

# Bear Necessities

With News from Congleton Town Council & Community Groups

Autumn 2016

## Congleton Christmas - 25th November!



**O**rganisers are planning some great activities for this year's Christmas Lights Switch-On! With a traditional Christmas festival feel - there will be lots of firm favourites to enjoy including the Grand Lantern Parade, quality craft & gift fayre, music, food and drink, street and stage entertainment, traditional charity stalls and a giant snow globe!

The switch-on will take place on Friday, 25th November from 4.00-7.30pm. The Grand Lantern parade will leave Lawton Street at 5pm in plenty of time to be near the tree for the Big Switch-On at 5.30pm. The Christmas team is in need of more volunteers to help on the day - if you can

spare an hour or two between 2pm and 8pm, please contact: [info@congletontowncouncil.co.uk](mailto:info@congletontowncouncil.co.uk)

There may still be an opportunity to book outdoor charity and group stalls for £15 or indoor quality gift and craft stalls for £25 tel 01260 270350 ext 6 to check availability.

## Remembrance Parade

Congleton's Remembrance Parade has attracted huge turnouts for the past few years. This year's parade takes place on Sunday 13th November. You can support the parade as it marches from Booth Street taking in West Street, Antrobus Street, Mill Street, the pedestrian area, Market Square, Bank Street and onto Lawton Street to the Cenotaph. After the two minutes silence at 11am, dignitaries and associations will be called up to lay wreaths. The parade will lead off at 11.15am for a service at St Peter's Church. There will also be a two minutes silence at the Cenotaph at 11am on Friday 11th November.



## Hold the Date!

### Wedding Fayre

Congleton Town Hall will be the grand venue for a Spring Wedding and Party Fayre on the 26th February 2017. Stalls are already being booked. For more information contact Becky Lawton from Congleton Town Hall Events and Parties on 07900 606 225.



## "Wow, Wow, Wow Congleton!"



The Tour of Britain organisers were bowled over with the reception they received in Congleton and Cheshire East! A huge thank you to all the residents, businesses, groups, volunteers and organisations that helped get

day three of the Tour of Britain off to such a fantastic start. The Town Council would particularly like to thank the Congleton sponsors for their generous support: - Auto Legal Protection, Approved Inspectors, Belmont Engineering, Berisfords Ribbons, Burns Garage, Dane Mill, East Cheshire Chamber of Commerce, Franklin Solicitors, Gladman, Glass and Stainless, Plasto Sac, Prism Solutions, Reliance Medical, Rogers Barbers, SAS Daniels, Scarborough International, Seddon Homes, Synergy, Timothy Brown, TMC, The Queens Head and The Rossendale Trust.



Congleton hosts cycling's *Tour of Britain* – A Great Success!

Bear Necessities is produced by Congleton Town Council. The next newsletter will be delivered around 9th January. All contributions should be sent by 4th December 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)

For back issues of Bear Necessities, see [www.congleton-tc.org.uk](http://www.congleton-tc.org.uk)

# Know Your Councillor

**CONGLETON** is divided into two wards, East and West. As a rough guide East Ward covers Buglawton, Bromley Farm and Mossley. West Ward covers the Town Centre, West Heath, Lower 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 to serve until May 2019 are:



Larry Barker (C)



Charles Booth (C),  
Deputy Town Mayor



Peter Broom (C)



David Brown (C),  
Town Mayor



Bob Edwards (C),  
Council Leader



George Hayes (C)



Sally Holland (C)



Anna Morrison (C)



Harvey Richards (C)



Glen Williams (C)

← **East Ward Councillors**

**West Ward Councillors** →



Nicholas Adams (C)



Suzanne Akers-Smith (C)



Dawn Allen (UKIP)



Andrea Armitt (C)



Geoff Baggott (C)



Paul Bates (C)



Robert Boston (L)



Amanda Martin (C)



Jean Parry (C)



Elizabeth Wardlaw (C)

C = Conservative; L = Labour;  
UKIP = UK Independence Party

## Blooming Great Support for Congleton



Compliments have come flooding in about how truly great Congleton looked this summer - now the In Bloom team is hoping that the judges enjoyed their visit to Congleton as much as many of the visitors and residents! The town will receive the results of the Cheshire Community Pride Awards on Thursday 13th October, Britain in Bloom on Friday 14th October and North West in Bloom on Friday 28th October. The three in Bloom Businesses - The Queen's Head, Alexandra Court Hotel and Astbury Mere Care Home will also get their results on the 28th in Southport. The It's

Your Neighbourhood Groups - Buglawton in Bloom, Bromley Farm, The Bath House and Physic Garden, Hilary Avenue Allotment, New Life Church Jubilee Club and Heath View Care Home will get their awards on Thursday 27th October. Whatever the results, the hard work of everyone involved has led to Congleton looking extra special this year. The In Bloom team would like to pass on its sincere thanks to all the individuals, groups, organisations, businesses and trusts that supported the initiative. Sponsorship of the roundabouts, and purchases of the 260 hanging baskets contributed £10,330 to this year's In Bloom funds.

