring 2013



## Congleton's Food & Drink Festival

**N**ow in its fifth year, Congleton's popular Food and Drink Festival will be held on Sunday 16th June from 10.30am - 4pm. You'll be able to enjoy top quality local and regional produce, a fantastic range of global street food, kids activities, magic, music and street entertainment. Producers are selected on the quality of ingredients, production, locality, individuality and more than anything, passion for their product.

There will be competitions, demos, tastings and entertainment in the Community

Garden, Lawton Street. If you enter the recipe competition you could win £100! Three winning recipes will be cooked and judged on the day! Swan Bank and Mill Street will be closed to traffic and used for stalls - this is necessary as space has been reduced in the pedestrian area with so many shops and cafes choosing to support the event by opening their doors and taking advantage of the thousands of visitors!

The Festival is organised by Congleton Community Projects and a great team of volunteers. If you would like to join the team, share ideas or help on the day see [www.foodanddrinkfestival.net](http://www.foodanddrinkfestival.net) or call 01260 270908.

## Congleton Partnership Open Day

You are probably aware of Bearmania, Congleton Apple Juice, the River Dane Walkway, Town entry signs and Congleton Means Business? But are you aware that it's the Congleton Partnership that's the driving force behind such projects? The vision of the Partnership is to make Congleton a vibrant, happy, healthy, sustainable, town where people want to visit, stay, live, rest and play. It is a non-political, volunteer based group which relies on the skills and enthusiasm of local

people. The more people involved, the more we can achieve!

If you care about the future of our town, share the vision of the Partnership and would like to know more, please pop into our open evening. You'll enjoy a warm welcome as well as the offer of a glass of wine and nibbles!

The Electric Picture House, Cross Street, Congleton. 8th May 2013 - 7pm - 9pm

## Aiming To Win NW in Bloom!



For the past couple of years Congleton has been very successful in the North West in Bloom competition, gaining RHS GOLD but coming second in the large town category. This year we want to WIN!

The Town Council is sorting the floral displays in the town, and many of the shops are joining in with Hanging Baskets, but that only accounts for some of the marks. What the judges really want to see is the community caring about its environment; people getting involved in improving their town. PLEASE HELP CONGLETON'S ENTRY! The easiest thing you can do to play your part is to take your litter home, or place it in one of the many bins. If you're prepared to do more there's plenty of opportunities to get involved in planting, digging or litter picking. Join in THE BIG PLANT-UP on Saturday 20 April from 10-12 noon at the bus station near the library.

For more information about volunteering or to report a grot spot, contact Jackie on 01260 270350, ext 2 or see the noticeboards.

Bear Necessities is produced by Congleton Town Council. The next newsletter will be delivered around 9 July. All contributions should be sent by 18 June to Jackie MacArthur at Congleton Town Hall, High Street Congleton CW12 1BN, Tel 01260 270350 or email [jm@congletontowncouncil.co.uk](mailto:jm@congletontowncouncil.co.uk)



Congleton  
**beartown**  
where friends are made

# Know Your Councillor

**Congleton** is divided into two wards, east and west. As a rough guide East Ward covers Buglawton, Bromley Farm, Mossley and Lower Heath. West Ward covers the Town Centre, West Heath and Newcastle Road. Each ward is represented by 10 Councillors.

All Councillors can be contacted through the Town Council and further details can be seen at [www.congleton-tc.gov.uk](http://www.congleton-tc.gov.uk) Your Councillors elected or co-opted to serve until May 2015 are:



Dawn Allen, C



Gordon Baxendale, C



John Saville Crowther, IVC



Robbie Brightwell, C



Louise Bours, UKIP



Amanda Martin, C



Denis Murphy, LD



Jean Parry, C



Neville Price, I



Elizabeth Wardlaw, C

West Ward Councillors

East Ward Councillors



Larry Barker, C



David Brown, C (Deputy Leader)



Paul Bates, C



Bob Edwards, C (Council Leader)



Guy Brittain, C



George Hayes, C (Deputy Mayor)



Sally Ann Holland, C (Mayor)



Douglas Parker, C



Glen Williams, C



Rebecca Williams, C

C = Conservative; LD = Liberal Democrat; I = Independent; IVC = Independent Voice of Congleton; UKIP = UK Independence Party

## Changes to Beartown Bus Network?

From Monday 15 April, **bakerbus** is re-launching its **Beartown Bus Network**. Once again Bromley Farm will benefit from its own dedicated Beartown bus service, (90), and the Saturday services 93 will serve West Heath and service 76 will operate independently.

