

# Bear Necessities

With News from Congleton Town Council & Community Groups

Summer 2013

## Judging Day: 22 July



**"Get behind your town's efforts to win North West in Bloom"**

- That's the plea from Congleton Town Council as judgment day gets closer!

**M**any of the town's businesses have sponsored extra hanging baskets and painted outside their premises. Local groups have been rallying to the call for extra litter picks. A schools competition resulted in a new anti-litter poster. The Prince's Trust has been clearing up grot spots. Congleton Food4Free group has helped to transform the area by Capitol Walk. Congleton Town Council handymen and

**Cheshire East Streetscape have been working hard to keep the town clean. Please play your part by taking litter home or putting in the bins.**

More help is needed for the LAST MINUTE LITTER PICKS. Meet at 10am on 20 July at the entrance to Eaton Bank School - litter picking 10-11am in Lower Heath/Jackson Road. Or 5pm in the Community Garden on Sunday 21 July - litter picking town centre 5-7pm.

## Shop in Congleton – You could win the use of this Ford KA!



This summer there are even more reasons to shop in Congleton! Congleton Town Council, Congleton Business Association and Borders Independent Newspaper have organised a giant summer prize draw and one lucky shopper

(over 18) will win the use of a brand new Ford KA for the year. Other prizes include £100 of Morrisons vouchers, and 70 separate £10 vouchers for use in a specified participating store.

If you spend more than £5 in a participating store you will be given a free raffle ticket. 30,000 tickets have been printed. Complete your details in full and then post in the prize draw boxes available at any of the outlets or the Tourist Information Centre in the Town Hall. Closing date is 3pm on Saturday 24th August. The Grand Prize Draw has been organised to encourage more people to shop in town, and to help with future marketing campaigns for the town. **A list of participating stores (at time of going to print) can be seen on page 2.**

## PARKLIVE 2013

**PARKLIVE 2013 FESTIVAL** is two days of fantastic family-fun based in Congleton Park. It opens with a schools eco event on Friday 12th July from 10 - 3pm in the main park. On Friday evening you can be entertained by a wide range of local bands in a licensed marquee - tickets just £5. There will also be a food court and a fun fair.

On Saturday 13th the FREE fun continues from 10am - 5pm with stalls, fun fair, animal free circus, eco zone demonstrations and a park stage featuring more than 10 acts. From 6pm the marquee will be rocking to the sounds of Punk, Blues and Rock bands - including a two hour show from Dirty DC, Europe's top AC/DC tribute band. Tickets just £15.

Parklive 2013 is a non-profit making event. Many thanks to support from Plus Dane, Simply Retro Congleton, Congleton Community Projects, Congleton Partnership, Congleton Town Council, Cheshire East Council and Congleton Police.

Information and tickets are from Parklive 2013 on Facebook.com/Parklive Congleton, or from Simply Retro, 56 Lawton St, Congleton or Congleton Tourist Information Office or via [www.mybeartown.co.uk](http://www.mybeartown.co.uk)

**Bear Necessities is produced by Congleton Town Council. The next newsletter will be delivered around 7 October. All contributions should be sent by 16 September 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, 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](http://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

## Need The Police?



Residents and visitors should call 101 for non-emergency issues such as minor traffic collisions, criminal damage or if they want to speak to a local Police Officer or PCSO about an issue affecting their community.

When calling 101, the system will determine your location and play a recorded message announcing the police force you're being connected to. Each call only costs 15p no matter what time of day it is or how long the call lasts. This means anyone calling the police knows exactly how much a call will cost them, whether they're calling from a landline or a mobile phone.

People should continue to call 999 in an emergency - when a crime is in progress, there is danger to life or violence is being used or threatened.

## Congleton Community Credit Union

Congleton Community Credit Union is a local savings and loan co-operative, which has been in existence for more than 18 years. The organisation is run by a board of unpaid elected volunteer directors. 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. All profits come back to members in an annual dividend.

