

# Bear Necessities

With News from Congleton Town Council & Community Groups

Autumn 2012



## A Celebration of Sport

**'Congleton should be really proud of its talented future sporting stars!' That was the message from Team Congleton's president, Ann Brightwell, when awarding future heroes sports bursaries. Team Congleton was able to offer 9 sporting bursaries totalling over £3,000 thanks to the generosity of local companies and individuals. The funding was given to youngsters aged under 18 living in CW12 to help them meet their sporting or cultural**

**potential. The standard of entries was extremely high - a full list of successful applicants can be seen on page 3.**

The award ceremony ended a busy year for Team Congleton. The Team organised the Much Wenlock to Congleton Relay, events around the Olympic Torch Relay, It's a Knockout in Congleton Park, supported numerous sporting events with medals, podium and anthem and organised the Congleton Sports Awards.

## You can 'Make a Difference!'

27th October is National 'Make a Difference Day' where volunteers all over the UK will be making an extra effort to help out in their communities. The event is organised by the Council for Volunteer Services (CVS) which is celebrating its 50th anniversary. In Congleton volunteers are needed for a variety of tasks including:

- planting winter flower tubs – Saturday, 3rd November, Congleton Park 10am - 11.30am
- bulb planting – throughout late October various locations

- clearing the shrubs near Congleton library/bus station
- monthly litter pick gangs
- games' style 'event-maker' helpers - letting people know what's happening

**If you are interested in helping out and getting involved please see opportunities on our web site [www.congleton-tc.gov.uk](http://www.congleton-tc.gov.uk) or contact Congleton Town Council office staff on 01260 270350.**



## A Sparkling Christmas!

Congleton, the little town with a big heart, is getting ready for a Sparkling Crystal Christmas. The Town's Christmas Lights celebration has grown year on year! This year the lights will be turned on at 5.30pm on Friday 23 November - with the celebrations, fun and activities lasting from 4.00pm - 7.00pm.

Expect plenty of entertainment, stalls, children's fair rides, quality craft and gift fayre, fireworks, lantern procession, snow, hot food, late night opening and of course Father Christmas! Look out for the Little Book about 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](http://www.congleton-tc.gov.uk)

If you wish to get involved as an Olympic style 'Games Maker' on the night please contact Jo on 01260 291156 or email [jo@congletoncommunityprojects.org](mailto:jo@congletoncommunityprojects.org)

**Bear Necessities is produced by Congleton Town Council. The next newsletter will be delivered around 8 January. All contributions should be sent by 7 December 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)**

*Congleton Wedding Bridal Fayre*

**Congleton Town Hall, 14th October**

11.00am - 4.00pm for all your wedding needs!

Mock Ceremony at 1.00pm • Floor Walks from 12.00pm until 2.00pm



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](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



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)



Guy Brittain, C



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



## A New Community Radio Station Serving You!

Have you tuned in yet? This new radio station has set up to serve Congleton, Sandbach and Alsager. It's currently an internet radio - you can listen at [www.beartownfm.co.uk](http://www.beartownfm.co.uk) There's a number of pre-recorded shows and a live weekday Breakfast Show from 8-10am. Listen out for the 'What's on' broadcast at 11.50am ahead of the lunchtime show.

The station is keen to get your input and comments. You can text the Beartown Big Breakfast direct 07546 158947 or email

[studio@beartownfm.co.uk](mailto:studio@beartownfm.co.uk) The radio station will be applying for an Ofcom broadcasting licence early in 2013 and hopes to gain studio space in Congleton soon, which will lead to more opportunities to get involved.

Beartown FM presenter, Keith Graham, at work.



## Thieves Not Welcome in Congleton!

Congleton shops are working with the Police and CCTV to catch shoplifters and make the town a difficult place for thieves to operate. Many shops have a 'ShopWatch' radio, allowing them to warn each other about any individuals acting suspiciously as well as alerting Congleton Police Station, the Police Community Support Officers and Cheshire East CCTV in Macclesfield.

The system can also be used to notify shops of any previously convicted shoplifters or repeat criminals sighted in town so that store staff can be extra vigilant. And the system does work! Thanks to

joint working and good descriptions a number of arrests have been made.

Traders meet once a month to discuss the latest incidents and share information. Individuals caught and convicted of offences such as shoplifting and anti-social behaviour are also discussed. Shop owners vote on what action to take against offenders, ranging from a 3 month to lifetime ban. The police notify the individual of the shops' decisions via letter. 26 people are currently banned from shops in Congleton.



