

2013 - 2014 has seen a lot of changes in Congleton Town Council. Most notably in January 2014 the Town Council became responsible for the Streetscape services. This increased the number of staff working at the Town Hall from 17 to 28 and has doubled the amount of staff hours worked as all but four of the previous employees are part-time.

Community events continued to be a real strength of the town with the Mercian Regiment Homecoming March, Food and Drink Festival and Christmas Lights attracting thousands of people. Congleton won North West in Bloom after two years of being runner-up. The town also became cardiac smart winning a gold award.

The year saw a major consultation exercise on the Link Road and a deluge of planning applications for schemes around the town. The Town Council and partners were frustrated by the lack of movement on major plans surrounding the Scarborough 'Bridestones 2' development and the public realm improvements.

Opposite is a summary of the Town Council's Annual Report for 2013-14. The Council year runs from the 1 April to the 31 March.

The budgets for this annual report were set by the Council in Autumn 2012. Budget provision was made expecting streetscape services to be transferred early in the year. The delay in transfer was a key reason for the underspend in the 2013-14 budget.

G We fund 50% of the cost of four Police Community Support Officers – Without our contribution there would be none in the Town

Services Provided by Congleton Town Council

- We operate a Handyman Service who are responsible for cleaning up a variety of areas around the Town, removing litter, graffiti, tidying open areas, clearing pathways and alleys, anything to make the Town cleaner and tidier
- We operate a Streetscape Team consisting of a staff of 11 transferred from Cheshire East Borough Council on the 1st January 2014. Their role is to keep the Town tidy, empty litter bins and look after the ground maintenance activities in and around the Town and in Congleton Park
- We have a Town Centre Manager who helps organise a variety of events in the Town as well as spending time promoting the town and its businesses
- We have restored and refurbished the Town Hall which was inherited from Congleton Borough Council; this has cost about £750,000, although there are still some projects to complete. The finance for the work is provided by way of a low cost Government loan and an interest free loan from the former Congleton **Borough Council**
- The Council returns approximately £64,000 per year to organisations within Congleton to support their various activities, including making a significant contribution to the Citizens Advice Bureau
- The Council provides Allotments
- We manage and maintain the Town's Paddling Pool open May September
- All of our Councillors are volunteers and do not receive any remuneration or fee whatsoever

Town Mayor

For the majority of this report the Town Mayor was Councillor George Hayes. Cllr Hayes took over from Cllr Sally Holland on the 9th May 2013 – becoming the UKs Youngest Mayor. During his term in office the Town Mayor raised around £6000. £3000 has been donated to the Special Care Baby Unit at Macclesfield Hospital. The remaining £3,000 is being split amongst local causes.

Some of the major achievements for 2013-14 include:

- Transferred Streetscape operations from Cheshire East Borough Council to the Town Council
- Provided new branded vehicles and equipment to the Streetscape Team
- Continued and developed the well-respected Town Handy Person Scheme
- Replaced many of the Town's Christmas lights and organised the switch on
- Supported town events such as the Food and Drink Festival, Open Space, Mercian March
- Produced guarterly Town Council and Community Newsletter (Bear Necessities)
- Continued to support an active Youth Committee to serve the
- Provided direct support to Congleton In Bloom, and Cheshire Pride Awards
- Achieved gold in North West in Bloom and became overall winner.
- Selected to represent North West in Bloom in Britain in Bloom competition in 2014
- Won Best Kept Website for www.congleton-tc.gov.uk
- Completed improvements to Radnor Park signage
- High Profile Congleton Partnership & liaison with businesses
- Notion of a Northern Link Road adopted in Cheshire East Local plan
- Co-hosted the Action for Market Town's national convention
- Promoted the Town Hall as a Wedding Venue and held further Wedding Fayre

How the Town Council is financed

The Town Council is funded through a 'precept' - which is an amount of money added to households annual Council Tax Bills to cover the services delivered by its Town or Parish Council. For 2013/14 the Town Council increased its precept by 2p per week (1.79%) for a band D property (£1.20 per year). The figures below show the amount the various committees spent, the amount they were allocated and the difference between the two.