Some members join to be part of a great community initiative while others use it as a vital lifeline to help 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



## St James Flower Festival

Flower Festival entitled 'The Power of Healing' as part of its Patronal Festival, on 26th - 28th July. This Festival is being held in memory of Mrs Kathleen Kelsall and Mrs Margaret Roche who supported the church for many years

The church will be open on Friday from

St. James the Great Church, Astbury St, Congleton, is holding a

2pm - 6pm. Ann Packer will formally open the festival at a Songs of Praise Service at 7.30pm. Saturday opening is from 10am - 6pm and Sunday from 2pm - 6pm with Choral Evensong at 6.30pm. Various entertainments will be performed in church during the festival. Half of any money made will be donated to the East Cheshire Hospice. Refreshments will be available. St James church is fully disabled friendly, and all are assured a warm welcome.

For further information please ring Congleton, 01260 276394.

## From Page 1 - Win the use of a Ka for a Year!



Shops participating in the Congleton Grand Summer Prize Draw are:

Ballooning Marvellous, Bare Health, Bear Grills, Beauty Secrets, Birch Jewellers, Body City, Boots Town Centre, Bojangles Brasserie, Brook Farm Fabrics, Browns Furniture, Browns Jewellers, Bulls Head, Burns Garages, Carl Christopher, Cartridge World, Chaz and Millies, Cheshire Lady, Clarity's Hairdressers, Cloud 9, Congleton Garden Centre, Davenports Clothing, Debonair, Delacey's Tapas Cafe Bar, Delia Metcalfe, Dorothy Perkins, Finneys Pet Foods, Flower Girl Two, Fonehouse, Gallery Hair, Glebe Farm Butchers, Glebe Farm Shop and Café, Handy Cabin, Hightown Hardware, Hightown Chippy, Hollins and

Hollinshead, House Fashion, Illucinis, Jantex, Just Be Jewellery, Kim's Cakes Shop, Menditz, Mac Tool Hire, Mossley Beauty, Mossley Pharmacy, Mossley Hair Salon, Morrisons, Newtons, Not Just Cards, No.3 Additions, Victoria Beds, The Oatcake Shop, Purple Pakora, Retrospective 2, RJ Moore Greengrocers, Rootz Hair Salon, Rogers Barbers, Salon 29, Sanctuary Suite, Congleton Shoe Repairs, Smith's Bait and Tackle, Stationery Cupboard, Swan Brides, Sweet Pea Florists, The Retro Shop, The Address, Hallmark Thorntons, The Real Thing Jewellery, Three Way Travel, Top Nosh, Turkish Delight, Victoria Mill Arts And Crafts, West Heath Pharmacy, White Lion, Wow Portraits, 8th Planet Beauty, 7th Heaven Bridal.

< 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](mailto:bh@congletontowncouncil.co.uk)

# Winter Wonderland in Congleton!



Local people will be able to experience skating in Congleton this Christmas thanks to the vision of Cathy Morris and a group of dedicated volunteers! The rink has been booked from the 13th - 22nd December and

will be set up in the Bulls Head car park. Up to 50 people will be able to go on the 'ice' at a time - with the rink measuring 13m by 13m. The rink will be open daily from 10am - 8pm. You can bring your own skates!

There's an opportunity to pre-book a session for your school, pre-school, group or business, but places are filling up fast! The group is offering the rink including skate hire to local companies for £100 an hour (50 minutes on the ice). There will also be plenty of public skating. Any profits made through running the ice-rink will be ploughed back into future events for Congleton. Future fund raising activities include a fish and chip supper and band night in the Town Hall on 14 September and Grand Final Hair and Fashion Show on 9 November.

See [www.congleton-tc.gov.uk](http://www.congleton-tc.gov.uk) for more information.

## 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 7th 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. Forms should be returned to 5 Padgbury



Close, Congleton CW12 4JU before 9am on Wednesday 4 September - or speak to the show secretary on 01260 277010. Entry costs 20p per exhibit and under 16s can enter all categories free of charge. Exhibits should be delivered to the Town Hall between 5pm - 8.30pm on Friday 6 September or between 7.30am - 8.15am on show day! There will be cash prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places in each category along with trophies (to be held for a year) in all classes for the most points and best exhibits.

Public viewing is from 10.30am until 3.00pm.

