

Events to Look Forward To in 2016

Below are some of the key events that we have been made aware of for 2016. We know that there are more events in the pipeline and that organising committees have yet to finalise many of the dates.

For an up to date list of events , please check our website... www.congleton-tc.gov.uk

JANUARY

- 9-16th Congleton Pantomime presents "Cinderella", Daneside Theatre
- 14th CTC Finance & Policy Meeting, Town Hall, 7pm
- 15th-6th Feb Under the Bed Sale, Electric Picture House
- 17th Film at Daneside, Daneside Theatre, 7pm
- 21st CTC Council Meeting, Town Hall, 7pm
- 28th CTC Planning Committee Meeting, Town Hall, 6.30pm

FEBRUARY

- 4th National Blood Service, Congleton Town Hall, 1.55-4.15pm & 5.30-7.45pm
- 4th Harry Potter Book Night, Congleton Library, 4.30-5.30pm
- 4th CTC Community, Environment and Services Committee Meeting, Town Hall, 7pm
- 6th Opera Prize, Clonter Opera
- 6th Chinese New Year Craft Event, Congleton Library, 10.30-11.30am
- 11th CTC Planning Committee Meeting, Town Hall, 7pm
- 12th-12th Mar Exhibition of Artwork by Adam Quinn and Chris Godber, EPH
- 18th CTC Finance & Policy Committee Meeting, Town Hall, 7pm
- 25th February Half Term Craft Event, Congleton Library, 10.30-11.30am
- 25th National Blood Service, Congleton Town Hall, 1.55-4.15pm & 5.30-7.45pm
- 29th-13th Mar Fairtrade Fortnight

MARCH

- 3rd CTC Council Meeting, Town Hall, 7pm
- 4th-5th Rotary Swimathon - Congleton Leisure Centre
- 4th-6th Congleton Unplugged
- 6th Shadows in the Town - Museum Walk 2pm led by Peter Aston
- 10th CTC Planning Committee Meeting, Town Hall, 7pm
- 10th CTC Town Hall Committee, Town Hall, 7.30pm

- 10th The Livenenko Project - performance, EPH 7.30pm
- 11th Congleton Mayor's Ball, Congleton Town Hall
- 12th Northern Soul Evening, Town Hall
- 17th CTC Community, Environment & Services Committee Meeting, Town Hall, 7pm
- 18th-16th Apr Group Show, EPH
- 19th Congleton Youth Orchestra, Town Hall
- 20th Tea Dance, Town Hall
- 21st National Blood Service, Town Hall
- 24th CTC Finance & Policy Committee Meeting, Town Hall, 7pm
- 25th Good Friday - Churches Together Service in the Town Centre

APRIL

- 3rd April Throstles Nest by Tommy's Brook - Museum Walk - Ian Doughty
- 4th National Blood Service, Congleton Town Hall, 1.55-4.15pm & 5.30-7.45pm
- 28th Annual Town Meeting, Town Hall
- 28th-1st May Alternative - Celebration of performing and visual arts, including:
- 29th Alternative Nature - start of Open Exhibition
- 30th Hidden Places - day of theatre including a performance of Dracula

MAY

- 1st Art Fair and Global Street Food
- 1st A Pub Crawl through Time - Museum Walk 2pm- Lyndon Murgatroyd
- 12th Mayor Making
- 28th Paddling Pool Opens

JUNE

- 5th Tea Dance at the Town Hall
- 12th Congleton Food and Drink Festival, Congleton Town Centre
- 14th Teddy Bears Picnic, Congleton Park
- 19th Congleton Brass on the Grass, Congleton Park

JULY

- North West in Bloom Judging, this month
- 2nd Congleton Youth Orchestra, Congleton Town Hall
- 3rd Lions Youth Band, Congleton Park
- 8th Horton Weavers Concert, Congleton Town Hall
- 10th Audley Brass Band, Congleton Park
- 11th-14th Congleton's 150 year celebrations of the Town Hall
- 16th Congleton Carnival
- 23rd Choral Society concert, Town Hall
- 24th Rode Hall Brass Band, Congleton Park

AUGUST

- Britain in Bloom Judging, this month
- 14th Salt City Jazz Men, Congleton Park
- 27th-28th Congleton Jazz and Blues Festival

SEPTEMBER

- 3rd Congleton Horticultural Show
- 11th Paddling Pool Closes
- 18th Lions Duck Race

OCTOBER

- 8th Local History Society 50th Anniversary - Town Hall 9.30am - 2.30pm

NOVEMBER

- 5th Rotary Bonfire, Congleton Park
- 12th Choral Society concert, Town Hall
- 13th Remembrance Parade
- 25th Congleton Christmas Lights Switch On - TBC
- 26th Congleton Youth Orchestra concert, Congleton Town Hall

DECEMBER

- 17th Congleton Choral Society

Bear Necessities

With News from Congleton Town Council & Community Groups
Winter 2016



Congleton is preparing to represent the North West in the Britain in Bloom competition this summer, having won North West in Bloom in 2015. The success was thanks to the many groups, organisations, businesses and individuals which got involved in 2015. The pressure is on for an even bigger input by all in 2016.

