

Bear Necessities

With News from Congleton Town Council & Community Groups
Summer 2017



Reminder of concept consultation image.

Pedestrian Area Improvement Works About to Start

The transformation of Congleton's pedestrian area is due to start this summer thanks to funding from Cheshire East Council. The works will include new pavement blocks, seating, lights, bins, planters and trees as well as improvements to the roads at either end of the pedestrian area.

The improvements are due to begin at the Mill Street/Swan Bank junction at the end of

July/early August. Road closures on Mill Street will be necessary while new blocks are laid on the road. This could take up to six weeks and works will be carried out during the school holidays. The contractors will work closely with the businesses to minimise disruption and Congleton Town Centre will be open to business throughout the works. The project is anticipated to be complete in time for the Christmas lights event on Saturday 25th November.

JAZZ AND BLUES

This August Bank Holiday Congleton will once again come alive with the sound of music in a free festival celebrating everything from cool jazz and rolling blues to funk and soul. Local people can take their pick of 67 gigs across 20 venues. Artists have been sourced

from near and far by a committed group of volunteers from Congleton Creative who organise this great treat for Congleton. The event will kick off with a traditional umbrella march from Congleton Community Garden on Saturday 26th at 1.15pm.

Programmes are available in the Tourist Information Centre or can be downloaded at: www.congletonjazzandblues.co.uk/



Growing For Gold

Congleton in Bloom is busy working with businesses, schools and groups to make Congleton bloom again this summer. The team would like to offer a huge thank you to everyone who has helped with litter picking, planting, weeding, sponsoring or sprucing up an area.

Once again it has been a mammoth town effort. Now the team is looking for your help to make sure that Congleton is looking its very best on Thursday 20th July when the North West in Bloom judges visit Congleton. The judges will spend most of the day in the town considering the main town entry as well as neighbourhood entries from Buglawton, Bromley Farm, Hilary Avenue Allotments, New Life Church, Congleton Bath House and Physic Garden, Astbury Mere Country Park, Friends of Congleton Park, Heath View Care Home and St Mary's Primary School as well as business entries from the Queens Head, Alexandra Court Hotel and Astbury Mere Care Home. Chairman of the In Bloom team, Cllr David Brown, said: "We all work hard to make Congleton look fantastic for our residents, workers and visitors - but it would be great to be best in the North West again and to be able to represent the region in Britain in Bloom in 2018, Congleton in Bloom's 20th Anniversary".



Volunteers are needed 10- 12 noon on Saturday 8th July and 6-8pm Wednesday 19th July. If you can help, meet in the Community Gardens in Lawton Street. For further details, see www.congleton-tc.gov.uk

Bear Necessities is produced by Congleton Town Council. The next newsletter will be delivered around **9th October**. All contributions should be sent by **12th September** to: Jackie MacArthur at Congleton Town Hall, High Street, Congleton CW12 1BN. Tel: 01260 270350 or email: jm@congletontowncouncil.co.uk

NORTH WEST IN BLOOM JUDGING: THURS 20TH JULY

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



Nicholas Adams (C)



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

Neighbourhood Plan



As Bear Necessities went to print, the Steering Group of the **Congleton Neighbourhood Local Plan** were waiting for a

date to go out to regulation 14 consultation.

At regulation 14, the Congleton Neighbourhood Plan will be considered by numerous interested parties and feedback given on the suitability of the policies. The Congleton Neighbourhood Plan team will then need to consider the comments and adjust policies where appropriate before re-issuing the Plan for formal consultation as part of Regulation 15. Following Regulation 15 there will be a referendum on the plan where all those registered to vote in Congleton Town East or West wards can choose to accept or reject the plan. If accepted the policies within the plan will become part of planning considerations in Congleton.



New Town Mayor

At a packed Town Hall in May, Councillor **Charles Booth** was elected as Mayor for the Civic Year 2017-2018. His wife Aimee is the Mayoress. Councillor Suzie Akers Smith is the Deputy Mayor and her husband Peter is the Deputy Mayor's Consort.

To invite the Town Mayor to an event contact 01260 270350.

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR – Who to Call?

Don't suffer from Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) in silence!

