

# Bear Necessities

With News from Congleton Town Council & Community Groups

Winter 2017

## Congleton asked to be Blooming Marvellous Again!



**Congleton excelled in the In Bloom competitions in 2016 - gaining one of only six Golds awarded in the Britain in Bloom large town finals and winning the North West in Bloom large town category for the third time in four years.**

Now the team is urging everyone to help the town maintain its top slot as it looks to win North West in Bloom in 2017 and get back into the National finals in 2018. Although Congleton won North West in Bloom in 2016, it couldn't represent the region in the national finals for two consecutive years so second place Altrincham will represent the North West this year.

There are many ways to help In Bloom, from weeding, watering and planting to litter picking, marketing and sponsorship. All the little jobs add up to create a cleaner, greener Congleton! If you and a few friends, neighbours or local businesses are prepared to help improve an area the In Bloom team in partnership with the Council may be able to help you with plants, litter pickers or other equipment Tel 01260 270350. We are also looking for a few moments of your time to answer a short online questionnaire to help us with the In Bloom efforts - the questionnaire can be downloaded at [www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/2017-CinB](http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/2017-CinB) or paper copies are available in the Tourist Information and at the Old Saw Mill.

Please respond by the end of January.

## Market Street Toilets Refurbished

Works on refurbishing the Market Street public toilets was completed before Christmas. The toilets were inherited by the Town Council from Cheshire East Council without budget in 2014 when the Streetscape service was devolved to Congleton. At the time, Congleton had the option to close or take on the toilets. The Town Council has spent £12,850 refurbishing the male, female and disabled toilets to make them fit for purpose. The Town Council is also looking at extending the opening hours until 5.30pm rather than closing at 4pm.

## Congleton's Share of Council Tax 2017/18

Congleton Town Council is mainly funded through a 'precept', which is a tax added to the Community Tax which is collected by Cheshire East. Other income is raised through sponsorship, hiring out the Town Hall and specific grants. The Town Council has an ambitious programme of service enhancement and community leadership which has meant its capacity, skill levels and costs have increased. From April next year the Town Council has increased its precept by 1.77% (just over one pence a week on an average band D property). The Town Council is responsible for running Streetscape services, the Town Hall, the Paddling Pool, part funds four PCSOs, pays for CCTV to be monitored for the town, supports the Citizens Advice Bureau, Congleton Partnership and Congleton Community Projects as well numerous other projects and campaigns focusing on enhancing the quality of life in Congleton.

## Wedding & Party Fayre

**If you are planning a wedding or party in Congleton then make sure you come along to Congleton's FREE Wedding and Party Fayre on Sunday 26th February in Congleton Town Hall.**

There will be the traditional activities you would expect at a Wedding Fayre including a mock Civil Wedding in the Bridestones Suite but also lots of people

and ideas to help make any party or celebration that extra bit special. The event is from 4pm - 8pm - so you'll get a chance to experience the magnificent Grand Hall and Bridestones Suite dressed to impress! With free entry and a free glass of Bucks Fizz on arrival you have everything to gain and nothing to lose by coming along to this special event.

**Bear Necessities is produced by Congleton Town Council. The next newsletter will be delivered around 3 April. All contributions should be sent by 10 March 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

# 2017 - A year of Improvements for Congleton

**2017 promises to be a year when the town sees actions taking place on some much talked about projects. Although these works may cause some short-term pain, the long term benefits will be good for the town.**

## GAS WORKS

National Grid in partnership with Balfour Beattie started to replace the old gas pipes in the town centre in January. The first phase is expected to last until late February and involves replacing the gas pipes in the pedestrian area. The second phase will replace the gas pipes in Swan Bank and is expected to take about six weeks.

Details of gas works can be found at [www.bettergaspipes.co.uk](http://www.bettergaspipes.co.uk) 'In your Street' section, or enter your postcode and click on the flame icon. A representative will be on site while works are ongoing or contact 0161 703 1000/1010 for further information.

## PUBLIC REALM

Work is progressing on the planned improvements for the pedestrian area. Finalised plans should be ready to share soon with works scheduled for later this year.

