

# Bear Necessities

With News from Congleton Town Council & Community Groups

Spring 2017

2017 Congleton

## Food & Drink Festival

11th June

**Congleton will be transformed by its ninth annual Food and Drink Festival on Sunday 11th June, with more than 100 stalls selling the cream of local produce as well as fresh street food from all around the world to tantalise your taste buds. The fun starts at 10.30am and continues until 4.30pm**

Call in to see *'What's Cooking in the Town Hall?'* Experience an all-day menu full of foodie demos, competitions, workshops and displays plus an extended 'Kids Kitchen'.

Beyond the gourmet food stalls and fabulous variety of street entertainment, the Festival offers the popular Festival Fringe with an art exhibition, craft stalls, music and entertainment hosted by the Electric Picture House. There will also be a dedicated Community Green Scene, Cycling



Campaign, ancient medicinal herbs, Congleton Apple Juice & Cider and much more. The Festival is organised by Congleton Community Projects and a dedicated team of volunteers.

If you'd like to get involved, you can contact [jo@congletoncommunityprojects.org](mailto:jo@congletoncommunityprojects.org) or, alternatively, why not visit their website at: [www.foodanddrinkfestival.net](http://www.foodanddrinkfestival.net)



#MyCongleton  
Neighbourhood Plan

## Our Neighbourhood Plan is Reaching Regulation 14

As Bear Necessities was going to press, the Congleton Neighbourhood Plan team was in the final throws of getting all the policies ready to go to Regulation 14.

Regulation 14 is reached when the team is happy that the policies in the plan are right for the town and reflect the consultations with local groups and residents. At Regulation 14 the plan is sent out for consultation with all the statutory and other interested parties for their feedback. Regulation 14 consultation will last for 6 weeks.

After this time the Neighbourhood Plan team will take on board the comments and see how the plan needs to be modified before going to Regulation 15. This is the final statutory consultation which is managed by Cheshire East Council. Once it is clear that the plan is acceptable to the various statutory planning consultees, the Congleton Public will get a chance to vote on whether or not to accept the plan for the town. If accepted, policies in the plan will become part of the planning law for Congleton.

For information on the plan and its development see [www.mycongleton.org](http://www.mycongleton.org)

## Keep People With Dementia **SAFE&FOUND!**

When a person goes missing it is very distressing for friends and family. When the person has dementia it can be even more worrying. To assist the Police in helping to search for missing people, Cheshire Police and other agencies are encouraging relatives and carers to take part in the Herbert Protocol. The

Herbert Protocol is a national initiative named after George Herbert, a UK veteran of the Normandy landings, who lived with dementia. The idea is that those who help care for a potentially vulnerable person spend time putting together useful information, including an up to

date photo, detailed description and places that they liked to visit over the years. This should be prepared and kept in a safe place so that it can be quickly handed to the Police if the person were to ever go missing. See [www.cheshire.police.uk](http://www.cheshire.police.uk) for more information.



**Bear Necessities is produced by Congleton Town Council. The next newsletter will be delivered around 3rd July. All contributions should be sent by 9th 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)**

# 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

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor will change following the Annual Town Council Meeting on Thursday 4th May.

# Mayor Making

Congleton's Mayor-Making ceremony will take place as part of the Annual Town Council meeting held in the Town Hall on Thursday 4th May at 7pm. This meeting is open to all and is part of a long tradition of Mayors in Congleton.

The first Mayor of Congleton, Philip, son of Richard, took up office in 1318. The Mayor is chosen by fellow councillors and must be a serving councillor. The Mayor becomes the chairman of the Council for the year, raises funds for their chosen charities and is also the Civic figurehead for the Town Council. The current Mayor is Cllr David Brown and he has been raising funds for East Cheshire Hospice.

