

Bear Necessities

With News from Congleton Town Council & Community Groups
Summer 2016

Carnival Day Saturday, 16th July

Congleton Carnival is back for 2016! It will include a parade through the town, starting at 11am and a family fun day in the park from 1pm-7pm. The parade will congregate up in Bromley Road and wind its way through the town to the Park via Lawton Street, High Street, the pedestrian area, Swan Bank, West Street, Antrobus Street, Mountbatten Way, Worrall Street and finishing at Hankinson's field behind the Leisure Centre. Please come and support if you can! The parade is expected to take around 90 minutes to complete its journey and will be a mixture of walking groups, floats, bands, dancers and bikes. Look out for rolling road closures and plan your journey times!

The family fun day in the Park is from 1pm to 7pm. Entrance is free and there is something for everyone. There will be music throughout the day headlined by local up and coming talent Megan Dixon Hood who has received

wide acclaim on BBC Radio 2. There will be foods from around the world, as well as lots of artisan crafts, games and activities to enjoy. Highlights include 'The Feathery Folk' who will be attending with their birds of prey, 'Dapper Donkeys', Peak Pursuits climbing wall and a vintage fairground.

As with all community events, Congleton Carnival is grateful for the generous support of local organisations and businesses and to volunteers for giving up their time to make the event happen. For further info, see facebook.com/CongletonCarnival, follow @towncarnival16 on Twitter, and follow @congletoncarnival2016 on Instagram.



Help us to Bloom!



UK FINALIST 2016

The North West in Bloom judges will be in Congleton on Monday 25th July, and the Britain in Bloom judges will be in town two weeks later on Monday 8th August.

There will be a mass community town-tidy on the Sunday evenings before the judging, meeting at 6pm in the Community Garden on Sunday 24th July and Sunday 7th August.

See www.congleton-tc.gov.uk Please help if you can.

Could this be a New World Record?

800 school children from across Congleton are coming together to create a giant picture of Congleton Town Hall. This is part of the Town Hall 150 year celebrations. It is hoped this will be a new Guinness World Record for the Largest Human Card Stunt of an Historic Building. As part of the celebrations there is still a chance to buy tickets for the Victorian talk and exhibition, in the Town Hall, on Monday, 11th July at 7pm, priced at £3.50. See www.congleton-tc.gov.uk for more info.

Jazz & Blues Festival

Don't miss Congleton's Jazz and Blues Festival, August Bank Holiday weekend Friday, Saturday and Sunday 26th-28th. On Friday night it kicks off with a fabulous ticketed event at Congleton Golf Club, then on Saturday and Sunday there are more than 50 free gigs of great Jazz and Blues music throughout the town, with bands and artists from near and far. There are some fabulous venues in and around town; this is the perfect time to see what Congleton has to offer! On Saturday 27th look out for a New Orleans style umbrella parade starting in the Community Garden in Lawton Street, at 1.45pm. Join in the fun!

For full details of artists and venues see www.congletonjazzandblues.co.uk



Bear Necessities is produced by Congleton Town Council. The next newsletter will be delivered around 3rd 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



Cycling's Tour of Britain comes to Congleton - See inside!

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),
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

New Mayor for Congleton



Councillor David Brown has been elected as the Town Mayor of Congleton until May 2017, his daughter Jane Brown will be his consort. Councillor Charles Booth has been

selected as the Deputy Mayor and his wife Aimee will be the Deputy Mayoress. Around 100 people witnessed the Mayor Making Ceremony at the Town Hall. Cllr. Brown said he was honoured to be Town Mayor for the third time. Daniel Bonney from Air Training Corp 230 Congleton Squadron, will be the Mayor's Cadet and will assist at many of the engagements. The Mayor's chosen charity for 2016 is the East Cheshire Hospice.

To invite the Town Mayor to an event contact the Mayor's Secretary, Linda Minshull on 01260 270350 or email lm@congletontowncouncil.co.uk

Your Congleton Policing Unit

The Congleton Beat Team has seen a number of changes over the past few months. The new Sergeant is Ross Hamilton who has come from the Northwich Local Policing Unit and has a background in neighbourhood policing and investigating serious crime. The Congleton team includes five Police Community Support Officers and five Police Officers. The Team focuses on issues ranging from drug dealing to dog fouling, working closely with partner agencies.



Details about officers, along with public surgery dates and monthly priorities can be found on www.cheshire.police.uk Congleton forms part of the Macclesfield unit. Fortnightly surgeries are held in Costa at Tesco Barn Road and also in the library.

