

Bear Necessities

With News from Congleton Town Council & Community Groups
Autumn 2017



Local people can enjoy a full day of Christmas markets, entertainment and fun at Congleton's Christmas Lights Switch-On and Festival, on Saturday 25th November. With help from the Makers Market there will be plenty of Christmas stalls from 10am - 6pm. Entertainment on the stage starts at 11am and will continue until 6pm. Local organisations will have their traditional fund-raising stalls and reindeer will be in town from 1pm - 5pm. By swapping to a Saturday organisers have extended the opportunity to join in the fun.

The traditional lantern parade will leave Lawton Street at 5pm, ready to be near the tree for the Big Switch-On at 5.30pm. This will be followed by fireworks, sponsored by Congleton Rotary and a good-bye to Father Christmas.

The Christmas team is in need of more volunteers to help on the day with a variety of roles. If you can spare an hour or two between 11am-8pm and fancy being part of the team delivering a great Christmas event, please get in touch with us by emailing info@congletontowncouncil.co.uk. Roles include marshals, Santa minder, wearing bear costumes, stage management, litter picking and parade helper. For more details see www.congleton-tc.gov.uk

Remembrance Sunday Parade

Congleton's Annual Remembrance Parade, organised by the Congleton Branch of The Royal British Legion with support from the Town Council, has attracted huge support and crowds for the past few years. The town event will take place on Sunday 12th November. You can support the parade, led by 230 Sqn (ATC) Band, as it marches from Booth Street taking in West Street, Antrabus Street, Mill Street, the pedestrian area, Market Square and Bank Street before reaching the Cenotaph in Lawton Street. After the two minutes silence at 11am, dignitaries and associations will be called up to lay wreaths.

As St Peter's church is closed for renovation, the traditional service which follows the parade, will be held in the Town Hall. There will also be a two minutes silence at the Cenotaph at 11am on Saturday 11th November.



#MyCongleton
Neighbourhood Plan

After months of work behind the scenes Congleton's Neighbourhood Plan was circulated for 'Regulation 14' stage of consultation on Monday 2nd October.

At this stage the 600+ groups that Cheshire East has on its consultation list, including all the statutory bodies, are given until 13th November to make comments. The Congleton Neighbourhood Plan team is also interested in comments that local people wish to make at this stage. All the comments from this round of consultation will be considered in November, alterations made and then a further round of 'Regulation 15' consultation held. Copies can be viewed on the Town Council website. Paper copies can be viewed at the library, Old Saw Mill, St John's Centre and Tourist Information Centre.



Treo, a hero army dog who was responsible for saving many lives in Afghanistan, will be forever remembered in Congleton thanks to the gift of a statue which will sit proudly near the entrance to the Community Garden in Lawton Street. Treo and his owner, Dave Heyhoe lived locally to Congleton. The statute was made possible thanks to some tremendous fund-raising by Steven Ashton a friend of Treo and his owner. The statute will be unveiled on Thursday 26th October.

Bear Necessities is produced by Congleton Town Council. The next newsletter will be delivered around 15th January. All contributions should be sent by 9th December to: Jackie MacArthur at Congleton Town Hall, High Street, Congleton CW12 1BN. Tel: 01260 270350 or email: jm@congletontowncouncil.co.uk
For back issues of Bear Necessities, see: www.congleton-tc.gov.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 Your Councillors elected to serve until May 2019 are:



Larry Barker (C)



Charles Booth (C),
Town Mayor



Peter Broom (C)



David Brown (C),
Deputy Leader



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 →



VACANT



Suzie Akers Smith (C),
Deputy Mayor



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

ELECTION Expected 9th November

People living in the West Ward of Congleton are likely to be invited to vote for a new town councillor for their area. The election follows the resignation of Nicholas Adams. Prospective candidates have until Friday 13th October to submit their nomination papers to the Returning Officer at Macclesfield Town Hall. As long as two or more eligible candidates wish to stand, an election will take place on Thursday 9th November between 7am -10pm. Residents living in the west ward that are registered to vote will be sent a polling card. Requests for postal votes must be registered with Cheshire East by 25th October. For full details see www.congleton-tc.gov.uk



700 Years of Mayoralty



Congleton's first Mayor, Philip son of Richard, served in 1318. Next year marks 700 years since the first Mayor of Congleton took up office. The Town Council is keen to celebrate this anniversary and are interested in residents views on how to mark this anniversary. Ideas being explored include a 700 challenge to businesses, clubs, organisations and schools; a 1318 re-enactment; a Mayoral exhibition in the Town Hall; a grand tea party for relatives of ex Mayors; and a medieval banquet?