There are many ways to help In Bloom, from weeding and watering to planting and litter picking, all the little jobs add up to create a cleaner, greener Congleton! Children from

local primary schools have planted up tubs to bloom throughout winter and spring. New plants have been ordered and will be used to make the beautiful beds on the roundabouts and in the park bloom. Next summer the town will burst with colour from tubs and hanging baskets throughout the town centre.

We are looking for people who are prepared to make a difference in their neighbourhoods - whether planting, monthly litter pick, watering a tub etc. If you have a couple of hours a month that you could spare for In Bloom please contact Jackie MacArthur- 01260 270350 ext 2 or jm@congletontowncouncil.co.uk

Congleton's Share of Council Tax 2016-2017

Congleton Town Council is mainly funded through a 'precept', which is a tax added to the Community Tax which is collected by Cheshire East Council. Other funding is via Rate Support Funding, which we receive from Cheshire East, income raised by hiring out the Town Hall, sponsorship and other specific grants.

For the past three years there has been no increase in the precept passed on to rate payers. During this time the Town Council has continued to improve the services it provides to residents by taking over and improving the Streetscape operation. We strive to continue to make the town an attractive place to live, work and enjoy with enhancements to floral displays and other initiatives the Council gets involved in.

However, because of the continued reduction of the Rate Support Grant and some other minor increases in the Town Council's cost base, this year the Town Council has needed to increase its precept to maintain services. The precept will increase in 2016-17 on a band D property by 21p per week.

As part of the precept the council continues to pay towards the cost of ensuring at least four PCSOs are dedicated to Congleton and also funds the CCTV operation.

Make Congleton's Neighbourhood Plan Your Business in 2016!

Residents are being asked to spare 30 minutes to take time to have their say on what's important for Congleton from now until 2030.

It is VITAL that as many people as possible make their thoughts known on important issues such as housing, transport, green spaces,



town centre development, employment needs etc. Towns and villages all over the UK are busy preparing Neighbourhood Plans, knowing that it's the best way to influence the way their town is developed.

You can download a link to the latest questionnaire at www.mycongleton.org or email info@congletontowncouncil.co.uk and we'll send a link to you. **The deadline is Monday 25th January.**

Bear Necessities is produced by Congleton Town Council. The next newsletter will be delivered around 4 April. All contributions should be sent by 4 March to Jackie MacArthur at Congleton Town Hall, High Street Congleton CW12 1BN. Tel 01260 270350 or email 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 Your Councillors elected to serve until May 2019 are:



Larry Barker (C)



Charles Booth (C)



Peter Broom (C)



David Brown (C)
Dep. Mayor/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)



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), Mayor

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

All Change at Congleton Town Hall for 2016



New Chief Officer

David McGifford has taken over as the new Chief Officer for the Town Council following the retirement of Brian Hogan. Brian has been the Town Clerk since December 2009, during which time he has been responsible for some big changes for the Town Council including taking on the Streetscape services.

David is well known to many of the businesses and community groups in Congleton having previously worked on tourism and regeneration for South East Cheshire Enterprise and latterly as the Senior Regeneration Officer for Cheshire East Council.

David's email address is: dm@congletontowncouncil.co.uk

New Caterers

A new Commercial team is taking over the kitchen, bar, brasserie and events at the Town Hall. As Bear Necessities went to print the fine details of the contract were being agreed with the preferred applicant.

Posh Nosh Parties has managed the catering and events since 2009 and decided it was time to hang up their aprons and enjoy retirement. The new team is promising high quality service, locally sourced and cooked produce and can't wait to get working on a new programme of events for the Town Hall.

The Town Hall has three rooms for hire – The **Main Hall** is great for large parties, weddings, fayres, concerts and meetings requiring more than a hundred seats. The **Bridestones Suite** is perfect for training, meetings, holding wedding ceremonies, large board meetings and more intimate concerts. The **Spencer Suite** is ideal for smaller meetings, training and interviews.

To view the rooms or find out more phone the Town Council on 01260 270350 ext 6.