*"26 people currently banned from shops in Congleton"*

## Understanding Planning...

Congleton is receiving a number of larger planning applications. Most planning applications are subject to consultation and anyone is able to make representations, object, support or comment should they wish to do so. Consultations are normally limited to a 21 day period from the date the application is advertised. Notice may be placed on nearby street lights, on the web, in local papers or through the letter boxes of neighbouring properties. You should always ensure your comments are received prior to the publicity expiry date.

Congleton Town Council is consulted on planning applications and makes recommendations. Only Cheshire East Council has the powers to approve or refuse an application. Councillors serving on both

Councils can only vote at one meeting.

A full list of what can and cannot be taken into account when considering a planning application can be viewed on the planning pages of [www.cheshireeast.gov.uk](http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk) Always include the planning application number and your name and address when sending comments. Comments sent to Congleton Town Council are used to inform the Town Council Planning Committee. Letters cannot be forwarded to Cheshire East and so if you want Cheshire East to consider your views these need to be sent separately.

Congleton comes under the Development Management South Area:

Delamere House, Delamere Street, Crewe, CW1 2JZ. Tel: 0300 123 5014 or email [planning@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:planning@cheshireeast.gov.uk)

< 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)



# Tomorrow's Sporting Heroes



Thanks to the generosity of local businesses and individuals, Team Congleton has been able to give bursaries to the following talented local young sports people to help them achieve their goals in their sports. Competition for the bursaries was extremely tough, with many talented local athletes just missing out. The overall winning male and female each received £500 and there were seven bursaries worth £250. Team Congleton hopes to be able to repeat this offer next year, linking more businesses to young local talent. The winners in 2012 were:

- **Overall Female Winner: Ella Amare** (Age 9) - who will represent the North West Regional Team at the National Special Olympics in 2013. Sponsored by **Reliance Medical and Pecks Restaurant**
- **Overall Male Winner: Benjamin Arkle** (12) - 100m National Breast Stroke silver medallist, **Mr and Mrs J Beardmore**
- **Thomas Arkle** (15) - Swimming, **Burns Garage**



Ella Amare and Benjamin Arkle

- **Natasha Henshaw** (6) - Trampoline, **Moody Street Dental Practice**
- **Emily Henshaw** (16) - Football, **Meadowside Medical Practice**
- **Jarad Jackson** (9) - Ballet and Gymnastics, **Hammond McNulty**
- **Amy Mae Rodgers** (12) - Football and Cricket, **Wright Morten**
- **Megan Sheard** (11) Swimming, **Whittaker and Biggs**
- **Dominic Stafford** (15) - Swimming and Running, **Fire Bright Solutions**

In addition there was a cultural grant worth £500 which was split between **Beth Evans** at Eaton Bank school to continue a student newspaper and **Amber Barnett**, a talented dancer.

\* Sponsors names in red

## Changes to Beartown Buses!

Beartown Bus timetables were changed by bakerbus from 20 August 2012 in order to provide a commercial bus network following the withdrawal of subsidies by Cheshire East Council. Changes include a new number 95 hourly service calling at Congleton Retail Park and Lower Heath and buses to Bromley and Buglawton being provided by the 99 and 99B services. These changes have been successful apart from the Bromley route, where there have



been various operational problems.

'bakerbus' has expressed regret at the inconvenience caused to its Bromley customers and has now put in place short term improvements, so that the 99 and 99B Biddulph to Macclesfield buses always divert through Bromley Farm.

Some operational problems remain "behind the scenes" and so a longer term solution is being worked upon, which does mean that some further timetable changes will be necessary. This will be dealt with as quickly as possible and plenty of notice will be given.

the Pop-Up Cinema! If the target isn't reached you get to keep your money. This is a fantastic opportunity to be part of the cinema solution!

The Moving Picture Palace will operate on a not-for-profit basis with any surplus money from film showings being donated to Ruby's Fund - a local charity supporting children with additional needs by providing a sensory and soft play facility. If you are interested in finding out more contact [richard@rubysfund.co.uk](mailto:richard@rubysfund.co.uk) or see [www.crowdfunder.co.uk](http://www.crowdfunder.co.uk)

## News In Brief...

### BRIDESTONES DEVELOPMENT

Work on the long-awaited Scarborough Development could start in January 2013. The final obstacle has now been signed off by Cheshire East Council, and we are now in the final 90-day challenge period. The first physical change will be the move of the market to the Fairground Car Park and the closure of the Princess Street Car Park.