To invite the Town Mayor to your event, contact Linda Minshull at the Town Council on 01260 270350, ext 4, or email: [lm@congletontowncouncil.co.uk](mailto:lm@congletontowncouncil.co.uk)



## Annual Town Meeting

Congleton's Annual Town Meeting will take place on Thursday 27th April. This is not a council meeting, but a meeting for residents where you can have your say on matters connected to Congleton. It is hosted by the Town Mayor and is a meeting that towns must hold for their electorate before the 1st June each year. There will be a number of short presentations - come and find out what is happening in YOUR town and ask those burning questions. The meeting will be held in Congleton Town Hall from 7pm - 8.30pm

## Congleton's Community Mini-Bus Fleet!

Congleton Partnership has taken ownership of a brand new 15-seater minibus thanks to a national community initiative run by the Department of Transport. This new mini-bus joins the 8 seater minibus that the Partnership received from Cheshire East Council three years ago. Both minibuses are 'garaged' at New Life Church. New Life Church manages the administration of the buses, while the Partnership pays for the tax, insurance and maintenance.

The mini buses are available to use by groups linked to the Congleton Partnership or its sub-groups which include Congleton Youth Forum, Congleton Senior Forum, Congleton Creative and Congleton Sustainability Group. The minibuses cost £20 each to hire per day plus 40p per mile. Groups need to supply their own driver who is aged 30+ with the relevant permissions and no more than three points on their licence. Congleton Partnership is also keen to hear from people who would be willing to volunteer to drive the minibus for groups.

See [www.congletonpartnership.co.uk](http://www.congletonpartnership.co.uk) for more details or tel. Mike Smith on 01260 270350, ext 7.



## Do the Right Thing - Don't Get a Fine!

People who drop litter or who don't clear up after their dog risk an £80 fixed penalty notice in Congleton, while fly-tippers will be subject to a £400 fine.

Cheshire East Council is working with a private company, Kingdom, to stamp down on people who think it is ok to drop litter or dump unwanted goods in public spaces. The additional enforcement officers have been working in towns across Cheshire East since October 2016 as part of a 12 month pilot project. Between October and January 101 on-the-spot fines were issued in Congleton.

The message is simple: "Don't drop litter, make sure you dispose of it properly and, if your dog fouls in a public place, pick it up".

Failing to follow these rules could land you an £80 fine. Anyone who sees evidence of fly-tipping can report it to the Cheshire East Council on 0300 123 5021.



# Hydro Scheme for Congleton



A community share initiative into the Havannah Weir Hydro was announced at Eaton Bank Academy last month. A partnership between the Eaton Bank Academy, Siemens, Congleton Sustainability Group and HMK

Automation and Drives has enabled the scheme to develop to the stage where it is a viable proposition. The weir is expected to generate 250,000kWh of green energy for the town as well as being a valuable educational resource to teach future generations about hydro power. The community will be invited to own shares in the scheme which are planned to return an investment of 4% per annum. Power from the weir will be used locally and it is estimated that around £5,000 per year will be invested from the scheme into local renewable energy awareness and projects.

See [www.eatonbankacademy.org](http://www.eatonbankacademy.org) for more information (search Havannah Weir).

## Old Saw Mill Lunches

Following the success of the Old Saw Mill Christmas lunch, volunteers are now planning an Easter Sunday lunch, Mid-Summer lunch and Harvest Festival lunch. These lunches are aimed at people who live alone and would like some good company as well as good food and entertainment at these special times. The lunches cost just £5 per person.

The Old Saw Mill has developed a busy programme of activities and is always delighted to welcome more volunteers into the fold. Local people can also help by becoming an Old Saw Mill Co-op member and paying a minimum of £3 per month - for which you get members' discounts and offers. To find out more call into the Community Café at Back River Street (off Antrobus Street) or view The Old Saw Mill on facebook.



## Vol Fest - 1st July

CVS Cheshire East is planning a massive Vol Fest event in Congleton Park on Saturday 1st July to celebrate and showcase volunteering across Cheshire East. Local people are encouraged to come down during the day 1pm-5pm to find out more about the fantastic projects that volunteers are involved in, and maybe even consider if there is something that you would like to join in with. There will be plenty to see and do with entertainment and activities for the whole family! In the evening there will be a 'ticketed only' grand event to celebrate and thank volunteers across Cheshire East for the wonderful work that they do to make life better for others.