## The Sting In The Tail - 6 October

The 30th 'Sting-in-the-Tail' Congleton Half Marathon will take place on Sunday 6th October 2013 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. In the past two years the race has raised more than £2,500 for local charities and prides itself on being a beginner friendly race - it achieved a 97% positive rating in the 'Runner's World' magazine.

There is an extensive prize list and every runner receives a quality 'goody bag'!

Anyone thinking of entering is welcome to

train with Congleton Harriers. They meet on Tuesdays at 7pm starting from Congleton Leisure Centre.

Entries to the race are online only at [www.congleton-harriers.co.uk](http://www.congleton-harriers.co.uk) with a closing date of 28th September. If you are willing to assist with marshalling or other organisational duties please contact Alex McCormick or Jackie Kilding by email to: [member@27longdown.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:member@27longdown.freeserve.co.uk)

– They would be delighted to hear from you.



## News In Brief...

### CHARITY CYCLE TREASURE HUNT

Two local women have organised a cycle treasure hunt to raise funds for *Women v Cancer*. The trail map and questions can be purchased from the Tourist Information Centre for £5. The route covers around 18 miles of local countryside and you have until 26 September to complete the hunt. Three lucky winners will receive gift vouchers worth £150, £100 and £50 from the cycle store.

### MONTHLY GARDENING VOLUNTEERS

Congleton Food4Free is looking for more volunteers to help with the plot of land near Capitol Walk and planting edible plants in other public spaces.. Just turn up by the library on the first Sunday of the month from 4-5pm. Tools available.

### NATIONAL CONVENTION IN THE TOWN HALL

Congleton and its partners in Alsager, Holmes Chapel, Middlewich and Sandbach will be hosting the national Action for Market Towns conference on 6-7 November. This prestigious event will see people from all over the UK coming to Congleton.

### APPLES AND PEARS!

Congleton Sustainability Group is optimistic that once again we will have a great year for apples and pears, and is encouraging anyone with spare produce to drop it off at Astbury Mere Visitors Centre from 1 August. In 2011 the group produced over 4,000 bottles of juice - but this dropped to just 420 last year due to a poor harvest.

### 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](http://www.congleton-tc.gov.uk) or tel 01260 270350 ext 6 and we'll be happy to show you around.

### SUMMER FISHING COMPETITION

Plans are underway for the Beartown Fishing Competition to be held at Morton Fisheries later this summer. The event is organised through Congleton Beartown Ltd and Royston Beard from Congleton Anglers Society. For more details see:

[www.mybeartown.co.uk](http://www.mybeartown.co.uk)

# Dates for your diary

## July

- 9&24 National Blood Service, Town Hall, 2-4pm & 5.30-7.30pm
- 5&6 Rock Around The Decades - Daneside
- 12&13 Parklive - Congleton Park
- 13 Choral Soc 'Road to Heaven' 7.30pm St Peters Ch.
- 13 Congleton Youth Orchestra 7.30pm Town Hall
- 14 Film at Daneside
- 18 Town Council Planning Comm.
- 18&19 We Will Rock You - Congleton High School - Daneside
- 12-3/8 Landscape & Decay - Bruce Lyons - EPH
- 28 Salt City Jazz Band, Free Concert in the Park
- 30 Games in the Park 1.30 to 3.30pm FREE

## August

- 4 Museum Walk - The importance of Water meet 2pm
- 6 Games in the Park 1.30 to 3.30pm FREE
- 8 National Oatcake Day - Town Centre 10.30 - 2pm
- 10-31 Here Come The Girls Exhibition - EPH
- 11 Rode Hall Brass Band - Congleton Park
- 16&17 Samarkand - The Girl with the World in her Eyes, Daneside Theatre
- 20 National Blood Service, Town Hall, 2-4pm & 5.30-7.30pm
- 22 Town Council Planning/Full Council, Town Hall, 7.15pm
- 23 Raft Race, Astbury Mere - All day event.
- 23 Gipsy Jazz - EPH
- 24&25 Jazz and Blues Festival - Various Locations
- 29 Town Council Community and Environment / Finance and Policy Committee