### LINK ROAD - A REALITY

After almost 80 years of talking, Congleton's ambition for a link road could really happen. The Government will be funding some infrastructure projects, and the Town and Cheshire East Councils believe its Congleton's turn to be recognised. The proposed link road would help alleviate traffic, improve air quality, increase employment choice and ultimately enable the town to return to its prosperous past by drawing more wealth and opportunities to the town. If you want to be kept informed on Link Road Updates email [info@congletoncouncil.co.uk](mailto:info@congletoncouncil.co.uk) and you'll be added to the mailing list.

### TIC WINTER OPENING

Congleton Town Council is helping to fund extended hours at the Tourist Information Centre during the winter months. The TIC, based in the Town Hall, will continue to be open Monday - Friday from 9am - 5pm and on Saturdays from 10am - 3pm. Stocks of Christmas cards, calendars and other gifts are now available.

### WHAT'S GOING ON IN 2013

If you're putting on an event in 2013 the Town Council would like to know about it! Following the success of last year's event listing the Town Council is looking to repeat the exercise - but devote a double page spread to Congleton Events 2013. Basic information needed - When, Where, What, Who to contact for more information. Please email to [jm@congletoncouncil.co.uk](mailto:jm@congletoncouncil.co.uk) by the end of November.

### MAYOR'S MAD HATTER TEA PARTY

Join in the fun at the Mayor's Mad Hatter Tea Party in the Town Hall on Sunday 28th October from 1pm - 5pm. Magic, balloons, disco, games and plenty of food! Tickets are £20 per family (max 2 adults) from the Town Hall. Fancy Dress is optional - but there are prizes for the best!

### ROTARY BONFIRE NIGHT

Congleton Rotary Club will hold its annual bonfire and firework display in Congleton Park on Saturday 3 November. Tickets will be available to buy in Town on Saturdays or from the Tourist Information Centre - Adult tickets £6 in advance and £8 on the day. Children £4 in advance or £6 on the day.



Would you like to see films on the Big Screen in Congleton? This could soon become a reality - but it will need you to play your part! Congleton needs to raise £6,000 to get its own Pop-up Picture House - which means 600 people pledging £10. If the target is raised you will be sent two free tickets to use at

# Dates for your diary

## October

- 9 National Blood Service, Congleton Town Hall, 23-27 Annie, Daneside Theatre, 7.15pm
- 18 CTC Planning, 7.00pm Finance and Policy, Congleton Town Hall, 7.45pm
- 21 Museum Talk - 'Created by Water', Congleton Museum, 7.30pm £2/ free for Friends of the Museum
- 20 Beartown Boxing, Amateur Boxing Show, Congleton Town Hall, 7.00pm
- 26 Charity Dance Fundraiser in aid of Home-Start East Cheshire, Congleton Town Hall, 7.30pm
- 27 Halloween Monster Fundraising Ball for Cong 1st Responders, Town Hall, 7.30pm
- 28 Mayors Charity Tea Party & Magic Show, Congleton Town Hall, TBA

## November

- 1 CTC Council, Congleton Town Hall, 6.30pm
- 3 Bonfire & Fireworks Display, Congleton Park, 5.00pm
- 3-5 Don't stop the Beat, Daneside Theatre, 7.15pm
- 8 CTC Planning, Congleton Town Hall, 7.00pm CTC Town Hall Comm, 7.45pm
- 4 Shadows in the Town, Museum Walk led by Peter Aston, Congleton Museum, 2.00pm. £4/£3 Friends of the Museum, includes Cream Tea
- 10 Congleton Choral Society Concert, Town Hall, 7.30pm
- 11 Remembrance Sunday, Congleton Cenotaph
- 13 CTC Community, Environment and Services, Congleton Town Hall, 6.30pm
- 13-17 'Strangeways' Daneside Theatre, 7.30pm
- 20 National Blood Service, Congleton Town Hall
- 20 Disability Action Group in Town Centre
- 22 Superstars of Wrestling. 6.30pm doors open. TIC
- 23 Christmas Lights Switch-on, Congleton Town Ctr, 4-7.00pm
- 24 Papa Bears Concert, Congleton Town Hall, 7.45pm
- 29 CTC Planning, Congleton Town Hall, 7.00pm, Finance & Policy, 7.45pm
- 30 'Let's Dance', Daneside Theatre, 7.30pm