## LEISURE CENTRE

Cheshire East Council is in the process of appointing a 'development partner' for the redevelopment of the leisure centre. The intention is to take a number of bidders to the next stage where outline proposals for the leisure centre will be submitted. This procurement process is anticipated to conclude by the end of April 2017 when the team will make recommendations to the Council's Cabinet to formally appoint the successful bidder and commence the redevelopment of the leisure centre which will include a new swimming pool.

## SCARBOROUGH 'MILLS' DEVELOPMENT

Scarborough Development has been developing more detailed plans for the proposed 45,000sqft retail and leisure 'Mills' development in Mill Street and the current market area. The plans will be shared with interested parties ahead of being formally submitted as a planning application in the next few months.

[www.themills-congleton.co.uk](http://www.themills-congleton.co.uk)

## Remembering Margaret

In April it will be two years since community stalwart Margaret Williamson DL MBE passed away. Under the guidance of Congleton Partnership a number of activities have been taking place to ensure Margaret's legacy for improving Congleton remains. These include:

- A beautiful art seat instalment in Congleton Park, sponsored by various groups, organisations and designed by local artist Ian Turnock
- Renaming Antrobus Street Gardens 'Margaret's Place'



- Compiling a book of memories and community actions - due for publication later this year
- Setting up a trust fund to deliver annual grants for community based projects that were dear to Margaret - such as education, the arts, environment and youth development.

## Wow, What a Year 2016 was for Congleton!

**CONGLETON** received national and international fame in 2016 thanks to **In Bloom** and the **Tour of Britain!** It was also a special year for many of our community groups, businesses and residents who achieved great things in the year. Here's a quick reminder of some of the highlights of 2016...

### AWARDS!

- **Winner:** Best Town in the North West, RHS North West In Bloom
- **Winner:** Pride of Cheshire East, North West in Bloom
- **Gold:** Britain in Bloom finalist
- **Little Gem Award:** for Congleton Cenotaph



1. **Carnival came to town in July.**
2. **The Town Hall celebrated its 150th anniversary.**

# Official Opening of St John's Community Centre, Buglawton

After four years of hard work, St John's Community Centre is looking forward to inviting the community to its opening event on Saturday 11th March. Fiona Bruce MP will cut the ribbon at noon and local people are welcome to explore the centre and enjoy some light entertainment and refreshments.

The refurbishment of the hall into a vibrant community centre has cost more than £400k. The new look centre includes Wi-fi, camera points, TV points, multiple cookers, sinks and so much more. Many agencies, parties and

volunteers are now linked to the centre including the Police, Plus Dane Housing Association, Zumba, Parish breakfasts, Buglawton Community Group, Timbersbrook WI, School run morning drop-in cafe, iTea & Chat, Cheshire East Youth Work, Start course, Monday Club, Healthy Eating sessions, recreational & artistic craft sessions for enjoyment & fellowship, Public Worship, Edify Psychological and Ju Jitsu Club. For more information about the centre contact Peter Houldsworth 01260 271103

## Congleton Old Saw Mill

The Old Saw Mill goes from strength to strength with exciting new classes taking shape to keep you healthy, fit and happy in 2017. There's also a fascinating new series of weekly 'Know your Place' walks starting from Friday 27th January at the Old Saw Mill. Walks start at 10am lasting a couple of hours priced £5 and include a cuppa and bacon bap. The

walks will explore how the Link Road and Neighbourhood Plan will physically impact the town. If you've not been to see us at the Old Saw Mill yet, do come and find us; everyone's welcome! The Old Saw Mill is located on Back River Street, behind Antrobus Street.

For up-to-date info, see 'Old Saw Mill Congleton' on Facebook.

## St. Peter's Church

St. Peter's Church, Chapel Street, has received initial support of £203,700 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for the Key to the Future project. Following the successful replacement of the roof and repairs to the tower, this new phase of the project aims to carry out essential repairs to the centre section of the eighteenth century plaster ceiling, its cornices and decorative features. The church had been the

town's chapel for almost four hundred years before it became an independent parish in the nineteenth century. Most of the present building dates from 1742 and is the town's only grade 1 listed building. It is still in regular use for worship, civic services and other public events. Development funding of £15,200 has also been awarded to help St. Peter's progress their plans to apply for a full grant at a later date.