If you would like to get involved with In Bloom in 2017 - either as a Neighbourhood or part of the town group contact [info@congletontowncouncil.co.uk](mailto:info@congletontowncouncil.co.uk)

## Call for More Speedwatch Volunteers

Keeping Congleton roads safer, by keeping speeds down, is at the heart of a new volunteer team working with Congleton Police. In summer 2016 Congleton Speed Watch set up groups in Mossley and West Heath and is now looking to expand these groups and set up teams to work in other parts of the town. Volunteers work in twos or threes at times to suit themselves. They are trained to use the speed gun and provided with a high-viz jacket and currently only work on 30mph roads. They use the gun to take an

accurate reading of speeding vehicles and note its make, colour and registration details. This is forwarded to the Police who in the first instance issue a speed warning letter. Almost 100 warning letters have been issued since the groups formed in the summer.

Congleton Speedwatch is part of a National campaign. Drivers can get their first warning letter from any of the campaigns across the UK. The evidence gathered by the groups can also help build a case for harsher measures such as a Speed Indication Device (SID) or a fixed camera in areas where there is a clearly identified speeding problem.

If you are interested in becoming a Speedwatch Volunteer, in the first instance contact 101. They will take your details and PCSO Jessica Shore will contact you.



## Gully Cleaning

Cheshire East Highways Gully Care Team is responsible for 90,000 road gullies across the area. They have invested in new vehicles, data collection systems and technology to target resources. Not all gullies are cleared annually, some may be more or less depending on risk to road users and property. During September the Highways team targeted many roads in Congleton with the aim of having the drains clear. Any drains with connection problems were red tagged for further investigations and works. To report a problem with any gully - or other highways matters - contact 0300 122 5020 or 0300 123 5025 if after 5pm, before 9am or weekends.

Also see:

[www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/highways\\_and\\_roads](http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/highways_and_roads)

## Public Realm to Start Early 2017

The Public Realm improvements for Congleton Town Centre received the support of almost 80% of local people who responded during the recent consultation. During the 6 weeks of consultation more than 1300 people visited the exhibition and the team spoke to around 700. There was a slight preference for the more dramatic pavement palette and a stronger preference for the historic rather than modern look. More detailed designs are being drawn up and issues raised during the consultation will be discussed and resolved by the Project Board. The expectation is still that works will begin early in 2017.

# Congleton PCSO Wins Coveted Community Engagement ACE Award



PCSO Amie Gillett has won the ACE (Achieving Cheshire Excellence) Award for Community Engagement. This prestigious award recognises officers, staff and volunteers who have gone above and beyond the 'normal' line of duty. Amie was nominated by Sergeant Ross Hamilton. He said:

"PCSO Amie Gillett demonstrates her commitment to the community of Congleton every day. In addition to her work in the

community, she identifies and provides reassurance to some of our most vulnerable members of the community, while still finding time to visit youth groups and school forums across the area. Amie works closely with her colleagues, providing a close and essential link between victims, witnesses, the wider community and our local policing team. Amie excels in her day-to-day tasks and fully deserves this recognition."

A delighted PCSO Gillett said she would like to thank her beat team and the support of the public vote, helping her to gain this Community Engagement Award.

## The Old Saw Mill Opening Soon!

After five months of transforming, the Old Saw Mill is due to open on Monday, 17th October as a Community Hub. Local people are invited to call in and check out the healthy Low Carbon Menu in the community cafe. Local produce is used wherever possible and the Saw Mill welcomes inquiries from other local suppliers.

The 48 sq.m. of community space - 'Theatre of the Mind' will be available to book for business or personal events, parties or functions. There is also a Board Room and Consulting Room that can be hired out on an hourly or daily basis. There are plans for a Christmas Day Luncheon for those who will be on their own over the festive period. Please contact the Saw Mill for further details.

If you have any windfall apples and any other produce, such as damsons the centre will

make good use of them. The award-winning, Congleton apple juice and ciders make excellent Christmas presents.

Find out more by signing up for the eMill Magazine or see their Facebook page, [@congletoncommunitycoop](https://www.facebook.com/congletoncommunitycoop), or by emailing [info@congletoncommunityco-op.org](mailto:info@congletoncommunityco-op.org) or telephoning 07834 525 165.