To find out more please email [advice@cvsce.org.uk](mailto:advice@cvsce.org.uk) or call 01270 763100, and keep an eye out for regular updates on: [www.cvsce.org.uk](http://www.cvsce.org.uk)

## Hidden Talents for Hidden Places Theatre Day

Have you ever wanted to be a dragon, a unicorn, a space traveller? Then come to the Electric Picture House where you can create a play about whatever you like! Joining in with others you will write a play, act, direct and create scenery for a production which will be performed on May 6th as part of Hidden Places Promenade Theatre Day.

The first workshop will be on Saturday 8th April from 10.30am to 3.30pm. All workshops are free and open to children aged 7-12. Children will need to bring a packed lunch for full day workshops and dress in clothes that can get messy.

Hidden Talents performance will kick start the Hidden Places Promenade Theatre Day at 1.30pm at the Electric Picture House on Saturday 6th May. This will be followed by free performances by Manchester Metropolitan University students in venues throughout the town centre. At 6.30pm there will be a poetry jam at the Electric Picture House followed by professional performance of 'Pericles - all at Sea'. The professional performance is the only ticketed event.

For further information, please contact The Electric Picture House in Cross Street, tel 01260 270908 or email: [electricpicturehouse@gmail.com](mailto:electricpicturehouse@gmail.com)

## News In Brief...

### FAIR TRADE CHAMPIONS NEEDED

Congleton needs to renew its Fairtrade status if it is to remain a 'Fairtrade Town'. The current Fairtrade Trade team is keen to talk with anyone who would be prepared to help collate information and spread the Fairtrade message in Congleton. If you have an interest in the subject and some time available to help please contact Alan Harrison on [alancharrison@tesco.net](mailto:alancharrison@tesco.net)

For more information on Fairtrade see: [www.fairtrade.org.uk](http://www.fairtrade.org.uk)

### LINK ROAD PUBLIC INQUIRY

Cheshire East Council's Proposals for a 5.5km bypass for Congleton to link the Sandbach Road to the west of Congleton to Macclesfield Road in the east is still progressing and working towards a 2020 opening. A Public Inquiry has been planned for the last two weeks in May to deal with outstanding land issues.

For the latest information see: <http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk> (search Congleton Link Road).

### ST JOHN'S COMMUNITY CENTRE BUGLAWTON

The new look community centre at Buglawton is very much open for business. The former old school building and headmaster's house has received a £400,000 transformation into a fabulous community space which already has a busy schedule of community activities.

To find out more call in or tel Peter Houldsworth on 01260 271103.

### CONGLETON TOWN HALL

Stuck for a space to meet? Congleton Town Hall has three rooms which it hires out. The Grand Hall which is great for parties, weddings, wakes and very large meetings, the Bridestones Suite ideal for wedding ceremonies, training sessions, meetings for up to 100 people and the Spencer Suite which is a smaller room but ideal for board meetings, training sessions and interviews. Bookings are already being taken for exclusive Christmas parties and for tables at an organised Christmas party.

For more information see: [www.congleton-tc.gov.uk](http://www.congleton-tc.gov.uk) or tel 01260 270350 to arrange a viewing.



# Teddy Bears Picnic



Calling all teddy bears and their pre-school owners! You are invited to pack a picnic, grab a blanket and join in the fun at Congleton Park for the annual Teddy Bears Picnic on Tuesday 13th June. The fun starts at 12.30pm and finishes at 2.30pm in plenty of time to pick up older brothers and sisters

from school. Children and their bears can look forward to plenty of activities from singing and dancing to colouring and story-time, there will also be a chance to meet some life-size bears. For the latest information and entertainment for the day, see: [www.congleton-tc.gov.uk](http://www.congleton-tc.gov.uk)

# Triathlon

Sunday 23rd April 2017 has been 'reclaimed for sport' for Congleton's first St. George's Day Triathlon event in Congleton Park. The aim is to raise money for the Town Mayor's chosen charity- East Cheshire Hospice, as well as improving personal fitness and the feel good factor for entrants.

The triathlon consists of a 500m swim, followed by a 10km cycle, finishing with a 5km run. It is being led by Town Mayor Cllr David Brown, who until a few weeks ago didn't own a useable bike or pair of trainers!

