

Bear Necessities

With News from Congleton Town Council & Community Groups
Summer 2012

Carnival Celebration Time



Carnival comes to town on the 13-14th July. On Friday night enjoy 'Holler' an evening dedicated to local bands on Hankinson's field from 7.30- 10.30pm. Tickets cost £5. Saturday sees local organisations, dance troupes, bands and floats in a grand procession - which will leave Bromley Road at 11.30am and snake its way up Lawton Street, Pedestrian Area, Swan Bank, West Street, Antrobus Street and across to Hankinson's

Field via Worrall Street. There are plenty of stalls, arena events, food and attractions to keep everyone entertained during the day in the Park. Carnival will finish with the infamous Party in the Park on Saturday evening. Enjoy the sounds of three top tribute bands - The Bandit Beatles, ELO Again and Rhapsody - Is this the Real Queen. Tickets cost £10 in advance or £15 on the day. Further information see www.congletoncarnival.net

Bridestones Development

As Bear Necessities went to print, Scarborough Development Group and Cheshire East Council were getting close to concluding matters which will enable the much awaited work to commence on the new Bridestones Centre development, market facility and public square. The existing market is due to relocate to the Fairground site during October, so that the



redevelopment work can start. The works are expected to take fifteen months to complete. Congleton will benefit from having a much larger town centre supermarket, new indoor and outdoor public market and public square facilities, additional parking and more retail space.

Judgement Day ~ 11th July

Congleton will be welcoming the **North West in Bloom** judges on the morning of Wednesday 11th July. The judges will spend 2½ hours touring Congleton and comparing the quality, cleanliness and sustainable approach taken in our green spaces,

residential area, floral displays, business and town centre areas with those of other towns in the North West with a population of 12,000 - 30,000. Last year Congleton was awarded Gold Standard - so we have a lot to live up to! If anyone is able to help with a 'Going for Gold' tidy up on Tuesday 10 July please meet in the Community Gardens at 6.30pm.



St Peter's Church, Astbury St Mary's Church, Congleton Town Hall and Congleton Museum will be throwing their doors open as part of the National Heritage Days from 6th - 9th September.

The events have been organised to help celebrate England's architecture and culture and give local people the chance to discover hidden architectural treasures and enjoy a range of tours, events and activities which bring local history and culture to life.

In Congleton local people can look forward to exploring Baptism, flower arranging and family history at St Peter's Church in Chapel Street on Friday 7th from 10am - 4pm, Saturday 8th from 10am - 5pm and Sunday 9th from 2-5pm. See treasures and explore family history at Astbury Church from 2-4pm on Monday 3rd - Friday 7th, 10am - 5pm on Saturday and 12-6pm on Sunday 8th. There will be free admission to Congleton Museum from Thursday 6th - Sunday 9th from 10am each day and Town Hall tours on Friday 7th September.

For more details, visit our website: www.congleton-tc.gov.uk

Bear Necessities is produced by Congleton Town Council. The next newsletter will be delivered around 8 October. All contributions should be sent by 17 September 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, 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



Michael Hutton, UKIP



Amanda Martin, C



Denis Murphy, LD



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)



Vacancy



George Hayes, C (Deputy Mayor)



Sally Ann Holland, C (Mayor)



Douglas Parker, C



Glen Williams, C



Rebecca Williams, C

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

Are You Being Rewarded?

Are you being rewarded for shopping in Congleton? Love Local Life card holders are! Card holders can receive discounts and free gifts just for showing their loyalty card in local shops! **Free cards are still available** in the library and Tourist Information Centre - pick up yours today and join the 2,000 people already signed up! You can use your card in:

7th Heaven Bridal • 8th Planet Beauty • A&A Music • Apex Self-Storage • Bon-O-Phool • Bread & Basil • Browns of Congleton Jewellers • Bubblegum Ink • Congleton Chronicle • Congleton Veterinary Centre • CTC Physiotherapy • De Laceys Tapas Bar



and Café • DV8 • Everything's Rosy • Flower Gallery • Fonehouse • Indoor Market • No 1 West St • Parkgate • Piano Pub & Kitchen • R J & J Moore • Salveo • Stock at the Pavilion • T&S Electrical • The Address • The News Shop • Three Way Travel LTD • Tiamo Restaurant • Top Nosh • Wow Portraits.