The team also attends many events.

During the summer months the Police advise people to be aware of opportunistic criminals who take advantage of open windows and doors. Where possible keep valuables out of sight and reach and report suspicious behaviour to Cheshire Police on 101 - or 999 if an emergency - as soon as is practicable. The information that you have could really help. You may also want to consider joining or setting up a Cheshire Police Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.

You can also sign up to the free Cheshire Police Alerts, a community messaging system that sends news, appeals, local crime information and crime prevention advice direct to you as an e-mail, text message or voice message. It also allows you to feed back information to your local policing teams. To sign up, go to: www.cheshirepolicealert.co.uk

Congleton Sports Trust

With more than 1200 adults and children participating in rugby and football in Congleton, the clubs have come together to form a Congleton Sports Trust with the aim of getting improved facilities for the town. Congleton Town Council and Congleton Partnership are supporting the development of the Trust, which will initially focus on improving the current grass pitches and facilities, which are in need of investment to prevent them from closing for long periods during the season.

With the planned housing growth in Congleton it is essential that the sporting needs are catered for not only for football and rugby but all sports across the town. It is anticipated that once the Trust becomes established it will grow to develop a planned approach to cover different activities which will become more attractive for investment for governing bodies and funding organisations.

Senior Health & Wellbeing Fair

Anyone aged 50 or over is invited to a free Senior Health & Wellbeing Fair taking place in Congleton Town Hall on Friday 30th 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 chance to learn how to use an iPad. Refreshments will be provided. For more information, contact Alyssa Baines on 07901 787272.

Enjoy the Community Orchard



Have you discovered the Community Orchard? It can be found just off the bridle path accessible from Sandy Lane, Astbury Street and Mereside Avenue. Thanks to funding support from Congleton Partnership, the orchard has

benefited from a number of improvements this year including new signage, steps, apple core wood carving, additional fruit trees and soft fruit bushes. A new interpretation board is being added to both welcome residents to the site and explain its development and openness to all. When the fruit is ripe, all are welcome to pick and enjoy for their own consumption. Next time you visit Astbury Mere take a few minutes to visit this site, you won't be disappointed!

Remembering Margaret Williamson



In April 2015 Congleton lost one of its civic inspirations, Margaret Williamson MBE DL. Congleton Partnership has been working with others to keep her memory alive. A Trust Fund has been formed which will start distributing funds to projects which reflect Margaret's interests in spring 2017. A piece of art work is planned for Congleton Park. Local people will be able to help choose the design this summer.

A book chronicling her life, adventures and community achievements is due to be launched on the 18th November 2016 (Margaret's Birthday). Pre-orders will be taken. There are also plans to name an area within the town in her honour. More details at www.congletonpartnership.co.uk

New Community Hub at the Saw Mill



The Old Saw Mill, part of the Congleton Community Co-Operative project is progressing very well with the generosity of the community providing plants, cafe items, chairs, tables, carpets, etc. Volunteers have helped to paint, lay concrete slabs and assist in the garden under the supervision of our Secret Gardener. Our work experience student from Congleton High School is working hard and the transformation is taking shape with our vision rapidly becoming reality.

The group would like to thank everyone who has contributed in any way to this project. There is still a lot to do and we would welcome any assistance from local tradespeople, e.g. plumbers, fitters, builders and any materials. We plan to open the Cafe, Secret Garden, and Coffee Lounge in July. The Saw Mill plans to join in with Congleton in Bloom and Tour of Britain and much more. If you can help in any way, please contact Peter on 07971 805 372 or Stewart on 07834 525 165. More info on our Facebook page – Congleton Community Co-op – and to sign up for the mailing list, send your email to: stewie@congletoncommunityco-op.org

News In Brief...

GAS WORKS

The long awaited work to line the gas pipes through the pedestrian area is due to start after the 7th September. Every effort will be made to minimise the inconvenience.

CONGLETON'S LINK ROAD

Cheshire East Council has now approved in principle both the planning application and the Compulsory Purchase budget for the £90 million Congleton Link Road.

GRAND ANNIVERSARY CONCERT

Congleton Choral Society is putting on a Victorian Evening of Song to commemorate 150 years of the Town Hall on Saturday July 23rd. There is also an earlier curtain-raiser from the Congleton Choral Academy. See www.congletonchoralsociety.org.uk for more info.

PUBLIC REALM

As Bear Necessities went to press Cheshire East Council and the Public Realm Project Team were busy analysing the responses to the Public Realm consultation. Indications are that people were strongly in favour of the project. It is hoped that work will start early in 2017.