## Room Bookings in the Town Hall



Local businesses, organisations and groups can take advantage of special half day and full day booking rates when using the Town Hall between 8am - 6pm on Mondays to Fridays. Groups can have either three hours for the price of four, or five hours for the price of eight.

This applies to all three rooms - the Main Hall, Bridestones Suite and Spencer Suite.

To find out more, or arrange a viewing, contact Congleton Town Council on 01260 270350, ext 6.

## i-Tea and Chat

Ever wanted to find out more about the World Wide Web and how it could help you?

Do you have a laptop or tablet and can't remember or want to learn how to email, skype, pay a bill or order a doctor's prescription? If you are curious about the digital age and want to learn more you can call into an I-tea and chat every other Wednesday at the Bromley Farm Community Centre, off Edinburgh Road, from 12.30 to 2.30pm.

The drop-in sessions are free to attend, very informal and open to all ages. Residents can bring their own laptops/tablets or use one at the centre and enjoy one to one support from a local digital community champion. There is no pressure and there is no such thing as a stupid question!

For further information, contact Lisa Alcock, a Community Development Officer, on 07817 958202.

## News In Brief...

### EXCESS APPLES

Donations of apples can be taken to Astbury Mere Visitors Centre or The Old Saw Mill until the 8th November. The Apples will be turned into Congleton's Award winning Congleton Apple Juice and Congleton Cider.

### EAST CHESHIRE HOSPICE CHRISTMAS TREE COLLECTION

Last year almost 450 CW12 households helped raise nearly £5,000 for East Cheshire Hospice by donating to have the charity take their Christmas trees taken away in January for recycling. Across the area the charity raised over £90,000! Volunteers will be collecting on the weekend of 14/15 January 2017 and all details of registration and ways to donate (suggested minimum £4) are at [www.echtrees.org.uk](http://www.echtrees.org.uk) or call Richard on 01625 612025.

### AGE UK - NEW DROP-IN SESSIONS

From the 7th December Age UK Cheshire will be starting drop in sessions on the first Wednesday of the month. Sessions will take place at New Life Church, West Road Congleton from 10.30am - 12.30pm.

### #BDSU (BIG DATA - SMALL USER)

Congleton is one of seven towns across the UK that is part of an exciting new research project called Big Data Small User. The Project is funded by Innovate UK and is using sophisticated data to monitor footfall and sales data in the town and to look at patterns and the effect that marketing initiatives have on the data. See more at:

[www.placemanagement.org/BDSU](http://www.placemanagement.org/BDSU)

### CONGLETON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Work is still in progress on the complicated and detailed Congleton Neighbourhood Plan. The groups have been working on policies and making sure the work across the teams is consistent with messages and policies. The plan is still to go to referendum on the plan early in 2017

### THE MILLS TOWN CENTRE DEVELOPMENT

Scarborough Development has started early consultation on its' new plans for a two storey shopping centre, renovated market with removable stalls, and a new pedestrian link between Mill Street and Morrisons.

See [www.themills-congleton.co.uk](http://www.themills-congleton.co.uk) for more information and an online survey.

# Dates for Your Diary

## October

13	CTC Planning Committee Meeting, Congleton Town Hall, 7pm
16	Daneside Trust- Reels on Wheels "Miss Saigon" Daneside Theatre, 7pm
18	Congleton Partnership AGM, Congleton Town Hall, 5pm
20	CTC Finance & Policy Committee Meeting, Congleton Town Hall, 7pm
22-19	Nov: Fe2 O3- Solo Exhibition by Bruce Lyons, Electric Picture House
24-29	Congleton Musical Theatre "Sister Act" Daneside Theatre, 7.30pm
27	CTC Council Meeting, Congleton Town Hall, 7pm
29	Magic Moments- Burt Bacharach Tribute, Congleton Town Hall, 7.30pm
29	Town Centre - Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal Ride out 1pm-1.45pm