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL: ACCOUNTS 01.04.13-31.03.14

	2013/14	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	
Finance and Policy Committee				
Corporate Management	123,693	137,349	13,656	
Democratic Rep'n & Civic	44,755	51,312	6,557	
Grants	62,616	77,033	14,417	
Expenditure Totals	£231,064	£265,694	£34,630	

To read the full report, visit our website: www.congleton-tc.gov.uk

	2013/14	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	
Community, Environment & Services Committee				
Expenditure Total	£255,782	£272,377	£16,595	
Town Hall Committee				
Town Hall - Expenditure	155,210	157,560	2,350	
Town Hall - Income	103,477	98,583	4,894	
	51,733	58,977	7,244	
Total Net Expenditure	£538,579	£597,048	£58,469	
Capital Expenditure	99,169	96,778	-2,391	
Transfer to Ear Marked reserves	52,500			
	151,669	96,778	-2,391	
Total Spend 2013/14	£690,248	£693,826	£3,578	
Precept	618,472			
Precept support grant	75,354			
	£693,826	-		

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL: MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS 2013-14

The Town Council has supported local voluntary and community groups with approximately £64,000 worth of grants in 2013-14.

Among those assisted were:

Grants given to 39 community groups and CW12 residents towards the hire of the Town Hall

Congleton Museum Community Projects Congleton Partnership Citizens Advice Bureau Christmas Lights Carnival Committee Mercian March Royal British Legion St Peter's Church Vale Juniors Congleton Musical Theatre Eaton Bank Academy Congleton Harriers Congleton Choral Society Cong Jazz and Blues Festival Friends of Congleton Park The Smile Group Bromley Farm Friendship Group Danielle Wright-Humphreys Support for pageant Congleton Harriers Friends of Congleton Park Ruby's Fund Sol Theatre School Bromley Farm Community Trust Congleton Building Preservation Trust

Notional rent Project support Annual Grant Annual grant Christmas Lights Bi-annual Congleton Carnival Mercian march through town Remembrance Day Parade Church clock maintenance Girl's trophies Support for the Sound of Music Ann Packer Centre support Support for Congleton Half Marathor Support for the Children's Choir Support for 2013 Festival Cables etc. for Park events 1 month costs Support for Christmas meals/presents

Support for Cloud 9 Race Brass in The Park Auction prize Summer Theatre School 2014 Support for Bromley Farm News

Support for Physic Garden

Beal <u> A Necessi</u> With News from Congleton Town Council & Community Groups *Summer 2014*

SATURDAY 12TH JULY

2014

Sunday 13th July

IT'S A KNOCHOUT

Enter your team now

call 01260 279707

Plus activities, stalls

From 12 noon

HOLLER

le Stalk & Ko

more details visit www.faceb

and two children.

come and watch!

Carnival Comes to Town

Carnival 14 is promising to be the biggest for years!

The fun starts on Friday 11 July with 'Holler' - a host of local bands including Adam French playing on Hankinson's field. Tickets £5. Saturday is the big party day - with a large procession of floats, bands, dancers, bikes and vehicles leaving Bromley Road at 11am and winding their way through the town to the park. The Park will be filled with fair rides, arena events, stalls, chill-out zones and food. FREE entry during the day.

Party in the Park features some top tribute bands including Too Rexy, Bootleg Blondie, Tina Turner by Kinisha as well as Chip Kendall and the four finalist of 'The Act'.

Growing for Gold! IN BLOOM National Finalists!

Britain in Bloom competition. We also want to hold on to the top position in North West in Bloom. The North West judges will be in town on Tuesday 22 July to judge Congleton in Bloom as well as Bromley Farm and Buglawton's Neighbourhood Award entries. The Britain in Bloom judges will visit on Wednesday 6 August. Many of the town's businesses have sponsored extra hanging baskets and tidied up the outside of their premises. Local groups have been rallying to the call for extra litter picks, planting and weeding! Please play your part by taking litter home or putting it in the bins. In May school children from a number of primary schools helped plant summer pots to decorate the town.