If you have ideas, or were related to a Congleton Mayor and want to get involved, email info@congletontowncouncil.co.uk

(Pictured: Current Town Mayor, Charles Booth)

£7,000 Awarded to Boost Culture & Environment

In its inaugural year of awarding grants, £6,950 was given to 10 local Congleton groups and charities to boost the cultural and environmental wealth of Congleton. Amongst those successful were Congleton Museum, Congleton Guides, Congleton Building Preservation Society, Congleton Gang Show, Bromley Farm Development Trust, Cheshire Wildlife Trust, Electric Picture House, Congleton Choral Society, Friends of Congleton Park and a World War One drama project. The funds came

from the interest generated on the capital held in the Margaret Williamson Memorial Trust. Each year local groups in Congleton will have the chance to apply for the funds for local projects which help to conserve or improve the natural environment, give opportunities for education or greater awareness of the natural environment or offer opportunities to take part in cultural activities. Anyone wishing to donate into the trust fund can find out more from ms@congletontowncouncil.co.uk

You're Blooming Great!

Congleton in Bloom would like to thank everyone who worked so hard to make the town look great again this year. Congleton in Bloom has always been a massive community effort. The involvement this year was so large that it gave the North West in Bloom judges their longest judging day ever! The results of the regional competition will be announced on November 2nd for the neighbourhoods and November 3rd for the businesses and town entry. There will be a thank you celebration night in the Town



Hall on Wednesday 15th November from 6pm - 8pm for all those involved. If you would like to be involved in the 2018 campaign please come along to the In Bloom evening or contact info@congletontowncouncil.co.uk

ONE YOU! Free Programmes

One You Cheshire East aims to improve the health outcomes of residents living within the Cheshire East area. They offer a range of **FREE** programmes around adult

and family weight loss, physical activity and cookery courses as well as giving support to help with stopping smoking and reducing alcohol - If any of these services are of interest, please email info@oneyoucheshireeast.org or call on 0808 1643202 for more information. Alternatively, take a look at the website www.oneyoucheshireeast.org

Public Space Protection Order For Market Area

A public consultation into a proposed Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) for the market and areas in the immediate vicinity including Princess Street, Victoria Street and part of the pedestrian area will soon to be launched by Cheshire East Council. The order, if it were to be implemented, would offer additional powers to the Police and Council Wardens to tackle acts of anti-social behaviour in those areas. Breaches of a PSPO carry the penalty

of a 'Fixed Penalty Notice'.

The PSPO has been proposed following numerous complaints of anti-social behaviour related issues over a sustained period of time. Intensive pro-active policing together with work including other agencies has helped to reduce the number of incidents. The consultation will be available on the Cheshire East website for a 4 week period and linked via www.congleton-tc.gov.uk

Get Involved!

Looking to get involved in Congleton but don't know where to start? Thanks to Congleton Community Projects there is a great new paper guide giving details of more than 100 voluntary groups and organisations in Congleton. Copies of the guide are available from the Library, Tourist Information

Centre, Electric Picture House and other community hubs in the town. The project was made possible thanks to funding from Congleton Partnership and the National Lottery.



Don't Let Loan Sharks **BITE** This Christmas!

With the tough financial climate and the added pressure of Christmas around the corner, many residents may be unable to access loans from High Street lenders. Instead, they might be tempted to borrow money from a neighbour, colleague or someone well-known in the community. Loan sharks usually befriend their borrowers at first and act as though they are providing a community service, although this behaviour quickly changes once monies are owed. Borrowers often find themselves in a situation where the amount they owe keeps increasing and they are receiving direct threats because they can't meet the

repayments. Loan sharks are illegal and it is a criminal offence to lend money without a licence. Cheshire East Trading Standards are urging Congleton residents to come forward and report a loan shark if they or someone they know has been the victim of one. The Illegal Money Lending Team (IMLT) run a confidential hotline which is manned 24/7 by a trained officer.

To report a loan shark, you can email reportaloan shark@stoploansharks.gov.uk or call 0300 555 2222, or visit the website www.stoploansharks.uk The team will accept information anonymously or in complete confidence.

Advice About Living Well On-Line



Live Well Cheshire East is an on-line resource bringing together information about services and things to do for people of all ages in Cheshire East. It has

an easy to use directory of services, support and activities covering all ages. When you go onto the link you can indicate which services you are looking for and where you are based, so that those providing the service you need, that are closest to you, are highlighted first. From toddler groups to support to help live independently in later years and everything in between is covered.

See livewell.cheshireeast.gov.uk to access the information.