Service 95 will continue to serve Congleton Retail Park, Tesco's and Lower Heath, hourly Monday to Saturday. Service 99 will remain part of the **Beartown Bus Network** serving Buglawton, Congleton Railway Station and Congleton Road, Mossley.



Beartown buses will also provide direct journeys between Mossley, Bromley and Congleton High School and between Mossley and Eaton Bank School.

Phil Baker, Managing Director said: "**Beartown Bus Network** remains a wholly commercial venture by **bakerbus**. We thank all our customers for their support. We have made these changes in the light of experience and changes in demand in Congleton since last August."

There will be some changes to early morning and evening journeys and a few, that were little used, will no longer operate. Please check individual journey times. Fares within Congleton are the same on all our bus services and the **bakerbus 10% discount card** applies. Copies of Beartown bus timetables will be distributed door to door to households along the bus routes.

## Improved Route to Town from Buglawton

There is a new, improved path from Eaton Bank Industrial Estate into Congleton Park, creating a more pleasant walk or cycle into town from Buglawton. Overgrowth has been cleared, the path widened and tarmacked, new gates, some fencing and lighting added. This is the phase three of the River Dane Walkway which is being promoted by Congleton Partnership and Congleton Town Council. Phase one was the new path from Aldi to the Pavilion Bridge in the park. Phase 2 has been half completed and takes the route from Dane Mill to Town Bridge at the bottom of Rood Hill.



## Congleton Antiques & Collectable Centre

**Victoria Mill**, on Foundry Bank near Congleton Leisure Centre is attracting a lot

of visitors into Congleton! In April 2012 it re-launched as an Antiques and Collectables Centre. It now has almost 40 dealers hiring cabinets and booths over three floors - and a waiting list of dealers wanting space in the Mill. There's a large selection of furniture, linens, dolls, glassware and interesting collectables. The centre is open 7 days a week from 10am - 4pm.



For more information call into the centre or check out the web site: [www.victoriamillartscentre.co.uk](http://www.victoriamillartscentre.co.uk)

< The **Town Council** is located in the Town Hall. The office is open Monday - Friday from 9am - 5pm. To speak to the Town Clerk contact Brian Hogan on 01260 270350, ext 1, or email [bh@congletontowncouncil.co.uk](mailto:bh@congletontowncouncil.co.uk)

# IncredibleEdibles



**T**hanks to the efforts of the **Congleton Food4Free** group and other volunteers there will be more herbs, berries, bee-friendly and edible plants in Congleton this summer. The team have put in hours of work removing old shrubs and roots from the land at Capitol Walk and replanting with edible and bee-friendly plants. The group is also working with the Leisure Centre, Police Station and Town Council on places to include edible planting.

Congleton Food4Free started in July 2012, growing out of the blueberry project. Food4Free aims to encourage, inspire and educate people to grow more of their own food either communally (for sharing) or on their own ground (for themselves).

For more information about Congleton Food4Free and for maps of where to buy local produce log on to:

[www.congletonfutureuk.info](http://www.congletonfutureuk.info)

## Welcoming Home the Mercian Regiment



Planning is well underway to enable the Mercian Regiment to march through Congleton on the morning of Friday 14 June to celebrate their return from another tour of duty in Afghanistan. Marches by the regiment in June 2009 and November 2010 were very well supported it's hoped that once again people will turn out in their thousands.

## Could you be a CHESHIRE MARSHAL?

Community events are very often only able to run because of the dedicated commitment of volunteers. Cheshire Marshals is a voluntary organisation that aims to recruit a pool of trained volunteer marshals and loan them out to support community events across Cheshire East - and in this way make a positive impact on community events across Cheshire East.

Cheshire Marshals has developed a specific free training programme for those interested in becoming a volunteer marshal. As a volunteer you choose which events you are able to support.

For more information see:  
[www.cheshiremarshals.co.uk](http://www.cheshiremarshals.co.uk)

## News In Brief...

### LOUISE BOURS ELECTED ONTO COUNCIL

Louise Bours has been elected to serve on the Town Council's West Ward, following the resignation of Michael Hutton. Louise is a member of the UK Independence Party. She has previously been Town Mayor and served on the Town Council.

### ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Residents are invited to an Annual Town Meeting in the Town Hall on Thursday 2nd May at 7pm. This is an opportunity to hear about events affecting Congleton and to pick up a copy of the Council's Annual Report. It is not a Council Meeting. If Councillors choose to attend they do so as a resident

### ICE-RINK FOR CHRISTMAS IN CONGLETON

Thank you to everyone who was involved with or supported the Hair and Fashion Shows held in the Town Hall in February - which raised around £5,000 over the two nights towards an ice-rink in Congleton in the lead-up to Christmas 2013. Look out for more fundraisers and support if you can.

### BEARTOWN BIKERS

This year's Beartown Bikers Charity ride out will take place on Saturday 18th May. The day starts at the Church House, Buglawton at 9.30am. The ride out leaves around 11am, but there will be stalls and entertainment at the pub during the day and live bands on until late. All proceeds will go to the Donna Louise Trust.

### MAYOR MAKING

Will take place in the Town Hall on Thursday 9 May starting at 7pm. The Town Councillors will elect a councillor to serve as Mayor for 2013-14. The usual protocol is for the Deputy Mayor to become Mayor the following year. This meeting is open to the public.

### ASTBURY MAY DAY - SATURDAY 18TH MAY, 12.30PM

The daffodils are here which can only mean May Day is upon us! We have opportunities for craft fair and we'd love to hear from past pupils of Astbury School with MayDay memories & photos to share. Contact:

[astburymayday@gmail.com](mailto:astburymayday@gmail.com) or 07979 614525

### ASTBURY CHURCH - BE PART OF HISTORY

Astbury Church has been a local landmark for over 1000 years, and soon it will truly be accessible to all, thanks to 'The Peoples Walkway'. The church is building an access ramp in which people can have their names laser cut which will be seen for generations to come. Find out more:

[www.thepeopleswalkway.org.uk](http://www.thepeopleswalkway.org.uk)

## BEARTOWN RADIO

Beartown Radio is going from strength to strength and has added a number of popular live shows including a sports programme. The station needs more volunteers. Training is provided. If

you are interested in getting involved contact Keith via [studio@beartownfm.co.uk](mailto:studio@beartownfm.co.uk) Beartown Radio is an internet radio station and can be listened to via your computer at [www.beartownradio.com](http://www.beartownradio.com)

## Dates for your diary

### April

- 7 Museum Walk - Ancient Places meet 2pm
- 13 History Society 50th Anniversary - Town Hall
- 13 to 4 May Transition Exhibition ,Electric Picture House  
10am - 5pm
- 13 Led Zeppelin tribute Night - Town Hall 8.30pm start
- 18 Full Council Meeting, Town Hall 6.30pm
- 20 BIG PLANT DAY, by the library, 10-12noon.
- 23-27 Dad's Army - Congleton Players - Daneside
- 25 National Blood Service 2 4pm & 5.30 - 7.30pm
- 27 Youth Orchestra Concert - Town Hall
- 28 Seedling Swap Sunday - Astbury Mere 2-4pm
- 28 Film Daneside

### May

- 1 A Feast of Flowers - Biddulph Valley Way - 10 - 1.00pm
- 2 Annual Town Meeting, Town Hall, 7pm
- 4 Cabaret in Aid of British Heart Foundation, Town Hall
- 5 Museum Walk - Discovering Your Congleton meet 2pm
- 8 Congleton Partnership Open Evening, Electric Picture House 7 -9pm
- 9 Mayor Making - Town Hall 7pm
- 10 Music by The Concrete Trees, Electric Picture House  
8.00pm. Entry £3.
- 16-18 Treasure Island - Daneside
- 18 Choral Workshop - United Reform Church 10 - 4pm
- 18 Astbury May Day
- 19 Film - Daneside
- 22 Siemens / TSC Awards Evening - Town Hall
- 23 National Blood Service 2 4pm & 5.30 - 7.30pm
- 23 Planning Meeting - Town Hall 7pm
- 25 to 15 Jun Group Exhibition of Work (All Artists) Elec Picture House 10 - 5pm
- 25 Paddling Pool Opens - Daily 10am - 6pm
- 30 Finance and Policy 7pm, Special Council Meeting 8pm, Town Hall