Full details of the offers can be seen at www.lovelocallife.co.uk

Meet Congleton's Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs)...

The 12 Police Officers in the Congleton Neighbourhood Policing Team enjoy the support of four Community Police Support Officers thanks to grant funding by Congleton Town Council. The Town Council pays £47,000 a year towards the cost of the PCSOs - who work directly in the community. Although the PCSOs support key events in the town, they each have areas of the community in which they have greater involvement and responsibility.

These are (pictured right, from top to bottom):

PCSO Rhys Davey – Buglawton and Timbersbrook – Community SpeedWatch and Business Watch

PCSO Carol Holmes – Bromley Farm and Mossley

PCSO Barry John Phillips – Town Centre (inc. ShopWatch) and Lower Heath

PCSO Julia Short – Congleton West and Rural areas

To contact the Police in an emergency dial 999. If a crime is not in the process of being committed or it's not life-threatening call 101 and speak to an officer.



Oatcake Fun Planned for 8 August!

Congleton will be adding an Olympic Twist to National Oatcake Day celebrations on Wednesday 8 August. Plans are being made to hold Oatcake races in the Town Centre from 10.30am - 12 noon. Just turn up and join in the fun! There will be Team Congleton medals to be won!

National Oatcake Day was started in 2010

by DJ Terry Bossons from Biddulph who wanted to gain recognition for this regional food. Oatcakes are made from oatmeal, flour, milk and water and made on a griddle. They were popular with workers in Stoke on Trent's pottery and mining industry and have been a staple food around Staffordshire for hundreds of years.



SPORTS and CULTURAL AWARDS

Team Congleton will be hosting a Sports and Cultural Celebration Awards Night in the Town Hall on Thursday 27 September to celebrate sport and the arts in Congleton during the Olympic Year. Thanks to generous donations from local companies and individuals there will also be a limited number of financial awards (2 x £500 and 8 x

£250) available for talented Congleton youngsters (aged 18 and under). Candidates will be nominated through their schools or clubs and application forms will be available on the Team Congleton pages of www.congleton-tc.gov.uk Closing date 17 September. Bursary winners will be chosen by an expert panel from the Congleton Sporting Community.

SEED•SWAP Sundays

In response to public demand Congleton Sustainability group will be putting on Seed Swap Sundays every Sunday in September and October at Astbury Mere Visitor Centre from 2pm - 4pm.

Please feel free to bring along any spare seeds, cuttings or plants to swap or excess produce to sell or exchange. There will be the chance to drop off apples and pears to go off for juicing and bottling, and donators can collect their free bottle while others will hopefully be able to buy some of the early edition juice. Visitors will also be able to enjoy



a guided visit to the new Community Orchard at Astbury Mere to see how well it's thriving.

All the family are very welcome. For more info about the work of Congleton Sustainability group see www.mybeartown.co.uk

...A Great Place to Grow Older!

Residents of Congleton, some already members of the Cheshire East Fifty Plus Network and others representing local organisations gathered to explore the possibility of forming a 50 + forum for local residents. It was agreed to adopt the aims of the existing Fifty Plus Network:

To encourage people to come together to:

- Be a voice of the over 50s
- Be involved with the community
- Take action
- Influence services for the over 50s and
- Help enhance their lives and that of others.

As the format of the Youth Forum has worked so well, we will be using their example of drawing together representatives from as many existing groups as possible to enable the sharing of information and views. In addition, we hope to set up an online community of people who want their voice to be heard. We want to make Congleton a great place to grow older. For further information contact Sue Conway at Cheshire Community Action on 01606 359730 or email sue.conway@cheshireaction.org.uk

CONGLETON COMMUNITY CREDIT UNION

There is a local savings and loan cooperative, regulated and approved by The Financial Services Authority, for those who live or work in the CW12 area. It's called Congleton Community Credit Union and has been serving local people for more than 17 years.

The organisation is run by a board of volunteer directors elected at the AGM. None of them are paid and all profits come back to members in an annual dividend.. Members save what they can afford and can borrow up to 3 times the amount they have saved. Repayments are planned within

your budget so there are no risks of you being over stretched and getting into a spiral of debt.