Anti-social behaviour is recognised as any aggressive, intimidating or destructive activity that damages or destroys another person's quality of life. It can include persistent noise, verbal abuse, threatening behaviour and graffiti. During office hours you can report anti-social behaviour to a dedicated team at Cheshire East Council on 0300 123 5030 who will provide expert guidance and advice on tackling ASB and look into the query or report.

- If the ASB has left you feeling threatened, intimidated, harassed or caused damage

to you or your property contact Cheshire Police on 101.

- **TO REPORT NOISE NUISANCE** including domestic, industrial/commercial, burglar alarms, fireworks, construction and development work - contact Environmental Health on 0300 123 5015.
- **TO REPORT FLY-TIPPING, LITTERING, DOG FOULING and ABANDONED VEHICLES**, contact the Cheshire East Wardens on 0300 123 5021. Remember not to drop litter yourself as it could result in an £80 fine from the enforcement team.

Have Your Say on Proposed Bus Changes

Local people have until Wednesday 26th July to give Cheshire East Council their feedback on the implications for proposed bus changes. Cheshire East has put forward suggestions aimed at making a £1.6 million saving on supported bus services. These are services that Cheshire East currently helps to subsidise.

The main proposed changes for the Congleton area are:

- **38 Crewe to Macclesfield**
- withdrawing evening services
- **77 Kidsgrove to Congleton**
- withdrawing service
- **99 Macclesfield to Congleton**
- withdrawing service
- **315 Congleton to Rode Heath**
- withdrawing service

- **91, 92 and 93 'Beartown Buses'**
- same routes and start and finish time - every 30 minutes.

Cheshire East is keen to hear from local residents about how these proposed changes would affect them.

An information booklet and questionnaire can be collected from the library and Tourist Information Centre or downloaded at www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/busreview

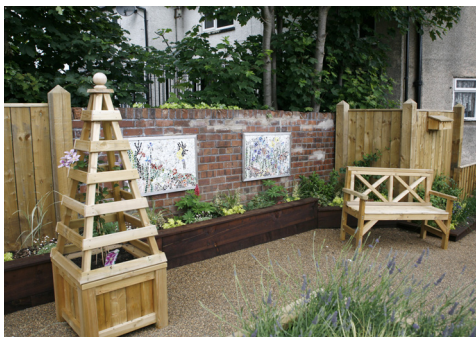


Moody Street Gardens

An under-used and tired garden space in Moody Street Congleton has been transformed into a vibrant sensory space suitable for people of all ages to relax and enjoy, thanks to an initiative between Congleton Partnership, Ansa, Cheshire East Council and Congleton Town Council.

A new surface, seating, edging, mosaics, sensory plants, bird boxes, fencing and a wooden butterfly sculpture have all been added in addition to a gate. Lots of groups have been involved including Ruby's Fund, Friendly Faces and the Electric Picture House.

The Garden can be found towards the bottom of Moody Street, opposite the



National Westminster Bank. The garden will be maintained by Congleton Town Council's Streetscape team, with help from the In Bloom volunteers. It is hoped that more local people will take an interest in the garden and help keep it litter and weed free while enjoying the space.

Older People's Day

Everyone aged 50 or over is invited to a free Senior Health & Wellbeing Fair in Congleton Town Hall on Friday 29th September from 10am to 1pm. The event is being organised by members of Congleton Partnership's Senior Forum as part of National Older Persons Day. The event will promote healthy lifestyles, access to local services, give opportunities to combat loneliness, encourage volunteering and sharing skills

with different generations. It's a great chance for older local residents to meet new people and to try something different. The event will focus on Health, Technology, Winter Wellbeing and Social Inclusion. There will be plenty of activities including cooking demonstrations and the chance to learn how to use an iPad. Refreshments will be provided. For more information, contact Alyssa Baines on 07901 787272.

MARGARET'S TRUST - Open for Applications

Local Congleton groups and organisations have until the 31st July to put forward their great ideas for projects to improve the natural or cultural environment in Congleton. The best projects will be considered for a share of £7000 worth of funding available from the **Margaret Williamson Memorial Fund**. When Margaret Williamson, Congleton's "First Lady",



died in 2015 a trust fund was formed in her memory. The aim of the fund is to keep her spirit alive by using the interest generated by the fund to support projects which will enrich the lives of people in Congleton.