## September

- 1 Museum Walk - Tbc
- 5 Town Council Planning Cmt, 7.00pm
- 6 Art up Close Exh - EPH
- 7 Congleton Horticultural Society Show - Town Hall
- 7 Oscar Charity Dog Show - Astbury Mere
- 10 Congleton Partnership AGM, Town Hall
- 13 Canal Ways And Edges - Macclesfield Canal
- 15 Paddling Pool Closes
- 15 Annual Duck Race - Congleton Park 2pm
- 19 Town Council- Full Council Mtg 7.00pm
- 20 Sea Songs Biddulph Male Voice Choir- Daneside 7.30pm
- 21 Charity Fundraiser - Visyon/Donna Louise, Town Hall 7.30pm
- 24 National Blood Service Town Hall 2-4pm & 5.30-7.30pm
- 25&26 East Cheshire Chamber Open Day - Town Hall
- 26 Town Council - Planning and Town Hall Mtgs, 7.00pm
- 27-29 Open Space Congleton Creates - Various Locations
- 28 Burlesque Show - Goldust - EPH, 7.00pm - £8

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](http://www.congleton-tc.gov.uk)

# Oatcake Fun 8 August

Look out for lots of Oatcake Fun in Congleton Town Centre on Thursday 8th August. For the second year running the town will be embracing National Oatcake Day and celebrating this popular local dish. Last year the celebrations didn't last long enough - so this year the fun will run from 10.30am - 2pm. The Oatcake Shop in Lawton Street has offered to make some large

oatcakes for the games and Oatcakes will also be on sale in the Pedestrian area.

For more information see our website: [www.congleton-tc.gov.uk](http://www.congleton-tc.gov.uk)



## BRASS ON THE GRASS – Well, on a chair!

You can enjoy two more free brass concerts in Congleton Park this summer thanks to Friends of Congleton Park.

On Sunday 28 July Salt City Jazz Band will

play in the Bandstand from 2-5pm. Rode Hall Brass Band are booked for Sunday 11 August. There's also fun to be had at the Lions Duck Race on Sunday, 15 September.



Congleton Jazz and Blues Festival is about to embark on its fourth year. This year is promising to be another tantalising sensation for all music lovers - offering more than 40

bands, across 15 venues, over two days. There will be some old favourites; Cry Baby and the Hoochie Coochie Boys, Junk House Dog, VaVoom, Salt City Jazzmen, Jim Kirkpatrick and the Robin Pierce Band, and with some new acts to the event; Remi Harris, Ron Sayer, the White Knuckles Band, Alex McKown, Jake Leg Jug and Heidi Browne.

This year there will be a warm-up at the Electric Picture House, showcasing Remi Harris, a gypsy jazz band and the Weave for £5. Look out for the festival ale brewed specially by Beartown Brewery 'Brewgie Woogie Bear', available in pubs near you soon.

For more details on the whole weekend see [www.congletonjazzandblues.co.uk](http://www.congletonjazzandblues.co.uk)



## Open Space Arts Festival

Open Space is a brand new arts festival which will take place in Congleton on 27th - 29th

September. It will bring people involved in a variety of creative arts together across an exciting weekend which will celebrate and showcase Congleton's creative talent.

To give you a flavour, Open Space will include:

- Geared Up - a steampunk-inspired interactive town-centre-wide treasure hunt
- Spaces in the Sand - a fun evening of Arabic dance, food and interaction in the Town Hall
- Town Alive - pop-up sculptures, choirs, flash mob dancing, have-a-go music tents, street entertainers and much more, bringing the town centre to life

- 'Reel to Real' - ex-Cheshire Poet Laureate, John Lindley, reading from his latest movie-themed collection, back-dropped by film created especially for the occasion by local film-makers

- 10 artists will be running workshops with schools and community groups which will present what they produce in exhibitions/performances over the weekend

- Fodens Band Concert;
- A Burlesque evening at the Electric Picture House in collaboration with Cheshire Rural Touring

- A 12-hour poetry and music marathon at DeLacey's;

- An art trail around artists' studios and some surprising art-displaying venues;

...and much, much more! For the most up-to-date information see [www.openspace-arts.com](http://www.openspace-arts.com)