

Bear Necessities

With News from Congleton Town Council & Community Groups

Autumn 2013

Getting Ready For A Magical Christmas!



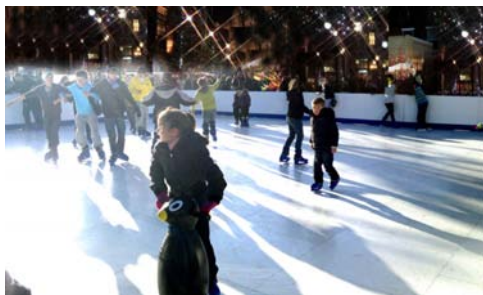
New lights, some new shops, bars and restaurants and a 10-day ice rink. The scene is being set for a great Christmas in Congleton. The fun will start on Friday 22 November when the town's lights are switched on. The celebrations last from 4pm - 7pm with the lights on at 5.30pm.

Expect plenty of entertainment, stalls, children's fair rides, quality craft and gift

fayre in the Town Hall, fireworks, snow, hot food, late night opening and of course Father Christmas! Look out for the *Little Guide to Congleton's BIG Christmas* which highlights the full Congleton Christmas programme of events, activities and services. For further information see www.congleton-tc.gov.uk

This year, due to the size of the crowds expected, the lantern procession has been moved to December 13 and will feature as part of the ice rink opening ceremony.

Get Your Skates On!



Something really cool is coming to Congleton this Christmas! Thanks to the sterling efforts of Cathy Morris and local businesses, Congleton residents will be able to don skating boots and take to the ice this Christmas! The rink - which is big enough for

50 skaters at a time - will be located on the Bulls Head Car Park in Mill Street Congleton from Friday 13 December until Sunday 22. The rink will be open from 10am - 8pm. Skating will cost just £5 per adult, £3 for teens and £2 for under 12s for 50 minutes on the ice. Family tickets (2 adults and upto 3 children/teens) cost £12. Tickets can be purchased in advance from the Tourist Information Centre in the Town Hall. Profits made from the sale of tickets will be ploughed back into another great community event for Congleton.

The final fundraiser for the Ice Rink will be a '12 twisting days of Christmas' Hair and Fashion Show and Party at the Town Hall on Saturday 9 November. Tickets cost £15 and all proceeds will go towards the Ice Rink.

Remembrance Parade

The Royal British Legion is inviting local people to join in the Remembrance Sunday Parade and Service on Sunday 10 November 2013. The parade will assemble at Booth Street at 10.15am for a 10.30am start. The parade route will be via West Street, Antrobus Street, Mill Street, Pedestrian Area, Market Street and Bank Street ending at the Cenotaph on Lawton Street.

There will be a two minutes silence at 11am followed by the laying of wreaths by dignitaries and associations. At 11.15 the parade will move forward along the High Street and be dismissed at the junction with Moody Street. The Parade will be followed by a service of remembrance at St Peter's Church, Chapel Street.

A working group is actively working on gaining funding to renovate the cenotaph as part of the 100 year anniversary of World War 1.

lest we forget

Bear Necessities is produced by Congleton Town Council. The next newsletter will be delivered around 9 January. All contributions should be sent by 8 December to Jackie MacArthur at Congleton Town Hall, High Street Congleton CW12 1BN, Tel 01260 270350 or email jm@congletontowncouncil.co.uk



Congleton
beartown
where friends are made

Know Your Councillor

Congleton is divided into two wards, east and west. As a rough guide East Ward covers Buglawton, Bromley Farm, Mossley and Lower Heath. West Ward covers the Town Centre, West 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 or co-opted to serve until May 2015 are:



Dawn Allen, C



Gordon Baxendale, C



John Saville Crowther, IVC



Robbie Brightwell, C



Louise Bours, UKIP



Amanda Martin, C



Denis Murphy, LD (Deputy Mayor)



Jean Parry, C



Neville Price, I



Elizabeth Wardlaw, C

West Ward Councillors

East Ward Councillors



Larry Barker, C



David Brown, C (Deputy Leader)



Paul Bates, C



Bob Edwards, C (Council Leader)



Guy Brittain, C



George Hayes, C (Mayor)



Sally Ann Holland, C



Douglas Parker, C



Glen Williams, C



Rebecca Williams, C

C = Conservative; LD = Liberal Democrat; I = Independent; IVC = Independent Voice of Congleton; UKIP = UK Independence Party

Hens & Stags Just Want to Have Fun...



