

Bear Necessities

With News from Congleton Town Council & Community Groups
Summer 2011



Autumn Start for Bridgestones 2?

Work on the much talked about Bridgestones Two development is anticipated to start this October, once the final approvals have been given to the changes in the planning application.

The development will include a new supermarket, a 66 bed hotel, a new public square on the same level as the existing Bridgestones Centre, a multi storey car park, a new indoor and outdoor market, and other retail units. Planning permission has already been granted to move the current market onto the Fairground car park during construction. The building works are likely to take 14 months, with the hotel and market

open in December 2012 and the supermarket open in April 2013.

Scarborough Development Group have been meeting with the Town Council, Congleton Partnership, the Public Realm team and others to work on the finer details of the project to ensure the end result is one that meets the needs of the wider community and improves and enhances the town.

Congleton Apple Juice wins Regional Award!



Congleton Sustainability Group has put Congleton on the map by winning the Action for Market Towns Environment and Culture Award for the North Region for its Apple Juice and Apple campaign. Last year the group turned 3.2 tons of unwanted apples into 1820 bottles of juice. This year the group wants to stop 5 tons of apples going to waste and make 2500 bottles of juice.

Money raised from the sale of apple juice, along with a donation from the William Dean Trust, has enabled fruit trees to be planted in primary and secondary school across the town. Land is being sought for a community orchard.

With a largely frost-free blossom time, as long as we have some sun and avoid a drought we should be set for a great harvest in 2011. Surplus apples should be taken to Astbury Mere Visitors Centre - and if you leave your details you'll be given a free bottle of juice! Look out for the sale of 2011 juice during Congleton Apple Week and National Apple Day on Friday 21 October.



Planning is already underway to make 2011 a very 'Beary' Merry Christmas for Congleton.

The main Christmas Crackers Extravaganza will take place on Friday 25 November - with

stalls, entertainment, rides, craft fayre, fireworks, music and all the magic of the Christmas lights switch on. Local groups wanting a charity stall, or wishing to get involved should contact Jackie MacArthur at Congleton Town Council on 01260 270350 or Jo Money at Congleton Community Projects on 01260 291156.

Judgement Day... 13th July!

Congleton will be welcoming the North West in Bloom judges to our town on the morning of Wednesday 13th July. The judges will spend 2½ hours touring Congleton and comparing the quality, cleanliness and sustainable approach taken in our green spaces, residential areas, floral displays, business and town centre areas

with those of other similar sized towns in the North West. Last year Congleton was awarded a Silver Gilt medal and came second. This year we hope to raise the standard even further. If anyone is able to help with a 'going for gold' tidy up on Tuesday 12 July please meet in the Community Gardens at 7pm.

Bear Necessities is produced by Congleton Town Council. The next newsletter will be delivered from October 3rd. All contributions should be sent by September 8th to Jackie MacArthur at Congleton Town Hall, High Street Congleton CW12 1BN.

Telephone: 01260 270350 or email jm@congletontowncouncil.co.uk



All Change Following Elections

There were many changes following the Town Council elections held in May this year.

The Boundary Commission changed the wards, so rather than six wards Congleton is now divided into two - East and West - meaning that you have 10 councillors elected to serve your area. Some of the previous councillors chose not to re-stand, while others were not re-elected so there are now 12 new faces on the Town Council. All Councillors can be contacted through the Town Council. Your new Councillors elected to serve until May 2015 are:



Dawn Allen, C.



Gordon Baxendale, C.



Robbie Brightwell, C.



John Saville Crowther, IVC.



Larry Barker, C.



David Brown, C.
Deputy Leader



Matthew Carey, C.



Michael Hutton, IVC.



Amanda Martin, C.



David Martin, C.
Town Mayor

< West Ward Councillors

East Ward > Councillors



Bob Edwards, C.
Leader of the Council



David Fletcher, C.



George Hayes, C.



Jean Parry, C.



Neville Price, I.



Elizabeth Wardlaw, C.



Sally-Ann Holland, C.
Deputy Mayor



Douglas Parker, C.



Glen Williams, C.



Rebecca Williams, C.

C = Conservative; I = Independent; IVC = Independent Voice of Congleton

Think Silver, Think Recycling – Sorted in One

Last year Cheshire East Council collected 189,548 tonnes of waste from the kerb side collections, of which 49.46% was recycled, composted or re-used. In May the Council introduced silver wheelie bins into Congleton, Crewe, Nantwich, Sandbach and surrounding areas, with the aim of further increasing recycling.

There is now a three bin system: Recycling (Silver); Garden (Brown) and Other non-recyclable waste (Black). All bins are collected fortnightly with only one collection day to remember. Recycling and Garden bins are emptied one week and the non-recyclable waste bin on the alternate week.

All recycling goes into the silver

bin and items that can be recycled are:-

- Glass
- Cans/Aerosols
- Newspaper/Junk Mail/ Envelopes/Directories
- Cardboard
- Mixed Plastics/Plastic Bottles/ Yoghurt Pots/Margarine Tubs/ Plastic Trays/Plastic Bags
- Cartons
- Aluminium Foil

An information pack including a leaflet, calendar and stickers has been delivered to each household.

Visit www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/recycling for more detailed information on the service or call 0300 123 5011.