## Congleton Unplugged 2017

Break free of those winter blues with Congleton Unplugged! Whilst it is cold, wet and windy outside, it will be warm, dry and friendly on the inside with the very best of Congleton's acoustic music, with over 30 gigs and 10 venues, including; Folk, Celtic, Classical, Jazz, Pop, Blues, Choral. The action takes place in venues across Congleton on the 3rd - 5th

March. 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](http://www.facebook.com/CongletonUnplugged) or [www.congletonjazzandblues.co.uk](http://www.congletonjazzandblues.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 3rd-4th March. The event aims to raise funds for local charities. Groups taking part 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 on 01260 273358 or email: [robin@talkechem.co.uk](mailto:robin@talkechem.co.uk)

### NOMINATE A NEIGHBOUR

If you or someone you know feels concerned about bogus callers coming to your door you may be interested in Cheshire East Council's Nominated Neighbour scheme. Those taking part are given a card to hold up at a window or door giving the 'stranger' at the door the name or number of a trusted neighbour or friend who will check out the stranger's credentials. Real callers won't mind! It saves the vulnerable person entering into a conversation that they don't want. For more information or a pack contact Citizens Advice Consumer Service on 03454 040506 who will take the details.

### STREET PASTORS HELPING ON CONGLETON STREETS

Congleton Street Pastors are a group of volunteers from Christian churches around the town who have been operating in Congleton since June 2014. You'll see them out on the streets most weeks, on either a Friday or Saturday night and they are supported by local churches through prayer. Whether it is practical help or just someone to talk to the Street Pastors are there for everyone. They carry various emergency supplies including first aid materials, bottles of water and flipflops to give to those who need them.

### CONGLETON FOOD & DRINK FESTIVAL

Bookings are already been taken for this year's Food and Drink Festival on Sunday 11th June. If you are interested in having a stall at the Festival, or are prepared to help out on the day as a steward please contact Jo Money, Congleton Community Projects on 07833 742200 or contact via: [www.foodanddrinkfestival.net](http://www.foodanddrinkfestival.net)



2.



3. Congleton community wowed the Tour of Britain organisers with its terrific welcome.



4. Celebrating In Bloom success.

# Events to Look Forward To in 2017

Below are some of the key events that we have been made aware of for 2017. We know that there are more events being worked on by various organising committees.

For the most up-to-date list of events, please check our website... [www.congleton-tc.gov.uk](http://www.congleton-tc.gov.uk)

## JANUARY

- 14th-21st Congleton Pantomime "Dick Whittington", varied show times.
- 19th CTC Council Meeting, Congleton Town Hall, 7pm
- 22nd Film at Daneside "A Street Cat Named Bob", Daneside Theatre, 7pm
- 26th CTC Planning Committee Meeting, Town Hall, 7pm

## FEBRUARY

- 2nd CTC Community, Environment & Services Committee Meeting, Congleton Town Hall, 7pm
- 3rd National Blood Service, Congleton Town Hall, 1.45-4.15pm & 5.30-7.45pm
- 4th Opera Prize, Clonter Opera, 7pm
- 7th-11th Congleton Players "Habeas Corpus" by Alan Bennett, Daneside Theatre, 7.30pm
- 9th CTC Planning Committee Meeting, Congleton Town Hall, 7pm
- 10th Soul Night, Congleton Town Hall, in aid of Ruby's Fund
- 14th-16th Eaton Bank Academy "Fame the Musical", Daneside Theatre, 7.30pm
- 14th Siemens Roller Coaster Challenge, Congleton Town Hall
- 16th CTC Finance & Policy Committee Meeting, Congleton Town Hall, 7pm
- 19th Film at Daneside, Daneside Theatre, 7.30pm
- 25th Wilde without the Boy & The Ballad of Reading Gaol, Clonter Opera, 7.30pm
- 26th Wedding & Party Fayre, Congleton Town Hall, 4-8pm

## MARCH

- 2nd CTC Council Meeting, Congleton Town Hall, 7pm
- 3rd-4th **Rotary Swimathon, Congleton Leisure Centre**
- 3rd-5th **Congleton Unplugged, 30 performances in 10 different venues around Congleton**
- 4th Pinked Floyd, Daneside Theatre
- 7th National Blood Service, Congleton Town Hall, 1.45-4.15pm & 5.30-7.45pm
- 9th CTC Planning Committee Meeting, Congleton Town Hall, 7pm followed by Town Hall Committee
- 10th **Congleton Mayor's Ball, Town Hall**
- 13th-18th Trinity "Rock of Ages", Daneside Theatre