## November

3	National Blood Service, Congleton Town Hall, 1.45-4.15pm & 5.30-7.45pm
3	CTC Planning Committee, Congleton Town Hall, 6.30pm, Town Hall Committee 7pm
5	Congleton Rotary Bonfire, Congleton Park, 5pm
6	Museum Walk- "Congleton Gets Connected", Congleton Museum, 2pm
10	CTC Community, Environment & Services Committee Meeting, Congleton Town Hall, 7pm
12	St James Christmas Bazaar, St James Church, 10 - 3pm
12	Congleton Choral Society Concert, Congleton Town Hall, 7.30pm
13	Remembrance Parade, Congleton Town Centre
15-19th	Congleton Amateur Youth Theatre presents "All Shook Up", Daneside Theatre, 7.30pm
17	CTC Planning Committee Meeting, Congleton Town Hall, 7pm
19	Congleton Rotary Club- Young Artist of the Year Presentation, Congleton Town Hall, 9am
19	USA Activity Groups Showcase, Congleton Town Hall, 1pm
20	Film at Daneside, Daneside Theatre, 7pm
22	National Blood Service, Congleton Town Hall, 1.45-4.15pm & 5.30-7.45pm
24	CTC Finance & Policy Committee Meeting, Congleton Town Council, 7pm
25	CONGLETON CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON, TOWN CENTRE, 4.00-7.30pm, includes Gift & Craft Fayre in Town Hall
26-7 Jan	Christmas Affordable Art Sale, Electric Picture House
26	Congleton Youth Orchestra Concert, Congleton Town Hall, 7.30pm
26	KingFisher Dance, Daneside Theatre, 7.30pm

## December

1	CTC Council Meeting, Congleton Town Hall, 7pm
3	Congleton Rotary- Silk Brass Band Christmas Concert, Daneside Theatre, 7.30pm
5	National Blood Service, Congleton Town Hall, 1.45-4.15pm & 5.30-7.45pm
9	National Blood Service, Congleton Town Hall, 1.45-4.15pm & 5.30-7.45pm
10	St James Church Coffee Morning, Congleton Library, 9.30 - 12 noon
10	Louise Carter School of Dance Show, Daneside Theatre, 7.30pm
11	Film at Daneside, Daneside Theatre, 7pm
13	Stepping Out Concert, St James Church 7.45pm Ticket £10 incl refreshments
17	Congleton Choral Society Concert, Congleton Town Hall, 7.30pm
17	Classic Cars in the Town Centre, Donna Louise Trust

## January

10	National Blood Service, Congleton Town Hall, 1.45-4.15pm & 5.30-7.45pm
14-21	Congleton Pantomime "Dick Whittington", varied show times.

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 Chief Officer, in writing or by e-mail, at least 7 working days before the day of the 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 on 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)



Congleton Rotary Club will be brightening the sky on 5th November with Congleton's annual bonfire and firework display, taking place in Congleton Park. Gates to the park will open at 5pm, with the torch-lit parade to light the bonfire at 6pm. The firework display for the children will begin at 6.30pm with the main firework display commencing at 7.30pm. In the park there will be stalls, refreshments and children's rides.

Tickets are available from the Tourist Information Centre on Saturday 22nd and 29th October in the Town Centre. Tickets cost £6 for adults and £4 for children in advance and £8 for adults and £6 for children on the day, with all proceeds going to charity.

## Join in with the Christmas Magic

You are invited to be part of the Christmas Magic by joining in public Lantern Making Workshops at the Electric Picture House, Cross Street on Saturdays 5th, 12th and 19th November. Call in any time between 10am and 4pm. The lanterns are fun to make and there's always help available! All equipment is provided. Then carry your lantern with pride on 25th November in the Grand Parade that makes up part of the Congleton Lights Switch-On.



## Sister Act

Congleton Musical Theatre is bringing the swingin', singin' sisters to the Daneside Theatre as they present "Sister Act". This divine musical comedy will be on stage at Daneside Theatre from Monday 24th - Saturday 29th October nightly at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £10.50. The musical director is Chris Francis and the show is being Directed and Choreographed by Nicky Evans.

To book tickets, or for more information, contact the ticketline on 01260 276371 or Congleton Tourist Information Centre on 01260 271095.



## Fund Raiser for British Heart Foundation

Get your glad rags on and join local DJ Marc Hudson in a free charity 'Disco through the Decades' being held at the Cygnet Club Congleton on December 3rd to raise funds for the British Heart Foundation. The event has been organised by DJ Marc in memory of his

Grandmother Winifred who passed away earlier this year. The disco is free entry, although donations to the British Heart Foundation are encouraged. There will also be a raffle.

Anyone wishing to support can go to [www.justgiving.com/Win-Hilton](http://www.justgiving.com/Win-Hilton)

## Turn Again Whittington! Congleton Pantomime Presents... Dick Whittington

Congleton Pantomime is proud to present Dick Whittington at Daneside Theatre. The well-known pantomime is suitable for adults and children over the age of 3 years and runs from Saturday 14th January until Saturday 21st January 2017.

There is a showcase of great acting, songs and jokes throughout in the latest in a long line of fantastic shows. For more information contact Congleton TIC: 01260 271095 or visit Congleton Pantomimes Facebook page.