Congleton is a National Finalist in this year's If you can spare an hour or two, more help is needed for the LAST MINUTE TOWN TIDIES. Meet at 6pm on 21 July and 5 August at the Community Garden in Lawton Street.

Standard tickets cost £5 for a child, £12 for

Congleton where up to 27 local teams will

plenty of water, foam and frivolity! It's free to

For more information about Carnival, see

Congleton Carnival 2014 on Facebook.

battle it out over giant inflatables - with

an adult or £30 for a family of two adults

On Sunday It's a Knockout returns to



Phlok-ing to Congleton Independents

Congleton is the first town in Cheshire to launch Phlok - a new reward scheme, designed at encouraging people to shop local. Although it will be officially launched at the Carnival on 12 July, you can get involved now and start collecting and spending Phlok points in local shops.



Download the Phlok app for FREE and collect points by shopping or visiting shops with the Phlok sign.

The number of businesses involved is growing - but so far you can collect and spend Phlok points at:

Allens Newsagents, Bare Health, Browns Jewellers, Clarity's Hairdressing, Coffee Central, Davenports, Delacey's Tapas Bar and Café, Congleton Town Council, Ecigolution Company, Hallmark Especially for You, Hollins and Hollinshead, Missy Boutique, Quigley's Wine and Cocktail Bar, Simply Retro, Tax Assist, Top Nosh Catering, The Address and Victoria Bed Company.

Cheshire Toy Shop, Just Be Jewellery and Retrospective Too, based at Glebe Farm, are also part of the Congleton Phlok offer.

ear Necessities is produced by Conaleton Town Council. The next wsletter will be delivered aroun October. All contributions should e sent by 12 September to Jacki acArthur at Congleton Town Hall gh Street, Congleton, CW12 1BN. el 01260 270350 or email



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 Councillor elected or co-opted to serve until May 2015 are



Amanda Martin,

A THE

Neville Price,

Bob Edwards.

Sally Ann Holland,



Louise Bours,



Jean Parry,





Elizabeth Wardlaw



Larry Barker.



David Brown C (Deputy Leader)







Glen Williams, Rebecca William





Denis Murphy Is Our New Town Mayor

At a packed Town Hall on 15 May, Councillor contact the Mayor's secretary, Linda Minshull Denis Murphy was elected as the new Town on 01260 270350 ext 4 or email Mayor and Cllr Liz Wardlaw as Deputy Town Im@congletontowncouncil.co.uk

Teenage Play & Social Gathering Space

Following consultation with young people, Cheshire East Council using funding from a work has now started to provide a new number of sources including a WREN grant teenage play and social gathering space and money from local developers. Friends within Congleton Park. The new space, of Congleton Park, a voluntary community which will be located next to the younger group established to work in Partnership children's area, will include items such as a with Cheshire East Council to help develop youth shelter, zip wire, surf swing, basket and look after the park, have been advising swing, spinner, roundabout and multi on the project. To find out more visit the layered climbing frame. Work is due to be Friends of Congleton Park website completed by the school holidays. Some www.friendsofcongletonpark.co.uk

Congleton's Own Artisan Style Market!

Congleton's pedestrian area is being transformed on the second Sunday of each month from 10am - 3pm thanks to the Congleton 'Artisan' style monthly Sunday Market. Over 50 traders offering a range of goods from pies to plants and vintage clothing to beer soap, fill the pedestrian area.

The dates for the next four markets are 13 July, 10 August, 14 September and 12 October.