- 16th CTC Community, Environment & Services Committee Meeting, Congleton Town Hall, 7pm
- 18th Biddulph Male Voice Choir, Congleton Town Hall
- 23rd CTC Finance and Policy Committee, Town Hall, 7pm
- 25th Congleton Youth Orchestra concert, Congleton Town Hall
- 27th National Blood Service, Congleton Town Hall, 1.45-4.15pm & 5.30-7.45pm
- 29th-1st April Centre Stage "Phantom of the Opera", Daneside Theatre

## APRIL

- 1st Congleton Choral Society sings Bach's St. John's Passion, Congleton Town Hall
- 6th CTC Planning Committee, Congleton Town Hall, 7pm
- 7th National Blood Service, Congleton Town Hall, 1.45-4.15pm & 5.30-7.45pm
- 13th CTC Council Meeting, Congleton Town Hall, 7pm
- 25th-29th Congleton Players "The Weekend" by Michael Palin, Daneside Theatre
- 27th **Annual Town Meeting, Congleton Town Hall**

## MAY

- 6th Hidden Theatre Day - various venues
- 6th Eddi Reader, Clonter Opera, 8pm
- 11th-13th Congleton Amateur Youth Theatre "The Witches", Daneside Theatre, performance times vary
- 12th National Blood Service, Congleton Town Hall, 1.45-4.15pm & 5.30-7.45pm
- 18th **CTC Annual Council Meeting-Mayor Making, Congleton Town Hall - tbc**
- 21st Cheshire Aerial Championships, Daneside Theatre, 12pm
- 27th **Congleton Paddling Pool opens for the Summer Season**
- 31st National Blood Service, Congleton Town Hall, 1.45-4.15pm & 5.30-7.45pm

## JUNE

- 11th **Congleton Food and Drink Festival, Town Centre**
- 13th **Teddy Bears Picnic, Congleton Park, 12.30-2.30pm**
- 18th **Brass on the Grass, Congleton Park, 1.30-5.30pm**
- 23rd Houghton Weavers Concert, Congleton Town Hall

## JULY

### North West in Bloom judging, this month

- 1st CVS Celebrations Awards Day, Congleton Park, 2-9pm
- 7th-8th Louise Carter School of Dance Show, Daneside Theatre
- 8th Congleton Youth Orchestra, Congleton Town Hall
- 9th Lions Youth Brass Band, Congleton Park, 2.30-4.30pm
- 15th Congleton Choral Society Concert, Congleton Town Hall
- 16th Audley Brass Band, Congleton Park, 2.30-4.30pm
- 23rd **Dog Show, Congleton Park, 12-4pm**
- 30th Rode Hall Silver Brass Band, Congleton Park, 2.30-4.30pm

## AUGUST

- 3rd National Play Day
- 13th Salt City Jazz Men, Congleton Park, 2.30-4.30pm
- 20th Rode Hall Silver Brass Band, Congleton Park, 2.30-4.30pm
- 25th-27th **Congleton Jazz & Blues Festival**

## SEPTEMBER

- 7th-10th **National Heritage Days**
- 9th Congleton Horticultural Society Show, Congleton Town Hall
- 10th **Congleton Paddling Pool Closes for the summer**
- 17th Congleton Lions Duck Race, Congleton Park, 2-4pm
- 24th Kemp Bicentenary Walk, Congleton Park, 2-4pm
- 29th **Senior Health and Well-Being Fair, Congleton Town Hall**

## NOVEMBER

### In Bloom Celebration evening, this month

- 4th **Rotary Bonfire, Congleton Park, 5-9pm**
- 11th Congleton Choral Society Concert
- 12th **Remembrance Sunday Parade and Service**
- 14th South Cheshire Floral Society Demonstration, Congleton Town Hall
- 25th **CONGLETON CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON, Town Centre**

## DECEMBER

- 23rd Congleton Choral Society Christmas Concert, Congleton Town Hall.