BOSSONS MILL

The 200 year old Bossons Mill, near Princess Street Car Park, is being carefully demolished after major safety concerns were found over the stability of the structure. The work is expected to be complete by mid-September.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The themed groups are still working on their policies. It is expected that all policy work will be completed by September so that everyone can have the chance to view the draft plan ahead of submitting to Cheshire East for formal consultation. The referendum is still on track for early 2017.

CONGLETON HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The annual Congleton & District Horticultural Show will take place in Congleton Town Hall on Saturday 3rd September. Entry forms for produce, plants, flowers and photos must be completed by the 31st August – please collect these from the Tourist Information Centre or see www.congleton-tc.gov.uk

KOOTH.COM

Kooth.com provides free online anonymous and confidential support and advice to young people aged 11-25. Kooth.com is available to young people in Cheshire East can be used to gain advice on issues from bullying to eating disorders, sexuality, relationship worries, self-harm and abuse.

Congleton Town Hall Celebrates 150 Years

As Congleton Town Hall gets ready to celebrate 150 years at the heart of the community, the venue is enjoying a revival in bookings. The Town Hall has three rooms that are regularly booked out. The Grand Hall tends to be used for launches, exhibitions, weddings, parties and meetings needing space for more than 100 people. The Bridestones Suite is a very



versatile space which is ideal for all manner of events involving 100 people or less. The Spencer suite is more suitable for groups of 12 or less. The Town Council offers competitive pricing with special offers for residents and local charities as well as discounted half or full day booking.

For more information, see www.congleton-tc.gov.uk

ARK IN THE PARK



Pet and plant lovers will want to come to Congleton Park on Sunday 21st August. Friends of Macclesfield RSPCA, in partnership with Congleton Community Projects and Congleton Sustainability Group, are putting on a Dog and Flower Show. The fun starts at 10.30am and continues until 4pm. It's free entry to the

park, and entry to the various fun dog classes is just £1 each, with all funds going to the charity. There will be categories for all shapes, sizes and ages of dogs - aimed at the dogs and owners having fun! There will be plenty of other stalls and activities. See www.rspca-macclesfield.org.uk for the latest information.

FREE Concerts in the Park

Congleton's 152 year old Bandstand is the venue for a number of free concerts in Congleton Park this summer. Friends of Congleton Park will oversee the events and put out a limited number of chairs. Events planned for July - September include:

- Sunday, 3rd July – Lions Youth Brass Band, Congleton Park, 2.30pm - 4.30pm.
- Sunday, 10th July – Audley Brass Band, Congleton Park, 2.30pm - 4.30pm.
- Sunday, 17th July – 'Mike's Music', Congleton Park, 2pm - 3.30pm.
- Sunday, 24th July – Rode Hall Brass Band, Congleton Park, 2.30pm - 4.30pm.
- Sunday, 14th August – Salt City Jazzman, Congleton Park, 2.30pm - 4.30pm.

Visitors to the park can also look forward to Congleton Lions Club Duck Race on Sunday 18th September - 'ducks' will be sold in town on Saturday 10th and 17th September.



Book Your Place Now at Congleton's Half Marathon

Last year many local runners missed out on the chance to run in the Congleton Half Marathon - make sure you're not one of them by booking your place early! The half marathon takes place on Sunday 2nd October and has developed a great reputation for its scenic routes, friendly marshalling, and fabulous goodie bags. All proceeds from the race are distributed to local charities. Entries to the race are online and must be registered by 25th September. It is limited to 600 runners and booking is already open. Minimum age is 17.

If you are willing to marshal get in contact via:

www.congleton-harriers.co.uk



A Great Place to Be!

Open daily from 10am-6pm, Congleton Paddling Pool is a fantastic free facility for families with young children. 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 - it's worth it! Please respect other users and place your rubbish in the many bins on site. See www.congleton-tc.gov.uk