For more information about Congleton Artisan Market or to book a stall contact Laurence Hodson on 07739 529525 or see www.congletonartisanmarket.com.uk



Mayor to serve Congleton Town until May 2015. Cllr Denis Murphy announced that Joan Myatt will be his Mayoress for the year, while Liz's husband Bruce Wardlaw was appointed as Deputy Mayor's Consort. Fourteen year old Nathan Beard from Congleton Fire Cadets will be the Mayor's Cadet, supporting the Town Mayor in many of his public engagements.

The Town Mayor's charities for this year will be the East Cheshire Hospice as well as a number of youth orientated groups.

To invite the Town Mayor to an event

refurbishment work will also take place in the existing junior play area where some items will be replaced and others painted.

The works are being coordinated by



Cheshire Constabulary is aiming to increase the number of Special Constables across the area. It is running several awareness seminars over the next few months - the next one is at 7pm on 19th July. Special Constables come from a variety of backgrounds and all volunteer a minimum of four and a quarter hours a week. They form a vital link between the regular police and the local community.

Specials have the same powers as regular officers; they wear the same uniform and are issued with the same protective equipment including handcuffs and baton. This is coupled with an understanding of the law and the teaching of various police procedures

The range of duties is considerable, helping regular officers in day to day tasks, helping out across a range of local events such as fetes, shows and the planning of various operations or patrolling towns and cities.

See their website **www.cheshire.police.uk** to find out more.

Congleton WW1 Awareness & Engagement Group

At 11.00 pm on August 4th 1914 a state Congleton resident and former Cheshire of war was declared against Germany signalling the start of the Great War.

Many young men from Congleton went off to war, while women worked in the town's factories making clothing for the services and engaged in voluntary work. 100 years • Local artist Petra Lea has created portraits on a volunteer Awareness and Engagement group has been formed from over 20 local • Congleton museum will host a major organisations to help residents understand and reflect upon the impact of WW1 on the • All local schools have been presented whole community.

Thanks to a Heritage and Lottery grant of Forget' full of archival material. £8,400 the group has been able to organise: • Early next year sculpture workshops will

- A production at Daneside Theatre in October of a moving new play 'The Soldiers Goodbye written by local playwright Dave McCaddan.
- A new poem 'Paid in Full' written by create copses of colour around the town.

Prizes for Photos, **Flowers & Food!**



With over 140 categories available there are plenty of prizes up for grabs at this year's Congleton and District Horticultural Society Annual Show! Local people can enter a wide range of vegetables, flower arrangements, pot plants, chutneys, jams, cakes, handicrafts and photographs. The Show takes place in the Town Hall on Saturday 13th September from 10.30am - 3pm. Admission is 50p for adults and free for accompanying children.

Entry forms and conditions can be picked up from the Tourist Information Centre in the Town Hall. Entry costs 20p per exhibit. Under 16s can enter all categories free of charge.



Poet Laureate John Lindley - based on names from the Cenotaph. A series of poetry workshops is being arranged for all age groups to create a legacy anthology

- of a Cheshire soldier and nurse.
- WW1 exhibition from the 7th November.
- with Lyndon Murgatroyd's book 'Lest We
- encourage young people and residents to help create a design for a possible permanent WW1 commemorative piece.
- 100 Rowan trees have been planted to

Congleton Railway Station and Canal in Need of More Friends!

group of volunteers have already started to make improvements to the area around Congleton Railway Station and its links with the Macclesfield canal - but more help is needed! The newly formed group has the backing of Congleton Town Council, Cheshire East Council, Northern Rail, Canal and Rivers Trust and Congleton Partnership and Congleton MP Fiona Bruce. The Congleton Station and Canal working party meets from 10am - 12.30 on the 4th Friday of the month - the next party is on the 25th July. Local people are welcome to join in. The overall objective is to improve the whole area around the station itself and then medium to longer term the canal area from Congelton Wharf to Buglawton.