The Trustees of the Fund are now looking for projects in CW12 or in the STD code 01260 to support with grants. The projects must meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Provide opportunities for people to take part in musical, theatrical, literary, performing art, dance, or other artistic activities.
- Provide opportunities for education and awareness of the natural environment, especially amongst young people.
- Conserve or improve the natural environment for the benefit of the people in CW12 or 01260 code.

Application forms can be downloaded from the Congleton Partnership web site:

www.congletonpartnership.co.uk/projects-finance/current-projects/

News In Brief...

PADDLING POOL

Congleton's Paddling Pool is open daily from 10am-6pm and is a fantastic free facility for local people. Please be aware that parking is limited around the pool. Don't risk a ticket or upset the neighbours! Park in nearby town centre car parks and make the short walk. Please respect other users and place your rubbish in the many bins on site.

NEW AT THE MUSEUM

Congleton Museum is celebrating 20 years of the Treasure Act with two new displays. One shows local treasures. The other shows local archaeological finds, loaned by two local metal detectorists.

The museum is located behind the Town Hall and is open 10.30 - 4.15pm Tuesday to Saturday and 12pm - 4pm on Sundays. Free entry - Donations appreciated.

www.congletonmuseum.co.uk

CYCLE SURVEY

Congleton Town Council is interested in your views on cycling. Please answer a simple on-line survey at:

www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/congcyclinglegacy

- Your responses will help form Congleton's cycling strategy.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Congleton's Old Saw Mill is going from strength to strength as a community hub. The centre can always make good use of willing volunteers and is currently looking for help with washing up and delivering meals on wheels. Pay is through good company, memberships and tasty food!

To find out more pop in to the centre on Back River Street or see The Old Saw Mill on facebook.

CHRISTMAS PARTIES

Not booked your Christmas party yet? There are still tickets available for the Congleton Town Hall Christmas Masquerade Ball on Friday 15th December. Tickets cost £35 and include a three course meal, band and disco. To book call 07900 606225

SPACE TO PLAY

Looking for somewhere to go with the children over the summer holidays? Why not try out some of the fabulous 12 play parks that we have in and around Congleton.

A new leaflet is available in the Tourist Information Centre or at:

www.congleton-tc.gov.uk

Towards a Dementia Friendly Town

Congleton Partnership is looking at how life can be made that bit easier for those affected by dementia. Working with Cheshire East Dementia Action Alliance, the Partnership aims to build a picture and

create plans for a dementia friendly Congleton. Find out how you can help at a drop-in session at the Town Hall on Wednesday, 26th July from 3.30pm until 5.30pm.

Other Dates for Your Diary

July

Until 8th July: Summer Exhibition, Electric Picture House
 Until 9th Sept: Congleton Library Summer Reading Challenge
 7-8 "The Magic Attic" Louise Carter School of Dance Show, Daneside Theatre
 7-9 Congleton Big Beer Weekend - various locations
 8 Congleton Youth Orchestra Concert, Town Hall, 7pm
 11 Craft & Coffee, Congleton Library, 2-3pm
 13 CTC Council Meeting, Congleton Town Hall, 7pm
 15 Congleton Choral Society Summer Concert, Town Hall, 7pm
 15-2nd Sept: Land and Sky Exhibition, EPH Artists - free entry
 16 Congleton Choral Society 4 hands - one piano Recital, St. Peter's Church
 20 North West in Bloom Judging Day
 20 CTC Planning Meeting, Congleton Town Hall, 7pm
 22-29 "The Marriage of Figaro", Clonter Opera
 24 Story & Tea, Congleton Library, 2.30-3.30pm
 27 CTC Finance & Policy Meeting, Congleton Town Hall, 7pm

August

4 "Who's Dunnit?!" Children's Mystery & Craft, Congleton Library, 10.30am
 6 Museum Walk "Lambersloone- Routeway to the Past", Congleton Museum, 2pm
 8 Craft & Coffee, Congleton Library, 2-3pm
 18 Animal Magic Parties, Congleton Library, 11.00am-11.30am & 11.45am-12.15pm
 18-19 "Happy Days" presented by SOL Theatre School, Daneside Theatre
 21 Micro:Bit LED Art, Congleton Library, 10am-12pm & 1.00pm-3.00pm
 21 Story & Tea, Congleton Library, 2.30-3.30pm
 25-27 Congleton Jazz & Blues Festival