Dates for your diary

July

- 1st-3rd: Congleton Big Beer Weekend, Town Centre- various locations
- 1st-9th: "The Map You Make" Exhibition, Electric Picture House
- 2nd Cheshire Hoards Exhibition Opens, Congleton Museum
- 2nd Congleton Youth Orchestra, Town Hall, 7pm
- 3rd Mill Walks & Industrial Yarns Museum Walk, Congleton Museum, 2pm
- 7th NHS Blood Service, Town Hall, 1.45-4.15pm, 5.30-7.35pm
- 7th CTC Council Meeting, Town Hall, 7pm
- 8th Houghton Weavers Concert, Town Hall, 7pm
- 9th Summer Extravaganza, Congleton Golf Club
- 11th 150 Year Celebration of the Town Hall, Victorian Exhibition, Town Hall, 7pm
- 13th-15th: Congleton High School presents 'Return to the Forbidden Planet' Daneside Theatre
- 14th CTC Planning Committee, Town Hall, 7pm
- 15th-3rd Sept: EPH Artists Summer Exhibition, Electric Picture House
- 16th Congleton Carnival, Town Centre and Congleton Park
- 23rd Congleton Choral Society, Town Hall, 7pm
- 25th North West in Bloom Judging Day
- 26th NHS Blood Service, Town Hall, 1.45-4.15pm, 5.30-7.35pm
- 28th Canal & Railway Working Group, meet at Queens Head Car Park, 10am

August

- 7th Artisan to Patrician Museum Walk, Congleton Museum, 2pm
- 8th Britain in Bloom Judging Day
- 12th-13th: SOL Theatre present "End of Event Show" Daneside Theatre
- 15th NHS Blood Service, Town Hall, 1.45-4.15pm - 5.30-7.35pm
- 18th CTC Planning Committee, Town Hall, 7pm
- 21st Ark in the Park, Congleton Park
- 25th Canal & Railway Working Group, meet at Queens Head Car Park, 10am
- 25th CTC CES Committee, Town Hall, 7pm
- 26th-28th: Congleton Jazz and Blues Festival, Town Centre

September

- 3rd Horticultural Society Show, Town Hall
- 3rd Charity Ball for CRY (Cardiac Risk in the Young) Town Hall, 7pm
- 4th Congleton Cycling Club Sportive
- 4th Shopping in Congleton Museum Walk, Congleton Museum, 2pm
- 6th Tour of Britain Start of Day Three, Town Centre
- 7th Floral Arts Demonstration, Daneside Theatre, 7.30pm
- 8th CTC Finance & Policy Committee, Town Hall, 7pm
- 8th-11th: Heritage Open Days, Congleton Museum
- 11th Paddling Pool Closes
- 15th CTC Council Meeting, Town Hall, 7pm
- 16th-17th: "20 Years of being Centre Stage" Daneside Theatre, 7.30pm
- 17th-15th Oct: "Guide to the Universe" Collage Open Exhibition, Electric Picture House
- 18th Lions Duck Race, Congleton Park
- 22nd CTC Planning Committee, Town Hall, 6.30pm
- 22nd CTC Town Hall Committee, Town Hall, 7.30pm
- 28th NHS Blood Service, Town Hall, 1.45-4.15pm, 5.30-7.35pm

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

Wheelie Good For Congleton!

Getting Tour of Britain - Stage 3 - off to a Great Start!

On Tuesday, 6th September Congleton will be the start town for a major international cycle race that will be broadcast to 129 countries around the world. Some of the World's top cyclists will be in town for about two hours before the start of the race, which will begin at 11.15am. You will have an opportunity to mingle with cycling stars, take pictures and soak up a great carnival atmosphere.

This is day three of an eight stage race. Day three is almost exclusively in Cheshire East, with the cyclists completing a 115 mile route which will end at Tatton Park, near Knutsford.

Sweetspot, the company behind the organisation of the Tour of Britain, has confirmed that the race will be shown live on Eurosport and ITV 4 as well as a one hour daily highlight programme. They estimate that the

average number of spectators is 154,000 per stage, that 67% of spectators are inspired to cycle more often and that the area will benefit from a £4.1 million economic impact.

Congleton Route

The first 5km of the race around Congleton will be a 'proclamation' race where the riders are testing out their bikes and settling in. The race will start in earnest at Wallhill, off Sandbach Road. The route through Congleton has been confirmed as:

Start in the bus station in Market Street. Travel up Market Street, along the High Street, Lawton Street and the wrong way down Mountbatten Way. Turn left into Mill Street, progress up Swan Bank, West Street, West Road, Holmes Chapel Road, Box Lane and out onto Sandbach Road. The out-riders will set off at 11am, followed by the cyclists at 11.15am. All are expected to be clear of Congleton by 11.30am.