Hens, Stags and their families and friends are invited to Congleton Town Hall to experience a Bridal Fayre with a difference!

Instead of a Sunday we've opted for a fun night. See the catwalk, the hair, the make-up, flowers, stationery, hats, photography and everything you need to make your wedding special. Chat about wedding options in a relaxed fun environment. The date was being confirmed as Bear Necessities went to press.

Visit www.congleton-tc.gov.uk for more details, or contact Liz on 07813 772469.

Essential Works in Market Street

Work to replace an electricity cable in Market Street, Congleton is due to start on 14 October and is likely to take 4-6 weeks.

During the works a one-way traffic system will be installed along Market Street – meaning that traffic from Moody Street and Canal Street will need to turn right on to

the High Street and Lawton Street. Buses and taxis will also need to use the one-way system. Access to and from the Fairground car park and Morrisons will be unaffected. The works are being carried out by Western Power Distribution (WPD) to improve power supplies to local homes and businesses.

FREE basic LIFE SUPPORT courses



Would you know what to do if a member of your family was having a cardiac arrest? Immediately call 999 - but what do you do while waiting for the ambulance? Time is precious - and a little knowledge could save a life! Signing up for a FREE Heart Start basic life support

course with Congleton First Responders could be the best 2½ hours you ever spend! To book a course or to find out more please contact Course Co-ordinator, Rachael Turner on 07747 825708, email congletonfr@aol.com or visit our Facebook page, Congleton Responders.

Anti-Social Behaviour – WHO TO CALL?

Suffering from anti-social behaviour? Suspect drug dealing/drug taking? Don't suffer in silence or ignore it.

If you see any suspicious vehicles, people or have information that may assist the Congleton Neighbourhood Policing Team please contact the numbers below. Your call will be dealt with in complete confidence and the information that you supply may help to further reduce crime, drug dealing and anti-social behaviour in your area.

❖ Advice on anti-social behaviour, crime prevention, neighbourhood disputes Safer Cheshire East Partnership – **0300 123 5030**

❖ To report anti-social behaviour /neighbourhood issues to Plus Dane – **0800 169 2988** (free from most UK landlines) – **0300 123 4560** (local rate from a mobile phone)

❖ Adullam Housing Association – **01260 294400**

❖ Equity Housing Association – **0800 733233**

❖ Noise Nuisance - Environmental Health – **0300 123 5015**

❖ To report a serious crime of a danger to life – **999**

❖ To report a non-emergency incident to the Police – **101**

❖ Crimestoppers (anonymously) – **0800 555 111**

< The **Town Council** is located in the Town Hall. The office is open Monday - Friday from 9am - 5pm. To speak to the Town Clerk contact Brian Hogan on 01260 270350, ext 1, or email bh@congletontowncouncil.co.uk

5,000 Entered Summer Prize Draw!



Lucky Reg Barker has driven away with a Ford Ka from Burns Garage after his draw ticket was the first to be pulled out from almost 5,000 entries into the Congleton Shops Summer Prize Draw.

Lyn Lucas from Congleton drew 2nd prize of £100 of Morrison's vouchers and a further 73 people benefited from a £10 vouchers from a participating store. The summer offer was organised by Congleton Town Council and Cheshire Independent Borders newspaper. Running the draw has enabled the Town Council to gain valuable data about shopping habits in Congleton. The information gathered will help with future marketing campaigns. For a full list of winners see www.congleton-tc.gov.uk

New Hub to Help Older Residents



After lots of hard work, the Age UK Cheshire East team with help from many have transformed a former ribbon factory in Centenary Place, close to Victoria Mill on Foundry Bank. The large ground floor building is now home to a café and charity department store for everyone and activities and services for older people.

Known as 'the Hub' it is



open to the public Monday - Saturday from 9.30am - 4.30pm. Funds raised through the café and store will be used to help fund the projects and services taking place in the building for those 50+. There are over 100 volunteer roles available over the six days.

To enquire about volunteering - or to book a reservation at the café - call into the Hub or phone 01260 273610.