## December

- 1 St Stephens Church Christmas Fair, Town Hall, 10.00am
- 1 CTC Council, Congleton Town Hall, 6.30pm
- 1 'Let's Dance, Daneside Theatre, 7.30pm
- 1 Themed Party Night, Congleton Town Hall, 7.00pm
- 2 Congleton Choral Society Advent Service, St Peter's Church, Swettenham, TBA
- 6 CTC Council, Congleton Town Hall, 6.30pm,
- 8 Congleton Youth Orchestra Autumn Concert, Congleton Town Hall, 7.30pm
- 8 Rotary Club Brass and Carols, Daneside Theatre, 7.30pm
- 9 Bear Fayre - Congleton Town Hall, 10.30-4.00pm
- 9 Film at the Theatre, Daneside Theatre, TBA
- 14 National Blood Service, Congleton Town Hall
- 15 'Christmas Extravaganza 2012', Daneside Theatre, 7.30pm
- 15 Themed Party Night, Congleton Town Hall, 7.00pm
- 22 Choral Society, Christmas Carol Concert, Congleton Town Hall, 7.30pm
- 20-22 Jo-anne Bayley School of Dance, Daneside Theatre, TBA
- 27 National Blood Service, Congleton Town Hall

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)

# Annie The Musical

Congleton Musical Theatre proudly present their production of the Broadway hit-show "Annie", based on the popular comic strip "Little Orphan Annie", a young orphan girl's adventures in finding a family that will take her.

Songs such as "Tomorrow" and "It's the Hard-Knock Life" are among its most popular

musical numbers. Great entertainment for the whole family.

**Daneside Theatre:** 23rd-27th October at 7.15pm. Saturday Matinee, 2pm.

**Tickets:** Adults £8 - £10, Children, £7 available from Congleton TIC 01260 271095 or 01260 276371.

## LANTERN MAKING WORKSHOPS!



Get creative and have lots of early Christmas fun at Congleton Community Projects Lantern Making Workshops! The workshops will take place at the Electric Picture House on Wednesday 7 November after school, 3.30 - 6.00pm, and Saturdays the 10th and 17th November from 10am - 4pm. The lanterns will then be used in the procession as part of the Christmas Lights Switch-on celebrations on the 23 November. Families very welcome. Cost just £2 for the lantern LED light. The theme this year is a Sparkling Crystal Christmas.

For more information contact Jo Money on 01260 291156 or email: [jo@congletoncommunityprojects.org](mailto:jo@congletoncommunityprojects.org)

## Open House at THE ELECTRIC PICTURE HOUSE



The double doors of the **Electric Picture House (EPH)** are only closed to keep the cold out! Local people are very welcome to come in and explore the wealth of art inside this recently renovated building in Cross Street (near the Post Office in Mill Street). The building is used for artist studios, workshops and gallery space.

Exhibitions over the coming weeks include:

- Celluoid Art Exhibition (until the 13 Oct.)
- Black History Exhibitions 20 - 27 Oct. (half term workshops 2-4pm £5)
- No Way Back exhibition - 20 - 30 October
- Monster Mash - old monster movie night 31 October

- Day of the Dead exhibition - 1-17 November
- Ash Mandrake - Wandering Bard and musician 3 November 7.30pm £4
- Northern Potters Ceramic Exhibition 18 - 30 November
- Christmas Affordable Art Sale 1 - 22 Dec.

### Rural Touring Theatre Performances

- Bane 1 and 2 - Thurs 8th Nov, 7.30pm tickets £7.00  
Visit [www.whiteboneproductions.com](http://www.whiteboneproductions.com)
- Total Football Friday - Nov 16, 7.30pm tickets £7.00  
Visit [www.ridiculusmus.com](http://www.ridiculusmus.com)

**Tel: 01260 270908**  
[www.electricpicturehouse.com](http://www.electricpicturehouse.com)

## Congleton Pantomime

Rehearsals are going well for this year's Pantomime (Oh yes they are!) and tickets are already on sale at the Congleton Tourist Information Centre.

This year's production is **Sleeping Beauty** and it will be performed at the Daneside

Theatre from 12 - 19 January. Tickets cost £8.50 for adults and £7.50 for children/concessions - with some mid-week deals available. Weekends and matinees usually sell out quickly - so get your ticket order in early!