Cheshire Tour
of Britain



2016 Stage 3

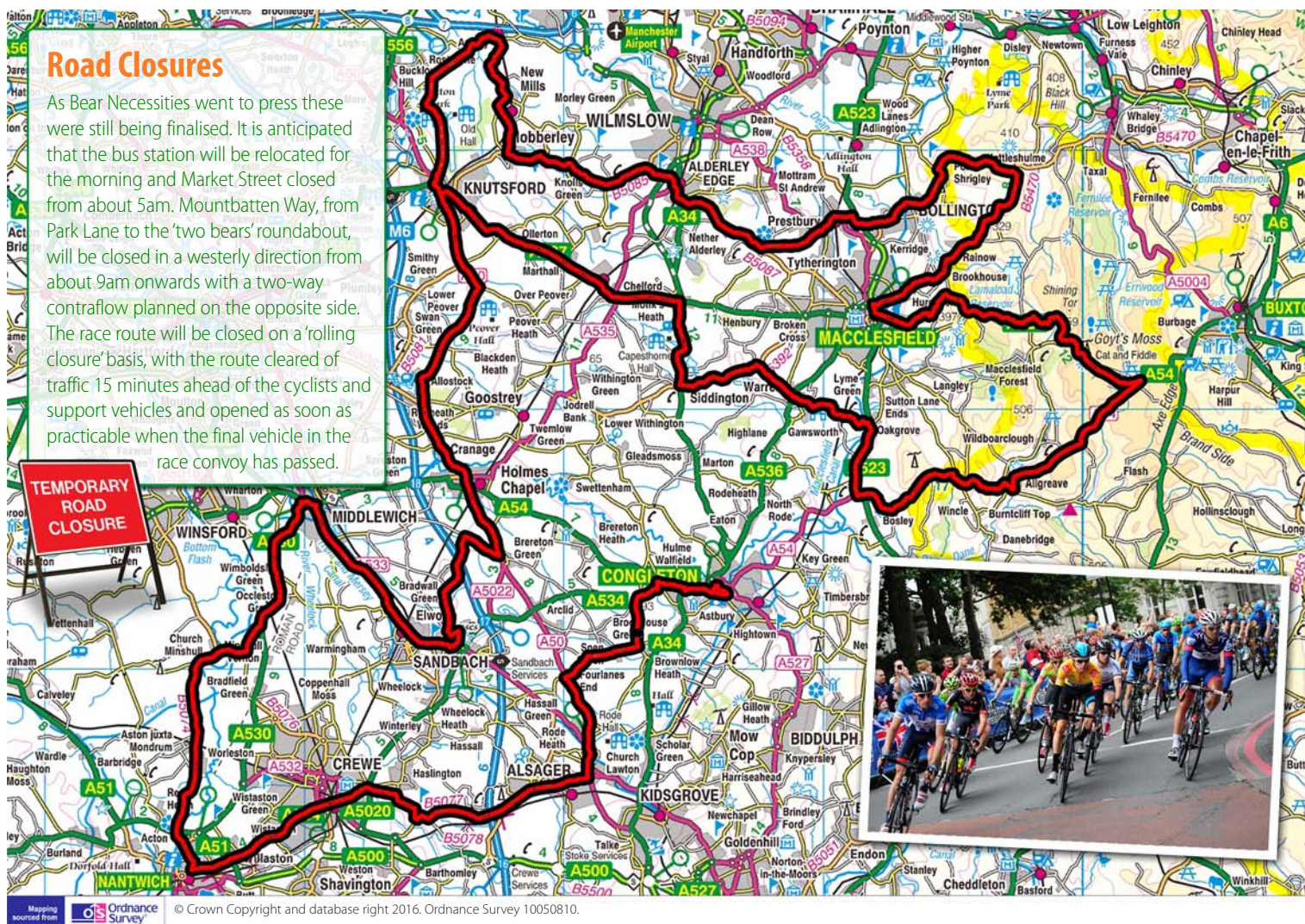
GET INVOLVED!

Congleton Schools will be closed for the day - it's a great opportunity to experience the excitement of an international free sporting event on our doorstep. Congleton Town Council is working on creating the party atmosphere by dressing the town and is keen to hear from local groups and organisations that want to be involved and help entertain the crowds or can help sponsor additional banners and decorations. Tel: 01260 270350.

Road Closures

As Bear Necessities went to press these were still being finalised. It is anticipated that the bus station will be relocated for the morning and Market Street closed from about 5am. Mountbatten Way, from Park Lane to the 'two bears' roundabout, will be closed in a westerly direction from about 9am onwards with a two-way contraflow planned on the opposite side. The race route will be closed on a 'rolling closure' basis, with the route cleared of traffic 15 minutes ahead of the cyclists and support vehicles and opened as soon as practicable when the final vehicle in the race convoy has passed.