### June

- 2 RSPCA Walk & Fun Day - Astbury Mere
- 2 Brass in the Park, Congleton Park -afternoon
- 2 Museum Walk - A Pub Crawl through Time meet 2pm
- 6 Community, Environment and Services 7pm Town Hall
- 8 Seasons of The Heart John Denver Tribute - Daneside
- 12 Young Chef / Designer - Eaton Academy
- 13 National Blood Service, 2 - 4pm & 5.30 - 7.30pm
- 13 Planning Committee (7pm) Town Hall Committee, 7.45pm
- 14 Mercian March (am) - Town Centre
- 16 Food and Drink Festival, Town Centre 10.30am - 4pm
- 16 Film at Daneside
- 17-22 Tasty Town Week - Various Locations
- 18-19 Cheshire Show - Tabley
- 20 Teddy Bears Picnic - Congleton Park
- 20 Council Meeting, 7pm Town Hall
- 22 Private Lives - Daneside Theate
- 22 to 6 July Adam Quinn Solo Exhibition, Elec Picture House  
10.00 to 5.00pm
- 27 Planning Committee, Town Hall 7pm
- 30 Lions Youth Brass Band Concert - Congleton Park 3pm

Members of the public are welcome to attend Congleton Town Council (CTC) meetings, and may ask a question at full council. To do this you are requested to advise the Town Clerk in writing or by e-mail at least 7 working days before the day of meeting. Please note there could be items towards the end of the meeting, which by law, require the press and public to be excluded. For Daneside Theatre productions contact Congleton Tourist Information 01260 271095.

For Congleton Town Council (CTC) contact 01260 270350. For more events see [www.congleton-tc.gov.uk](http://www.congleton-tc.gov.uk)

## Teddy Bear's Picnic

If you go down to Congleton Park on June 20th you're sure for a big surprise! For that's the day the Teddy Bears - and their pre-school owners have their teddy bears' picnic! This free event is organised by Congleton Town Council and friends as part of Tasty Town Week. Local youngsters are invited to



bring a picnic, teddy and adult and join in some free fun including story time, rhythm time, dancing, games, music and a chance to meet some 'character bears'. The fun starts at 12.30 and finishes at 2.30pm - in plenty of time to pick up older brothers and sisters! For more details see [www.congleton-tc.gov.uk](http://www.congleton-tc.gov.uk)

## BASKETBALL CLUB

### Interested in playing basketball?

Congleton Basketball Club runs sessions at Congleton High School Sports Centre on Monday nights. School years 7 to 10 meet from 6.45 - 7.45pm and anyone older can join in the 8-9pm session.

Both sessions are run by England Basketball level 3 and 2 qualified coaches. Players of all

abilities (both skill and fitness wise) are welcome. If there's enough demand the club is considering starting sessions for girls only and for primary school children.

For more information Email:

[congletonbasketballclub@gmail.com](mailto:congletonbasketballclub@gmail.com)

or tel: 07787559601 or 07960794431.

## Another SPLASHING SUMMER!

Congleton's Paddling Pool, in Park Road will open on Saturday 25 May until Sunday 8th September. The opening times will be 10 - 6pm daily, with the Town Council having the discretion to close the pool on cold, wet days.

Generations of children have enjoyed the Paddling Pool since the 1930s, and it's an asset that Congleton Town Councillors have continued to protect for the town.

The Paddling Pool is designed for children aged 11 and under. A member of staff will



be present, but all children must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Car parking on the roads surrounding the Pool is time-limited and restrictive and the Daneside Theatre car park is private, so users are advised to walk, cycle, travel on the bus or park in the Town Centre car parks.

## PARKLIVE 2013

Parklive Congleton is an exciting new event planned to take place in Congleton Park on Friday 12th and Saturday 13th July. On the Friday night there will be a number of local bands playing on Hankinson's Field plus a

masquerade ball in the Pavilion. Saturday 13th sees a full day of free daytime activities in the park from 10am - 5pm including Circus Sensible, music, street art, stalls and exhibitions. In the evening a number of live bands will play on Hankinson's field, including the mighty 'Dirty DC'. For full information about tickets and prices for the evening events and the latest acts to be announced, see the Facebook Page 'Parklive Congleton'.

## Free Entry to CONGLETON MUSEUM

From the 1st April, entry to Congleton Museum became free - with visitors being encouraged to give a donation. The entrance to the museum is at the back of the Town Hall. It is open Tuesday - Friday and Sunday from 12 - 4.30pm (last entrance 3.45) and on Saturdays from 10am - 4.30pm. You'll be amazed at what you'll find out about Congleton! See [www.congletonmuseum.co.uk](http://www.congletonmuseum.co.uk)