Local people are encouraged to come to the park to support the event and cheer on the competitors. The fun starts at 1.30pm. Spectators are asked to wear red and white or Shakespearean costume (as it's William Shakespeare's birthday) and there will be prizes for the best costumes. Local band Salt Rox will be playing in the bandstand and it promises to be a great afternoon.

For more info about the event, or to find out how to help out on the day, please email Suzie on: [info@congletontriathlon.co.uk](mailto:info@congletontriathlon.co.uk)



Cool down at the pool this summer! Congleton Paddling Pool, Park Road, is open daily from 10am-6pm from 27th May until early September. The pool is managed by Congleton Town Council and has been enjoyed by many for decades! This year the Town Council has invested in a new non-slip surface around the edges of the pool. It's designed for children aged 11 years 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. Daneside Theatre is a private car park, so users are advised to walk, cycle, travel on the bus or park in the Town Centre car parks. See [www.congleton-tc.gov.uk](http://www.congleton-tc.gov.uk) for more information.

# BRASS on the Grass

The 4th annual 'Brass on the Grass' organised by Friends of Congleton Park returns to Congleton Park on Sunday 18th June 2017. An afternoon of music starts at 1.30pm and continues to 5.30pm. Included in the line-up are Roberts Bakery Brass Band, Rode Hall Silver Band and the Biddulph Male Voice Choir, with more acts to be confirmed nearer the date. It's a free concert that can be enjoyed by all, although donations into the collection buckets towards future events in the park are always appreciated.

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



# Other dates for your diary...

## Regular Events:

**Congleton Library:** Every Tuesday, Storytime, 10.30-11am. Every Thursday, Rhymetime, 10.30-11am. Every Friday, Colour Me Calm- Colouring for Adults, 11am-12noon.

**The Electric Picture House:** Adult Workshops every Wednesday 6.30-8.30pm and Children's Art Workshops every Saturday 2-4pm.

## April

- 7 NHS Blood Service, Town Hall, 1.45-4.15pm; 5.30 -7.45pm
- 9 Film at Daneside "La La Land", Daneside Theatre, 7pm
- 11 Crafts & Coffee for Grown-ups, Congleton Library, 2pm
- 13 Congleton Library Relish Group presents "The Easter Parade", 2pm
- 13 CTC Council Meeting, Congleton Town Hall, 7pm
- 13-6 May: No More Heroes Anymore- Art Exhibition, EPH
- 20 Museum Talk "James Laithwood, Veterinary Surgeon and Farmer" by David Jackson, 2pm
- 24 Tea & Story for Grown-ups, Congleton Library, 2.30pm, with author 'Bill Ridgway'
- 25-29 Congleton Players, "Michael Palin's: The Weekend", Daneside Theatre
- 28 Community Projects Motown 70's Night, Town Hall, 7pm
- 29 Congleton Choral Society- Armed Man Come and Sing, United Reformed Church, 10am, concert 7pm

## May

- 5 Cry Baby & The Hoochie Coochie Boys + guests, Electric Picture House, 7pm- Fundraising for the EPH & Jazz and Blues
- 6 Eddi Reader, Clonter Opera, 8pm
- 7 Museum Walk- A Pub Crawl through Time, Congleton Museum, 2pm
- 11-13 Congleton Amateur Youth Theatre "The Witches", Daneside Theatre
- 12 NHS Blood Service, Town Hall, 1.45-4.15pm; 5.30 -7.45pm
- 12-3 June: This Way Up- Solo show by Helen Kaminsky, EPH
- 13 Forever in Our Hearts Ball- on behalf of Mia and Tom's Legacy, Town Hall, 7pm- Ticketed Event
- 14 Film at Daneside, Daneside Theatre, 7pm
- 20 Spring Opera Showcase, Clonter Opera, 7pm
- 21 Cheshire Aerial Championships, Daneside Theatre, 12 noon
- 25 Museum Talk- All Change at Crewe/ Congleton by Ian Doughty, Museum, 2pm
- 31 NHS Blood Service, Town Hall, 1.45-4.15pm; 5.30 -7.45pm