For anyone not very confident at going 'on-line', thinking that a *tablet* is something you get from the pharmacy, Congleton Partnership has helped to sponsor a number of i-tea and chat sessions. These sessions are open to all ages and cater for complete beginners through to those who simply need some additional help and advice. Equipment is provided or you can bring your own tablet, laptop or smartphone. Come along and have some fun and make new friends at these free sessions.

17th October: Town Hall, 10.30am-12.30pm

20th October: Bromley Farm Community Centre, 12-2pm

31st October: St.Johns Buglawton, 10.30am-12.30pm

3rd November: Old Saw Mill, 10am-12pm

17th November: Congleton Library, 2-4pm

28th November: St.Johns Buglawton, 1.30-3.30pm

1st December: The Chappell Centre, Mossley, 10am-12pm

News In Brief...

EAST CHESHIRE HOSPICE CHRISTMAS TREE COLLECTION

Last year nearly 500 CW12 households helped raise almost £6,000 for East Cheshire Hospice by using the charity to take their Christmas trees away in January for recycling. Across the whole area the collection raised more than £110,000! Volunteers will be collecting on the weekend of 13/14 January 2018 and all details of registration and ways to donate (please give generously!!) are at www.echtrees.org.uk

KEEP IT LOCAL

Congleton traders wish to thank their customers for their support through a challenging year in Congleton with gas works, road works and public realm. In the lead-up to Christmas, be sure to see what your local traders have to offer, from great places to eat and drink, to great places to buy unusual and special gifts.

For weekly updates on Congleton Public Realm, see www.congleton-tc.gov.uk

GREAT WAR EXHIBITION

Cheshire Villages Great War Society, Congleton Museum and Congleton Partnership are hosting a FREE EXHIBITION in Congleton Town Hall, 10.30am - 4.30pm on 21st October. It will include WW1 history and memorabilia and displays on plans to regenerate Congleton Cenotaph. See Cheshire Villages Great War Society on Facebook or call Congleton Museum on 01260 276360.

TOWN HALL EVENTS

There are still plenty of public events, concerts and parties to look forward to at Congleton Town Hall this year. If you are still looking for a Christmas party to join in with there's a choice of two – Roaring 20s on the 2nd December, and a Masquerade Ball on the 15th. There is also a Spirit Festival for those who like their whiskeys, gins, vodka, tequila or rum on the 27th October. Tickets: £16, includes first drink, food and DJ.

Full details are on www.congleton-tc.gov.uk

REPORT THAT CRIME!

Information from the public is vital for Congleton Police in building up evidence and gaining warrants to take action. If you are aware of criminal activity you can report it on 101 or anonymously via Crime Stoppers on 0800 555 111 or see www.crimestoppers-uk.org Reports on social media sites are not recorded by the Police or used as evidence when building up a case.

PANTOMIME TIME!

Congleton Pantomime is proud to present Jack and the Beanstalk at Daneside Theatre. The well-known pantomime is suitable for adults and children over the age of 3 years and runs from Saturday 13th January until Saturday 20th January 2018. For more information contact Congleton TIC: 01260 271095 or visit Congleton Pantomimes Facebook page.

Other Dates for Your Diary

October

- 12 CTC Planning Committee, Town Hall, 7pm
- 13 Poets in Conversation, Library, 3pm
- 14 Pie & Pea Dance, St. John's Community Centre- Buglawton, 7.30pm- £10 tickets
- 19 CTC Finance & Policy Committee, Town Hall, 7pm
- 21 Great War Exhibition, Town Hall, 10.30am
- 21-18 Nov: Electric Open 2017, Electric Picture House
- 24 Congleton Choral Society Children's Choir Concert, Congleton Town Hall CHECK
- 26 CTC Council Meeting, Town Hall, 7pm
- 27 Third Angel Theatre Company present "600", Electric Picture House, 7.30pm
- 28 Beartown Boxing, Town Hall
- 29 Film at Daneside Theatre, 7pm.

November

- 2 CTC Planning Committee, Town Hall, 7pm- followed by TownHall Committee
- 4 Congleton Rotary Bonfire, Congleton Park, 5pm
- 4 Social Dance, St. John's Community Centre, Buglawton, 8pm
- 5 Museum Walk "Congleton Gets Connected" by Peter Aston, Museum, 2pm
- 7 Author Visit: David McCaddon "In Digital Pursuit" - Library, 2.30pm
- 9 CTC Community, Environment & Services Committee, Town Hall, 7pm
- 10 Congleton Town Football Club Dinner, Town Hall
- 11 Congleton Choral Society Concert, Town Hall, 7pm
- 11 Opera Gala, Clonter Opera, 7pm
- 12 Remembrance Parade, Congleton Town Centre; Service to follow
- 14 South Cheshire Floral Society Demonstration, Town Hall
- 15 Congleton In Bloom Thank You event, Town Hall 6 - 8pm
- 15-18 Congleton Amateur Youth Theatre present "Elf the Musical Jr.", Daneside Theatre
- 16 CTC Planning Committee, Town Hall, 7pm
- 17 Soul Night- Cheshire Hospice Fundraiser, Town Hall
- 23 CTC Finance & Policy Committee, Town Hall, 7pm
- 25 **CONGLETON'S CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON, CONGLETON TOWN CENTRE, 10am - 6pm**
- 25 Congleton Youth Orchestra Concert, Town Hall
- 25-13 Jan: Christmas Affordable Art Sale, Electric Picture House
- 27-2 Dec: Scouts & Guides of Congleton present "Our Gang 2017", Daneside Theatre.