TEMPORARY
ROAD
CLOSURE



Cycling Charity Sportive

Sunday,
4th September

To celebrate the arrival of the Tour of Britain cycle race in Congleton on September 6th, Congleton Cycling Club is organising a not-for-profit Charity Sportive to run on September 4th.

Sportives are non-competitive, long distance cycling events. This event, which has the approval of the Tour of Britain, Cheshire East and the Town Council, is looking to attract 500 riders.

The Sportive will largely follow the Tour of Britain East Cheshire route, but has been shortened to 86 miles. It will take in all the major features of the tour stage, including Jodrell Bank, Tatton Park and the major climbs of the 'Brickworks' at Pott Shrigley and the Cat and Fiddle, before returning to Congleton via Cloudside.

If you are interested in entering the event, or would like to find out more, you can do so via www.cheshiretobsportive.co.uk. Anyone entering must be aged 16 or over, have a suitable bike and helmet and be fit enough to complete this challenging route. The main sponsor of the race is **The Cycle Store, Congleton**, and monies raised will be donated to two local charities – **Children's Adventure Farm Trust**, who provide a variety of programmes for terminally ill, disabled and disadvantaged children from all over the North West. And **North West Air Ambulance**, who provide the rapid pre-hospital care needed to make a life changing difference, and helped save the lives of some cyclists in our area.

Adam Newall, the British Cycling Regional Events Officer, has given professional input into the Sportive and the event has been approved by British Cycling.

Club Chairman Bob Norton said, "The Cycling Club is hoping to make thousands of pounds for the nominated charities from this event. It is the biggest event the club has ever organised. We are very pleased to have the support of Congleton based cycle retail business **Cyclestore.co.uk** and would welcome further sponsorship support from local businesses. As well as being listed as a supporter on all Sportive communications, the Town Council will allow sponsors logos to be displayed as part of the promotional material for the Tour of Britain Stage 3 start."

Congleton Cycling Club was first established in 1898. It currently has 140 members with about half living in Congleton and the rest in the surrounding areas. For more information contact Bob Norton on 01270 765510.



Congleton Cyclist Club member could be off to Rio!

Megan Giglia, a Great Britain Paralympic squad member and part of Congleton Cycling Club, is hoping to represent GB in Rio.

In 2016 she has won two Paracycling World Championship track events, and the club hope she will compete for gold again in Paralympics C3 class on the road and on the track.

Megan isn't the only Club member who has competed at a high level.. Barry Lawton rode in the Tour of Britain in 1960 and more recently, in the 1990s Mark Lovatt was a competitor, whilst in the club.

Cyclists are advised to:

- Wait in front of other vehicles at traffic lights
- Ride in a straight line past parked cars, rather than dodge in and out
- Ride assertively away from the gutter to avoid potholes, ridges, metalwork
- Ride in the middle of the road to prevent dangerous overtaking where roads are narrow.

Cycling Safety

With the Tour of Britain coming to Congleton it is hoped that even more people will be getting on their bikes. Cycling is a great and economical way to get around as well as a way to improve fitness and well-being. To prevent a rise in injuries on the road, the Fire Brigade is advising cyclists and drivers to take extra care to avoid being hurt. www.cheshirefire.gov.uk

Advice for drivers - Think Bikes!

When you are driving on the roads, please look out for cyclists. Cyclists can sometimes be hard to see

Top tips for drivers:

- Check mirrors and blind spots carefully
- Hold back rather than assume the intention of cyclists
- On roundabouts give way to cyclists coming from the right.
- Don't overtake cyclists if you can see the road narrowing ahead
- When turning left allow any cyclist ahead of you to pass the junction first

Safety advice for cyclists - Stay Safe!

Safety advice for cyclists:

- Wear a correctly fitted cycle helmet
- Ride positively, decisively and well clear of the kerb
- Always use lights after dark or when visibility is poor
- Wear light coloured or reflective clothing to increase your visibility
- Avoid riding up the inside of large vehicles where you might not be seen
- Follow the Highway Code including observing 'stop' and 'give way' signs and traffic lights.

Where to find out more about Cycling in Congleton...

Congleton Cycling Campaign is in the process of updating a new leaflet showing cycling routes in and around Congleton. Leaflets are available free of charge from Congleton Tourist Information Centre or see the Cycling Campaign's web site www.congletoncycling.co.uk