## June

- 1 CTC Planning Committee Meeting, Cong. Town Hall, 7pm
- 4 Museum Walk- the Importance of Water, Congleton Museum, 2pm
- 7 Jodfas@Clonter- Music inspired by painting and paintings inspired by music, Clonter Opera
- 8 CTC Finance & Policy Cmte Meeting, Congleton Town Hall, 7pm (TBC)
- 9-8 July: Summer Exhibition- Resident Artists' Group Show, EPH
- 10 Congleton Youth Orchestra Open Day, Trinity Methodist Church, 9.30am-12noon
- 10 Jazz in June, James Pearson & Friends, Clonter Opera, 7pm
- 11 Food & Drink Festival Fringe- an electric mix of art and contemporary craft stalls, Electric Picture House
- 15 CTC Council Meeting, Congleton Town Hall, 7pm (TBC)
- 18 Film at Daneside, Daneside Theatre, 7pm
- 19 NHS Blood Service, Town Hall, 1.45-4.15pm; 5.30 -7.45pm
- 22 Museum Talk- Civil War in Congleton by Catherine Haworth, Museum, 2pm
- 22 CTC Planning Meeting, Congleton Town Hall, 7pm- Followed by Town Hall Mtg (TBC)
- 23 Houghton Weavers Concert, Congleton Town Hall
- 29 CTC Community, Environment & Services Meeting, Congleton Town Hall, 7pm (TBC)

## July

- 2 Museum Walk- Mill Walks and Industrial Yarns, Congleton Museum, 2pm
- 7-9 Congleton Big Beer Weekend, various venues around town

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.congleton-tc.gov.uk](http://www.congleton-tc.gov.uk)



# Congleton Town Centre Updates:

## Easter Treats

Come into Congleton town centre for an egg-citing time on Tuesday 11th April. The town will be celebrating the end of the gas works (permits run out 10th April) and are putting on an Easter Treats day. From 11am - 2pm there will be a number of activities in the town centre including Stockley Farm petting farm, music, a Congl-egg roll, milking Daisy the cow, egg colouring, special offers and treats in some of the shops and an Easter Bonnet parade at 1pm. Congleton Market is planning to put on some additional stalls and games. As an egg-tra treat, car parking in the Fairground Car Park, Princess Street Car Park and Back Park Street Car Park (behind Lawton Street) will be free from 10am.

See [www.congleton-tc.gov.uk](http://www.congleton-tc.gov.uk)

## Town Centre Easter Service

Congleton Churches Together will lead the annual Congleton Easter Parade and service at the Cross on Friday 14th April. Those wishing to take part should meet at Trinity Church, Waggs Road at 11.45am. A short parade will carry the Cross to the area by the Royal Bank of Scotland at the Market Street end of the pedestrian area, where there will be a short service.

## Easter Egg Hunt

Congleton Town Council with Congleton Traders Groups has organised an Easter Egg hunt around the shops! The hunt is on from now until Tuesday 18th April - so there is still time to get involved and discover some of Congleton's businesses! It's free to take part. Booklets are available



from the Tourist Information Centre and participating businesses. Simply visit at least 24 of the 28 businesses listed, collect a stamp from each, and when you have collected enough stamps you can swap the card for an Easter treat at the Tourist Information Centre in the Town Hall.

Enjoy Congleton this Easter and in the months to come. Local shop owners have a wealth of knowledge about their products and services and will be happy to help you. Keep it Local this summer!

See [www.congleton-tc.gov.uk](http://www.congleton-tc.gov.uk) for more information

## Big Data, Small User

Congleton is one of seven towns and 10 academic and professional organisations across the UK which is taking part in an Innovate UK funded 'Big Data Small User' project. The project has a number of key partners including Springboard UK, a market leader in data management for towns, cities and shopping centres, Institute of Place Management, Cardiff University and Manchester Metropolitan University. As part of the project a footfall camera has been installed in the town centre which gives hourly footfall counts 24 hours a day seven days a week. A number of local businesses are assisting by giving weekly percentage changes in sales figures. Funding will be made available in the summer for some intervention activities to see the impact that it has on sales and footfall. For more information see [www.placemanagement.org/BDSU](http://www.placemanagement.org/BDSU)



## Public Realm Improvements

### Proposed Congleton Town Centre Improvements



Works to improve Congleton's pedestrianised area are due to start this summer. The new scheme will include new planters, lights, seats, granite blocked footpaths and improvements to both ends of the pedestrian area to

encourage visitors to go beyond the traditional pedestrianised zone.