New Look Website

Congleton Town Council is planning to launch its new look responsive website early in 2016. The new site has been designed by TMC Creative of Congleton and has been designed to be mobile, tablet and computer friendly. There will be a chance for you to upload your events at the #oninCongleton section.

Reasons to be Proud, 2015!

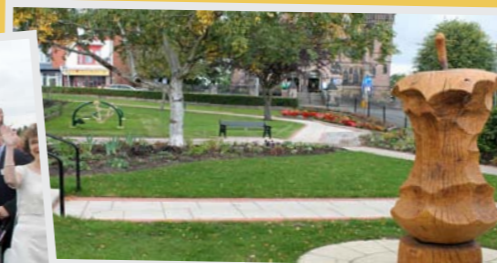
Congleton is a great town and the envy of many of our neighbours. When we work together we can achieve amazing results. Listed are some of the awards that the town achieved in 2015.

Congratulations to the many individuals, businesses and organisations who also received awards this year. If you would like to tell us about them, we'll add them to our new-look web-site.

- **Winner: Best Large Town in the North West**, North West in Bloom
- **Winner: Environmental Award for Local Authorities**, North West in Bloom
- **Winner: Pride of Cheshire East**, North West in Bloom
- **Little Gem Award** – For the Two Bears Roundabout, Cheshire Community Pride Awards
- **15 Green Flag sites** including: Astbury Mere, Congleton Park and 13 Schools.



1. Every Step Counts - people completed millions of steps for Congleton



2. Antrobus Street Garden got a make-over



3. A new trust in memory of Margaret Williamson, was set up



4. Congleton won the North West in Bloom competition



Business and Charity: Sharing Skills

Business and charity connection agency CHESHIRE CONNECT specialises in working with charities and local community groups to identify areas where access to specific business skills and expertise would have a positive impact. Cheshire Connect then matches the need of the group or charity to the generous offers of expertise and skills help from local businesses.

Both charities and businesses benefit. Businesses enable staff to apply skills and knowledge outside the workplace to make a

difference to the local community and demonstrate a commitment to a corporate social responsibility agenda. Charities benefit by gaining access to best practice approaches and valuable skills that otherwise may not be available to help them achieve their goals or solve a problem.

Local businesses able to offer expertise, or local community groups that could benefit from some expertise can contact Helen Rankine, the Local Business Connector for our area, on 07783 652 501. www.cheshireconnect.org

Congleton Unplugged 2016

Blow away the winter blues with Congleton Unplugged, an acoustic music festival returning to Congleton from the 4th - 6th March. During the festival there will be a range of talented musicians from near and far playing a wide genre of music influences in local pubs.

Unplugged is a great weekend to be out in Congleton. The pubs will be alive with fantastic music and a great atmosphere. It is a

free festival organised by Congleton Jazz and Blues (CJAB) and Congleton Creative with the aim of putting Congleton on the map, and letting local people enjoy a wealth of talent on their own doorstep.

For the latest information, see: www.facebook.com/CongletonUnplugged or checkout their website: www.congletonjazzandblues.co.uk



Congleton Town Hall Celebrating 150 Years!

Congleton Town Hall was first opened to the public on the 11th July 1866. There are a number of plans in the pipeline to celebrate 150 years of this prestigious building. Events include a grand tea party, school visits and exhibitions and creating Town Hall art work. There is also an ambition to fill the empty shields along the front of the Town Hall, paint the inside of the building and create merchandise and historical information.

If you would like to help with the plans please contact the 150 team at info@congletontowncouncil.co.uk

News In Brief...

ROTARY SWIMATHON

Swimmers are being asked to take the plunge for charity and join in the annual Rotary Swimathon at Congleton Leisure Centre on 4th-5th March. The event aims to raise funds for local charities. Each group can nominate a local charity to receive 50% of the funds that they raise. Relay teams see how many lengths they can complete in 45 minutes.

For more details, contact Robin Platt by email at robin@talkechem.co.uk or call 01260 273358.

PUBLIC REALM MOVING FORWARD

Congleton Town Council has approved in principle the outline ideas for the improved and extended pedestrian area improvements. These outline ideas are now being developed further with the aim of going out to consultation early this year.

WINTER GRITTING

As and when the cold weather bites, Cheshire East Council will be ready with their fleet of gritting vehicles.

An interactive map showing gritting routes can be viewed online at www.cheshireeasthighways.org In general, a priority is given to A class routes and designated routes to A&E Hospitals.

CARNIVAL - GET PREPARED!

Congleton Carnival will take place on Saturday 16th July with a 'musicals' theme. It's a community day - and it is hoped the community will get on board! If you are interested in having a stall, being in the procession or getting involved register an interest at Congleton Carnival on facebook.