NEW COMMUNITY AGENTS GET TO WORK

Life has just been made a little easier for older people struggling to access services, support and information! Cheshire



Community Action has introduced 'Community Agents' to help local people find out about services and organisations that they may not already know about. Congleton

(and central Cheshire East) is supported by Alyssa Baines.

The project is funded by Cheshire East Council and comes under the department for adult health and social care. The aim is to bridge the gap between people in the local community and those statutory and voluntary organisations that offer help and support.

You can contact Alyssa on 07901 787272 or find out more about the service by calling 01606 359732, or email:

enquiries@cheshireaction.org.uk

A New Roof for St Peter's

It is anticipated that work will commence on reroofing Congleton's outstanding Georgian church in the autumn. St. Peter's in Chapel Street is Grade 1 listed and is considered by national heritage organisations as an outstanding example of a Georgian town church. English Heritage, Cheshire East Council, Garfield Weston, WREN and Congleton Inclosure Trust have made grants towards the cost of the work.

This is the first of a three phase project called 'Key to the Future' which will preserve this part of Congleton's heritage and create a church and community building fit for Congleton's future generations. A steering



group is being set up comprised of members of the congregation and community. If you would like to know more about the church or the project, would like to organise a group visit or have suggestions for community use of the building please contact the project manager Richard Drew on 01260 272315.

News In Brief...

TOWN COUNCIL TO TAKE ON STREETScape SERVICES

From early next year it is expected that the 10 staff who carry out grass cutting, grounds maintenance, street cleaning and streetscape duties in and around Congleton will transfer to Congleton Town Council. Along with the staff will come responsibilities for the toilets, play parks, planting and street furniture. By managing the services at the most local level the aim is to make the service even more responsive to local needs.

FREE AFTER THREE BACK PARK STREET CAR PARK

The large car park at the back of Lawton Street is 'Free after Three' until at least January. Cheshire East Council is carrying out a pilot scheme to see what impact this offer has. The Traders group would like to see it extended to the other town centre car parks. This means a 2 hour ticket purchased after 1pm for 50p would enable you to park for the rest of the day! Please make the most of this offer.

STOREHOUSE FOODBANK IN NEED OF SUPPLIES!

Congleton StoreHouse based at New Life Church helps people referred to them via agencies who are in need of food or basic provisions. In the first 6 months of this year it helped 600 people with 12,340 essential items.

For more details about giving or receiving see www.nlchurch.org.uk/community/storehouse

ACTION FOR MARKET TOWNS NATIONAL CONVENTION

Action for Market Towns is basing its flagship National Conference in Congleton on 6-7 November. AMT chose Congleton as a base after the 5 towns of Congleton, Alsager, Holmes Chapel, Middlewich and Sandbach submitted an exciting programme about towns working together. Around 150 delegates from across the UK are expected to attend the conference which will be focused around keeping town centres alive.

APPLE DAY AND FRUIT/VEG SWAP

Congleton Sustainability Group will be holding an Apple Day along with the fruit and veg swap event at Astbury Mere on Sunday 20 October from 2pm - 4pm. Surplus apples to be used for Congleton Apple Juice can be left at Astbury Mere Visitors Centre between 9am - 5pm daily.

WHAT'S GOING ON IN 2014

If you are putting on an event in 2014 the Town Council would like to know about it! We will devote space in January's Bear Necessities to 'What's on in 2014'. Email details to jm@congletontowncouncil.co.uk by 8th December.

Dates for your diary

October

- 11 GaGa Tribute Band - Daneside Theatre 7.30pm
- 11 Love Music Trust, St Peter's 7.30pm
- 14-19 Open Minds Exhibition - Electric Picture House
- 17 Council Planning and Finance Committees, Congleton Town Hall
- 20 Fruit & Vegetable Swap/ Apple Day Astbury Mere 2-4pm
- 22-26 Sound of Music, Daneside Theatre 7.15pm (2pm on Sat)
- 25-16 Nov Street Art Exhibition, Electric Picture House
- 31-2 Nov Energise - Alison Gallacher School of Dance, Daneside- 7.15pm (2pm Sat)
- 31 Council Meeting - Congleton Town Hall, 7pm