September

1 Portable Antiques Scheme Finds Day, Congleton Museum, 10.30am
 3 Museum Walk "History on your Doorstep", Congleton Museum, 2pm
 3 Film at Daneside, Daneside Theatre
 7 CTC Community, Environment & Services Committee Meeting, Congleton Town Hall, 7pm
 7-10 National Heritage Days
 9 Congleton Horticultural Society Show, Congleton Town Hall
 9 Congleton Choral Society 'Come and Sing Day' fundraiser, Congleton United Reformed Church
 9-14 October Mixed Messages Exhibition, EPH Artists, free entry
 10 Congleton Paddling Pool CLOSERS for the Summer
 12 Craft & Coffee, Congleton Library, 2-3pm
 14 CTC Finance & Policy Meeting, Congleton Town Hall, 7pm
 17 Congleton Lions Duck Race, Congleton Park, 2pm
 17 CTC Council Meeting, Congleton Town Hall, 7pm
 23 Rode Hall Silver Band Concert, Congleton Town Hall, 7pm
 24 Kemp Bi-Centenary Walk, Congleton Park, 2pm
 25 Story & Tea with author visit from Charles Heathcote, Congleton Library, 2.30-3.30pm
 28 Museum Talk "Our Lost Buildings", Congleton Museum, 2pm
 28 CTC Planning Committee Meeting, Congleton Town Hall, 7pm- followed by Town Hall Committee
 29 Senior Health and Wellbeing Fayre, Congleton Town Hall
 30 Choral Society fundraiser Come and Sing day - Macclesfield 10.30am - 4pm

October

1 Museum Walk "Artisan to Patrician", Congleton Museum, 2pm

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

FREE Events in Congleton Park



Congleton's Bandstand is the venue for a number of free Sunday afternoon concerts in Congleton Park this summer. Friends of Congleton Park oversee the events and put out a limited number of chairs. The Concerts are from 2.30 - 4.30pm. Events

planned for July - September include:

- 9th July - Lions Youth Brass Band
- 16th July - Audley Brass Band
- 30th July - Rode Hall Brass Band
- 13th August - Salt City Jazz
- 20th August - Rode Hall Brass Band

Local people may also be interested in the Lion's Annual Duck Race taking place on Sunday 17th September from 2-4pm and the Kemp Bi-centenary walk on the 24th September from 2-4pm

For more information see:

www.friendsofcongletonpark.co.uk

Horticultural Delight!



Are you proud of your vegetables, flowers, photos or handicrafts? Why not let other people appreciate them by entering them into the Congleton and District Horticultural Show in the Town Hall on

Saturday 9th September! There's over 140 categories available and plenty of prizes up for grabs. To enter simply pick up a form from the Tourist Information Centre in the Town Hall. Paperwork has to be submitted by Wednesday 6th September. It costs 20p per exhibit and under 16s can enter their produce free of charge. Whether or not you choose to exhibit - it's still worth calling in to the Town Hall on show day to admire the achievements of others. The show is open from 10.30am - 3pm. Admission is 50p and free for accompanying children.

Congleton's Summer Discovery Trail

Congleton's Summer Discovery Trail takes you on a journey around Congleton.

To play, simply download the free 'Mobile Adventures' game from the App Store.

Once installed, use the game's scanner to read the unique QR code printed above and navigate your way through the challenge! Your aim is to visit as many of the 19 hotspots on the map as possible before the 14th August. GPS will unlock the challenges when you reach the hotspot. Complete the tasks, collect the points and you will be in the running for some special prizes.

We are interested in your views on the game. It is hoped that this could be the start of a more ambitious and creative discovery App for Congleton.

To find out more, pick up a leaflet from the Tourist Information Centre or see: www.congleton-tc.gov.uk



Rode Hall Silver Band is 180 Years Old!

2017 is an important year for the Rode Hall Silver Band as it marks the band's 180th anniversary. To commemorate this significant milestone the highlight of the band's anniversary year will be a special concert at Congleton Town Hall on Saturday 23rd September. This will take the form of a narrated journey through the history of the band, with the band and guest soloists playing the sort of music that might or would have been played throughout the years.

Tickets for the concert will be available nearer the time from Congleton Tourist Information Centre or see:

www.rodehallband.org.uk