Having completed all the works to ensure the buildability of the scheme, Cheshire East Highways delivery team is now in the process of selecting a contractor to carry out the

work. It is hoped that an announcement on the contractor and the timescales for the works will be known by the end of April. The total programme could take up to six months to deliver. The contractor will work closely with the traders to minimise disruption.

# Help Congleton Win Again in Britain in Bloom, 2017!



**Congleton in Bloom was formed by a small group of dedicated volunteers in 1998. They were determined to do something to brighten up Congleton. 19 years later a great deal has been achieved, although there is always more to be done!**

In the past four years Congleton in Bloom has won Best Large Town in the North West three times. Now the group is asking for your support to help the group win in 2017 and reach the National Finals in 2018 - Congleton In Bloom's 20th anniversary.

North West in Bloom judging will take place in July. In addition to the main town entry we also have three businesses - Alexandra Court Hotel, Astbury Mere Care Home and The Queens Head - and a number of 'It's Your Neighbourhoods' (IYN) taking part. The It's Your Neighbourhoods include: Astbury Mere Country Park Trust, Bromley Farm Community Centre, Buglawton in Bloom, Congleton Bath House and Physic Garden, Hillary Avenue Allotments and New Life Church Jubilee Club.

Congleton in Bloom has a small core team and is very grateful for all the work carried out by various groups and individuals in Congleton to help deliver the Congleton in Bloom vision. In particular big thanks go to Congleton Town Council Streetscape Team, Congleton Partnership, Cheshire East Council, Congleton Lions, Congleton Schools, all the Neighbourhood groups, church groups, organisations, businesses, sponsors and volunteers that make our entry possible and so successful.

## Improvements this year include:

- ✳ Transformed Moody Street seating area into a sensory garden with new level surfacing, fences, seats, planting, mosaics and entrance
- ✳ Enhanced the planting at Margaret's Place in the Antrobus Street Car Park
- ✳ Added trees and new planters to Mountbatten Way
- ✳ New art installation seat and planting in Congleton Park
- ✳ Cherry trees and crocuses planted around the town
- ✳ Added new Floral Town signs to the roundabouts
- ✳ Added planting around the Welcome to Congleton signs
- ✳ Installed destination maps in key locations
- ✳ Improved signage to play parks
- ✳ A new Secret Garden at the Old Saw Mill
- ✳ Spent hours clearing, cleaning and maintaining St Peter's Closed Cemetery.



## How YOU can get involved...

**WORKING GROUP:** 4th Thursday of each month, 10am-2pm, Congleton (Canal) adoption group – Various projects to improve the canal and railway area. Equipment provided but volunteers advised to wear sturdy footwear. Contact Piers Lambert 07742 450068 or Duncan Learmand on 07584 285766 for more information.

**LOCAL AREA TIDIES:** The Town Council has hoops, litter pickers, high viz vests and bags that it is happy to loan out free of charge to any groups, businesses or neighbourhoods that wish to organise a local tidy.

**ORGANISED TIDIES:** Monthly tidies are taking place. The next one is on Saturday 6th May, meeting at New Life Church car park at 10am – 12 noon. Thanks to everyone who attended on 25th March.

**NOMINATE YOUR FAVOURITE GARDEN:** Seen a fabulous front garden in Congleton? Proud of your front garden? - Take a picture, add the address of where you saw it and send to [info@congletontowncouncil.co.uk](mailto:info@congletontowncouncil.co.uk) and it will be added to the celebrations of front gardens gallery on the web site.

**SHOPS AND BUSINESSES IN TOWN** are encouraged to buy and display hanging baskets. Last year 260 were purchased from the Town Council - this year we hope to match or exceed that number!

Thank you to everyone who responded to the Congleton in Bloom on-line survey. It was great to see that 70% think the work of the In Bloom team is very worthwhile and 19% think it is worthwhile. 5% said that they would have preferred to have seen the money spent on other things, particularly cycling facilities. Through the cycling strategy there should be money coming into improving the cycling infrastructure.