November

- 2 Rotary Bonfire, Congleton Park - tickets from TIC
- 5 Give Blood, Congleton Town Hall, 2-4pm & 5.30-7.30pm
- 8 Homestart Fundraiser - Congleton Town Hall
- 9 Congleton Dane Rotary Club - Young Artist Competition, Town Hall
- 9 Hair and Fashion Show and Party, Town Hall - Ice-rink fund raiser
- 9&16 Lantern Making Workshops - Electric Picture House, 11am - 4pm
- 10 Remembrance Sunday Parade - 10.30am
- 12-16 Joseph, Congleton Youth Theatre, Daneside Theatre
- 13 So Far West/ Amusements Performance, Electric Picture House, 7.30pm Tickets £7
- 14 Planning and Town Hall Committee Meetings - Town Hall, 7pm
- 16 Choral Society, Town Hall, 7.30pm
- 21 Community, Environment and Amenities Committee, Town Hall, 7pm
- 22 **CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON!**
4-7pm. Lights on at 5.30pm
- 23 Elvis Tribute Night - Congleton Town Hall - 7pm
- 25-30 'Our Gang' Gang Show- Daneside Theatre - 7.15pm
- 28 Give Blood, Town Hall - 2-4pm and 5.30 - 7.30pm
- 28 Council Planning and Finance and Policy Meeting, Town Hall 7pm
- 29 Nov-11 Jan Affordable Art Sale Electric Picture House
- 30 St Stephen's Church Christmas Fayre, Town Hall
- 30 The Oyster Band, Congleton Town Hall,

December

- 1 Daneside Theatre - Film
- 5 Council Meeting - Town Hall - 7pm
- 7 Congleton Youth Orchestra - Town Hall 7.30pm
- 13 Opening of Ice-rink & lantern parade 5-8pm
- 14 Christmas Party Night - Congleton Town Hall 7.30pm
- 14 Brass and Carols Rotary Dane, Daneside Theatre 7.30pm
- 21 Choral Society - Congleton Town Hall 7pm
- 31 Give Blood - Congleton Town Hall 2-4pm 5.30 - 7.30pm

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 Town Clerk 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 01260 271095.

For Congleton Town Council (CTC) contact 01260 270350. For more events see www.congleton-tc.gov.uk

Rotary Bonfire & Firework Extravaganza

Congleton Rotary Club will be lighting up the sky on **Saturday 2 November** with Congleton's biggest bonfire and fireworks display. This annual, hugely enjoyable event will take place in Congleton Park. Gates open at 5pm with the torch-lit procession to light the bonfire at 6pm. Children's fireworks at 6.30pm with the main display at 7.30pm.

There will also be side stalls, children's rides and refreshments. Tickets cost £6 for adults and £4 for children before 2 November or £8 and £6 on the day. Tickets can be purchased from the Congleton Tourist Information or in the Town Centre on Saturdays the 26 October and 2 November. All proceeds to charity.



"OUR GANG" 2013

For over 40 years the Scouts and Guides of Congleton have presented their ever popular biennial Gang Show "OUR GANG". This year the show can be enjoyed at Daneside Theatre from Monday 25th to Saturday 30th November at 7.15pm with a matinee at 2.15pm on Saturday 30th.

This "must see" musical extravaganza is two years in the making! The cast of 120 young

people bring a unique action-packed production full of colour, music, singing, dancing and comedy with something to appeal to all ages.

There is always a big demand for tickets, so it is advisable to book early. Tickets can be purchased from Congleton Tourist Information Centre tel 01260 271095.

See www.congletongangshow.co.uk for more information.

Daneside will be Alive with the 'Sound of Music'

Congleton Musical Theatre will be performing 'The Sound of Music' at the Daneside Theatre at 7.15pm each evening from the 22nd - 26th October, with a Saturday matinee at 2pm. The Sound of Music has been a firm favourite with audiences for almost 55 years! Tickets are available from Ticketline 01260 276371 or Congleton TIC 01260 271095 www.congletonmusicaltheatre.co.uk

The 'Von Trapp' children practice their Do-ri-me! With director Liz Cardell



Live Theatre at Electric Picture House

There's an opportunity to see some award-winning theatre at very affordable prices at the Electric Picture House on Wednesday 13 November. The Congleton venue in Cross Street (near the Post Office) will host two touring acts as part of the Rural Theatre Network programme.

The edgy performances - 'Way out West' with Paul O'Donnell and 'Sleepwalk Collective' by Amusements are both suitable for audiences aged 16+.

Tickets are available from the Electric Picture House priced at £7. The performances start at 7.30pm