During 2014 welcome mosaics will be placed on the railway station buildings, new planting schemes will be created, the station will be painted and improvements to the canal towpath will be made. How much and how fast depends on people power and support from Northern Rail. For more information, contact Glen Williams, Congleton Town Councillor, Tidy Town Champion, on 01260 270350 or glen1971@hotmail.co.uk

Walking & Cycling Treasure Hunt Join in the FREE Cycling and Walking Treasure Hunt around Congleton this Summer.

nere are **PRIZES TO BE WON** too. You can do the hunt whenever you like, and tackle small sections at a time, giving plent of opportunity to solve the clues with family or friends. Entries must be received by the closing date of August 31st. eaflets can be picked up at the library, Tourist Information Centre, Astbury Mere and various shops.





George Hayes,

Paul Bates

News In Brief...

SHED BREAK-INS

There has been an increase in theft from garden sheds in Congleton. Please do not leave valuables in your shed. Make sure your shed and garage are locked - and consider an alarm. It is worth locking bicycles even when in a locked shed.

For further crime reduction advice see www.cheshire.police.uk/advice-information.aspx

PADDLING POOL OPEN FOR SUMMER SEASON

Congleton Paddling Pool will remain open daily from 10am - 6pm until Sunday 14 September except when the weather is really poor. The Pool is designed for those aged 11 and under and is managed by Congleton Town Council. Parking in the area is restricted, and visitors are advised to use Town Centre Car Parks.

NATIONAL HERITAGE OPEN DAYS

Various locations in and around Congleton will be joining in this national event from 11th - 14th September - where buildings that are not normally open to the public throw open their doors! Astbury St Mary's Church will be open from 10-3pm on Saturday 13th and 12-6pm on Sunday 14th. Booking is essential for the 18th Century Choral song at 6.30pm on Sunday 14th.

LIONS DUCK RACE

The annual Lions Duck Race will take place in Congleton Park on Sunday 14th September. There will be an opportunity to buy your duck in the Town Centre on the 6th and 13th September. Funds raised from this annual fun event help local charities.

TOWN HALL BOOKING

The Town Hall has three great rooms which are available to hire at very reasonable rates. We can offer a room for a small meeting, or a large hall for a concert or party!

More information is available at www.congleton-tc.gov.uk or tel 01260 270350 ext 6 and we'll be happy to show you around.

CHANCE TO WIN £1000!

As Bear Necessities went to print an exciting summer draw was being planned where one lucky shopper will win £1000 just for shopping locally! Spend £5 in a participating shop and get a free raffle ticket - draw will be made on 26th August.

Congleton Jazz & Blues 2014

ongleton Jazz and Blues is embarking on its fifth annual event. This year is shaping up to be as successful as the last and is jam packed with talent. The festival will open on Friday 22nd August at the Electric Picture House with Rod Mason and the Elements supported by Skutch Manos. On Saturday 23rd there will be a New Orleans style umbrella parade through the town, starting at the community garden T in Lawton Street at 1.15pm – Come along and join in, umbrellas available! For the most up to date information about which artists are playing in which venues check www.congletonjazzandblues.co.uk

Congleton's 2nd Arts Festival

Following the fabulous success of last year's Open Space, Congleton Creates Arts Festival, Congleton will again be celebrating, showcasing and exploring its creative talent and filling the town with all manner of exciting happenings on 26-28th September.

Anybody is welcome to join in. Individuals or groups involved in the creative arts are encouraged to showcase what they do by staging an event as part of Open Space. Get in touch via info@openspace-arts.com or check out the open meeting dates on the web site www.openspace-arts.com

The aims of Open Space are:

- to celebrate and showcase Congleton's creative talent by holding an arts festival.
- to bring people together who are involved in a variety of creative arts in Congleton.
- to celebrate and showcase the venues in Congleton which support creative arts.
- to be open to all, regardless of age, race, faith, gender or ability.
- to encourage involvement in and support for creative arts in Congleton.
- to operate as a not-for-profit organisation.



THE STING IN THE **TAIL - OCTOBER 5th**



The 31st 'Sting-in-the-Tail' Congleton Half Marathon will take place on Sunday 5th October starting at 9.30am from Congleton High School.