The more members the credit union has the more funds are available for others, so some members join just to be part of a great community initiative and do their bit for others while some use it as a vital lifeline to help make ends meet. The collection point is staffed by volunteers on a Saturday morning between 10-11am on the ground floor of Congleton library. To find out more you can come to the collection point or ring Graham on 07504 184902.

Congleton Film Festival

Congleton will have its first Film Festival on 28th-30th September. The event is being organised by Sam Astbury, who had the idea while at University. The idea is to create a platform to show and view local films. During the Film Festival films will be shown at the location of three previous cinemas in Congleton

Electric Picture House in Cross Street which

use to be the Electric Picture House Theatre

Illucinis in Capitol Walk - which once was home to The Capitol Cinema

Congleton Community Garden - which was once The Premier Cinema.

If you would like to find out more or get involved see:

www.congleton-film-festival.com

News In Brief..

BEARTOWN FM

Beartown FM is new radio station that has set up to serve Congleton, Alsager and Sandbach. The station is currently broadcasting via the internet but will be applying for a broadcast licence early in 2013. Find and more and get involved via www.beartownfm.co.uk

AUTUMN WEDDING FAYRE

Following the huge success of the Spring Fayre Congleton Town Hall will be hosting an Autumn Wedding and Bridal Fayre on Sunday 14th October. For more information contact Liz on 07813 772469 or see www.congleton-tc.gov.uk

ROAD CLOSURES

The roadworks caused by the National Grid gas works in the Canal Road/ Daven area are due to stop from mid July to mid August before commencing again and continuing through to 2013. For the latest update on roadworks see: www.cheshireeasthighways.org/Roadworks-Centre

FREE HEART START TRAINING

Congleton First Responders are offering FREE Heart Start basic life support training. The 2.5 hour course will give participants the skills and confidence to deal with a wide range of medical emergencies, including a cardiac arrest, heart attack, unconscious patient and choking. All ages and ability are welcome and no medical experience is necessary. Training is provided by qualified British Heart Foundation Heart Start instructors, in a very relaxed and informal atmosphere. To register your interest in a FREE place contact Tracy on 07511 345726 or Rachel 07747 825708.

ANNUAL REPORT ONLINE

Congleton Town Council's latest Annual Report and Accounts can be viewed On-Line at www.congleton-tc.gov.uk Paper copies are available to view in the Town Hall (ask at the Tourist Information Centre).

WELCOME TO ROTARY

Rotary clubs help to support local, national and international projects – from providing vital shelter boxes to helping eradicate polio to supporting local groups. Rotary is responsible for some key Congleton events such as Swimathon, Bonfire Night, band concerts and art competitions. See www.rotary-ribi.org and search Congleton for more information about joining.

Dates for your diary

July

7	Choral Society Jubilee Concert - Astbury St Marys
7	Electric Picture House Industrial exhibition, Cross Street
7	Salt City Jazz Men, Mossley Village Hall, for East Cheshire Hospice
9	National Blood Service in the Town Hall
10	Town Tidy 6.30pm - 8.30pm Community Gardens
11	NW In Bloom Judging Day (morning)
13	Holler in the Park - local music festival
14	Carnival, Fun Day in the Park, Evening Party in the Park
19	Town Council Planning Meeting - Town Hall
21	Daneside - Congleton Players - One Act Play Festival
22	Wildlife Discovery Day - Astbury Mere
22	Magic Afternoon, Mossley School, 3-6pm tickets TIC
25	Secret lives! - 9.30 - 12.30 Astbury Mere - Charge and booking