December

- 2 Roaring 20s Party and Dining, Town Hall
- 3 Film at Daneside Theatre, 7pm
- 5 NHS Blood Service, Town Hall, 1.45-4.15pm - 5.30-7.45pm
- 7 CTC Council Meeting, Town Hall, 7pm
- 9 Silk Brass Band & Eaton Bank Choir Concert, Daneside Theatre, 7.30pm
- 9 Buffet Dance, St. John's Community Centre- Buglawton, 7.30pm- £10 tickets
- 15 Masquerade Ball, Congleton Town Hall
- 16 Swinging Christmas, Clonter Opera, 12.00pm
- 21 Town Carol Concert, St. Stephen's Church, 7.30pm
- 23 Congleton Choral Society Christmas Concert, Congleton Town Hall, 7pm.

January

- 1 Museum Walk "Artisan to Patrician", Congleton Museum, 2pm
- 4 CTC Planning Committee, Town Hall, 7pm
- 9 NHS Blood Service, Town Hall, 1.45-4.15pm - 5.30-7.45pm
- 11 CTC Finance & Policy Committee, Town Hall, 7pm
- 13-20 Congleton Pantomime present "Jack and the Beanstalk", Daneside Theatre.

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 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.congletontc.gov.uk

Rotary Bonfire & Fireworks in the Park



Congleton Rotary Club will be brightening the sky on Saturday 4th 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. They will also be on sale in the Town Centre on Saturday 21st and Saturday 28th October. Tickets cost £6 for adults and £4 for children (under 5s free) if purchased before Saturday 4th and £8 for adults and £6 for children on the day, with all proceeds going to charity.

Be Part of the Christmas Magic!

You are invited to be part of the Christmas magic by joining in public lantern making workshops and Samba drumming workshops at the Electric Picture House, Cross Street. The lantern making workshops are always great fun for all the family! Come along and join in any time between 10.30am and 3.30pm on Saturdays 4th, 11th and 18th November. All equipment is provided. Then carry your lantern as part of the grand procession at the lights switch-on taking place on Saturday 25th November. If you fancy beating some Samba drums and joining



the band leading the procession, come along to the EPH on Monday 6th and 13th November from 6.00pm - 8.00pm.

For more information, you can email jo@congletoncommunityprojects.org or tel 01260 270908

Riding Along on The Crest of a Wave 'Our Gang' Celebrates its 24th Show!

The Scouts and Guides from Congleton are busy rehearsing for their 24th Gang Show since the original in 1972. 'Our Gang' is a 'must see' musical extravaganza featuring a cast of 100 young people and their leaders. The show is two years in the making and is a unique, action-packed production full of colour, music, singing, dancing and comedy with something sure to appeal to all ages.

The show runs from Monday 27th November to Saturday 2nd December at Daneside Theatre, Congleton. Tickets are from £8 and are available from Congleton Tourist Information Centre, tel 01260 271095, or visit: www.congletongangshow.co.uk



Don't Hyde From This Intriguing Gem from Congleton Musical Theatre

Congleton Musical Theatre's "Jekyll and Hyde" team at Daneside Theatre are getting ready to thrill you later this month! The show promises to be a very different musical, re-telling the popular tale of Dr Henry Jekyll, a devoted man of science and also a high-profile cancer specialist, who is determined to make a chemical breakthrough that will solve mankind's most challenging medical uncertainties. Unfortunately, Jekyll accidentally unleashes his ultimate inner demon in the process. Meet the infamous Mr Hyde...!

The Musical Director is Mike Richardson; the Director and Choreographer is Nicky Evans. Mike Daws in the title role will wear the actual costume worn by Paul Nicholas in the stage version!

The show is at Daneside Theatre from Tuesday 24th to Saturday 28th October. Tickets from ticketsource.co.uk/congleton-musical-theatre or the Tourist Information Centre 01260 271095. Please note some scenes may be unsuitable for young children.