As well as the 13.1 mile route there is also a quarter marathon. The race attracts around 700 runners of all ages and abilities and proceeds from the race are distributed to local charities The race prides itself on being beginner friendly - achieving a 97% positive rating in the 'Runner's World' magazine. Entries to the race are online and must be registered by the 27th September. Minimum age for the half marathon is 17 and 16 for the guarter.

Register at www.congleton-harriers.co.uk

If you are willing to assist with marshalling or other organisational duties please contact Congleton Harriers

Anything Goes in Congleton!

Following the tremendous success of "The Sound of Music", Congleton Musical Theatre is getting ready to present its next great evening of entertainment, "Anything Goes". With music and lyrics by Cole Porter, the book was a collaborative effort by Guy Bolton and P.G. Wodehouse. The story concerns a stowaway, Billy Crocker, and the madcap antics aboard an ocean liner bound from New York to London. The show includes such songs as 'Anything Goes', 'You're the Top', and 'Get a Kick Out of You.' Daneside Theatre from Tuesday, 28th October until Saturday, 1 November. ickets £9.50–£12.

Dates For Your Diary...

- Youth Orchestra Summer Concert, Town Hall
- Museum Walk 'Mill Walks and Industrial Yarns' L. Murgatroyd, 2pm
- Congleton Carnival Holler Concert, Congleton Park. Tickets £5
- Carnival Parade, Fun Day & Party in the Park
- Carnival It's A Knockout Congleton Park Artisan Market, Town Centre, 10am to 3pm
- 13 13 Film Daneside
- National Blood Service, Town Hall, 2-4pm, 5.30-7.30pm
- CTC Planning Committee, 7.00pm
- 18-2nd Aug Mike Von Nixon Flight & Fantasy Exh EPH
- Art and Music Workshop EPH, 11-5pm
- Choral Society Concert, Town Hall, 7.30pm 19
- One Act Play Festival Daneside, 7.30pm, £8
- Stroke Association Walk Circular Walk around Congleton Park
- 22 North West in Bloom judging

ugust

- Museum Walks 'Shopping in Congleton' I.Doughty, 2pm
- National Blood Service, Town Hall, 2 4pm, 5.30 -
- Britain In Bloom judging day.
- National Oatcake Day Town Centre, times TBC
- 8-30 Electric Picture House Summer Exhib.
- Artisan Market, Town Centre, 10am 3pm
- 15 Cats - Daneside, 7.30pm
- 21 CTC Planning Committee, 7pm
- 22-24 Jazz and Blues Festival
- Bands in Congleton Park 24
- CTC Community & Environment / Finance & Policy Ctte, 28 7-7.45pm

- CTC Planning Committee, 7pm
- 5-30 Electric Picture House The Sea Exhibition Piva at St Mary's Church Astbury- music from Shakespearean times
- Museum Walk 'People and Places' I Doughty, 2pm
- National Blood Service, Town Hall, 2 4pm, 5.30 -7.30pm
- 11 East Cheshire Chamber Open Day
- 11-14 National Heritage Open Days
- 13 Congleton Horticultural Show Town Hall 14
- Lions Duck Race in Congleton Park
- 14 Artisan Market, Town Centre, 10am 3pm
- CTC Full Council, 7pm
- 25 CTC Planning, 7pm. Town Hall Committee, 7.45pm
- 26-28 Open Spaces Arts Festival Visyon Celebration Ball
- 27 The Band of The Royal Airforce College, Town Hall, 7pm, £15
- 30 National Blood Service, Town Hall, 2-4pm, 5.30 -7.30pm

Members of the public are welcome to attend Congl Town Council (CTC) meetings, and may ask a question at fu council. To do this you are requested to advise the Town Clerk in writing or by e-mail at least 7 working days befor 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 exclude

For Daneside Theatre product tions contact Congleton Touris formation 01260 271095.

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