August

1	A woodland experience - Astbury Mere 9.30 - 12.30 Charge and booking
5	Museum Walk 2pm - People and Places
8	Getting Close to Nature - Astbury Mere 9.30 - 12.30 - booking and charge
8	National Oatcake Day - Oatcake fun in the Town Centre 10.30 - 12 noon
8	Street Sports Festival - Congleton High School 1-4pm 8-16 years
15	What's for Tea? 9.30am - 12.30 Astbury Mere booking and charge
17-18	SOL Theatre presents Anything Goes, Daneside
21	Family Sports Day - Buglawton Playing Fields 2-4pm
22	Bat Talk and Walk, Astbury Mere 7.30pm - 9.30pm
25-26	Jazz and Blues Festival
25	Start bringing your apples to Astbury Mere!
29	Autumn is Coming - Astbury Mere 9.30 - 12.30 booking and charge
30	National Blood Service - Town Hall
30	Town Council Finance Committee and Community and Environment Committee

September

1	Horticultural Show, Town Hall
1	Congleton Fire Station Open Day
2	Fruit and Vegetable Swap, Astbury Mere 2-4pm (Sundays in September and October)
2	Museum Walk 2pm - History on your Doorstep
6-9	National Heritage Days - Congleton Museum, St Peters, Astbury Church
8	Fun Dog Show - Astbury Mere
16	September Wildlife Watch 10am - 12 noon Fruit and seed search .Astbury Mere
26	East Cheshire Chamber Open Day
27	Congleton Sports Awards
27	Planning and Town Hall Committees -Town Hall 6.30pm
28-30	Congleton Film Festival
30-6 October	Autumn Beer Festival. Congleton Leisure Centre

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

THE STING IN THE TAIL - OCTOBER 7

The 29th 'Sting in the Tail' Congleton Half Marathon will take place on Sunday 7th October starting at 9.30 am from Congleton High School. There's a 13.1 mile route as well as a quarter marathon and the race usually attracts around 700 runners of all ages and abilities. Last year the half-marathon raised over £2,500 for local charities. It prides itself on being a beginner friendly race and achieved a 97% rating in the 'Runner World' magazine.

There is an extensive prize list and every runner receives a quality 'Goody bag'. Congleton Olympic torch bearer, Ailsa MacArthur, will start the race, and the Mayor of Congleton Sally Ann Holland, will present the prizes.

Anyone thinking of entering is welcome to train with Congleton Harriers. They meet on Tuesdays at 7pm starting from the Leisure Centre. Entries to the race are online www.congleton-harriers.co.uk If you are not running but are willing to assist with marshalling or other organisational duties please contact Alex McCormick or Jackie Kilding: (member@27longdown.freemove.co.uk)



Prizes for Potatoes, Pictures and Perennials!

With over 140 categories available there are plenty of prizes up for grabs at this year's Congleton and District Horticultural Show! Local people have a chance to enter a wide range of vegetables, flowers, pot plants, chutneys, jams, cakes and handicrafts. The Horticultural Show will be held in the Town Hall on Saturday 1st September from 10.30am - 3pm. Admission is 50p for adults and free for accompanying children.

Anyone wishing to exhibit at the Show will need to fill in an entry form. These along with the rules can be collected from the Tourist Information Centre in the Town Hall and need to be returned to 5 Padbury Close, Congleton CW12 4JU before **9am on Wednesday 29 August**. Entry costs just 20p per exhibit and children can enter

produce for free. Exhibits need to be delivered to the Town Hall between 5pm - 8.30pm on Friday 31 August or between 7.30am - 8.15am on show day! There will be cash prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in each category - and exhibits will be on display for public viewing from 10.30am - 3.00pm.



Beartown Fishing Competition

Youngsters living in Congleton are invited to try their hand at fishing this August. Congleton Beartown Ltd and Royston Beard from the Congleton Angling Society will host this popular annual event at Moreton Lakes near Pecks on the A34. The competition is open to boys and girls and

there will be an Under 11s competition and a 12-17 competition. Equipment will be provided. Further information and entry forms will be available from the Fishing Shop in Lawton Street and from www.mybeartown.co.uk by mid July.

JAZZ & BLUES Returns to Congleton

Congleton Jazz and Blues Festival will be back for its 3rd year on August Bank Holiday weekend (Sat 25- Sun 26 August). A great programme is planned with over 25 Jazz and Blues singers and bands already booked to play in local bars, pubs and

restaurants. The festival will start with an Umbrella parade at 1.30pm on the Saturday. Pick up a programme from the Tourist Information Centre or see:

www.congletonjazzandblues.co.uk and plan which groups you want to experience!