Embrace the Games

The excitement is really building for the 2012 Olympics. The schools are on the Get Set programme, plans for the torch relay are being confirmed, although not announced until November and towns are organising their celebrations. Here in Congleton we are planning:

It's a Knockout in the Park for Sunday 10th June - a community event where businesses, neighbourhoods and groups can have fun and compete over a fun inflatable course.

A Polyathalon - where sports teams can compete against each other over a series of 6-8 sports challenges between March and September.

An Olympic Twist to annual events –

along with podiums, anthem and medal ceremony.

A Legacy Programme for supporting our talented youngsters, to make the often tricky journey from town or school sports star to County level.

You can help make 2012 extra special by persuading your company or club to get involved entering teams, sponsoring athletes or sponsoring events. You can volunteer to help organise one of the events and you can make sure that we are aware of any Olympic related events that your club, society or business may be holding in 2012. For more information contact Congleton Community Projects on 01260 291156 or email: jo@congletoncommunityprojects.org

SPLASHING FUN AT THE PADDLING POOL

Congleton Paddling Pool in Park Street is a free facility run by Congleton Town Council for the enjoyment of local children.

The pool is open daily from 10am– 6pm from the end of May until early Sept.

What's all the Buzz about Bears?



The 5ft fibreglass bears appearing around Congleton have got people talking - here we try and answer some of your bear questions!

Why Bears?

Congleton's been nicknamed Beartown since the 17th century when, legend says, money saved for a town bible was used to buy a bear. Children loved the Chester rhinos and asked why not bears in Congleton?

What's Bearmania about?

The bears have raised the profile of the town, brought visitors into Congleton, linked businesses, community groups, schools and artists and allowed us all to enjoy quality art work on our streets.

Who's paid for the Bears?

Companies, organisations and individuals bought the bears and paid to have them decorated. A Cheshire East tourism grant of £3000 enabled the project to get started. Congleton Town Council purchased Mayor Bear and supports the Bearmania volunteers.

Who's running BearMania?

Volunteers formed Congleton Beartown Ltd to

manage the logistics and finances of the project - with all profits being distributed between Animals Asia, Ruby's Fund and Visyon as well as helping to finance future projects. A dedicated group of community spirited individuals from many organisations have worked tirelessly to make it a success.

How many Bears are there on the trail?

There are 64 bears on the trail, with Ambassador Bear (Number 1 bear) touring to promote Bearmania. Up to 10 more may join soon.

What will happen to the Bears?

The bears will be brought in during October. They belong to their sponsors, but it is hoped that they can be displayed together over the winter and used in the 2012 Carnival.

Where can I find out more?

Trail leaflets, videos, photos and news can be viewed at www.mybeartown.co.uk or visit the facebook page 'Bears of Congleton'!

Congleton Hospital Minor Injuries Unit

Congleton's Minor Injuries Unit, based at the War Memorial Hospital in Canal Road, provides an invaluable service for local people without the inconvenience, hassle and expense of getting to Macclesfield, Crewe or North Staffs hospital. With X-ray equipment and highly trained staff the unit is able to reassure, treat or refer patients as necessary.

There has been some concern that opening hours at the unit have recently been reduced, and that lack of use through lack of knowledge may further weaken the unit. Please be aware that the Minor Injuries Unit exists, and can treat anyone aged five years or over. As opening times vary, please call first on 01260 294828.

Save & Borrow with Congleton Community Credit Union

Congleton Credit Union started in 1995 and 16 years later is still going strong! Regulated and approved by The Financial Services Authority, it is a saving and loan co-operative for those who live or work in the CW12 area.

The organisation is run by a board of volunteer directors. All profits come back to members in an annual dividend. The group does not have political or religious affiliations. It's just a group of local people looking out for each other.

Members save what they can afford on a regular basis and can borrow up to 3 times the amount they have saved. Repayments are planned within your budget. Interest on loans is low and members are encouraged to keep saving while repaying.

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 while others use it as a vital lifeline to help ends meet.

Lisa Bossons, a Director said: 'I have used the Credit Union to pay for my Open University degree and have had a few loans at Christmas time. I pay a set amount by standing order but others like to deposit money in person.'

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 visit the collection point or ring Graham on 07504 184902.

News In Brief..

CIVIC SERVICE AND PARADE

– will be held on Sunday 10th July. The Parade will assemble at the rear of the Town Hall at 2.15 p.m. and leave promptly at 2.30 p.m. The parade will make its way to St Mary's Catholic Chapel on West Street ready for a Service starting at 3pm. The service will be conducted by this year's Mayor's Chaplain Reverend Father William Kilkenny.

LOVE LOCAL LIFE

Look out for the launch of the Love Local Life Loyalty Scheme in Congleton this summer. The scheme has the backing of the Town Council and many independent traders and will enable local card holders to gain discounts or rewards from shopping with some of their favourite independent shops in town.

PUBLIC REALM STRATEGY

Copies of the draft document can be downloaded from www.congleton-tc.gov.uk or viewed at the town hall. It gives firm ideas on how Congleton town centre could look in the future - what build materials to use, street lighting, street furniture, making the most of the road and pavement space. We need your feedback!

NEW LOOK WEB-SITE

www.congleton-tc.gov.uk is undergoing a radical facelift to make it more user-friendly and accessible for residents, visitors and those wishing to find out more about Congleton. The new site should be launched by the beginning of September - in the meantime we will continue to update the current site.

ROOMS FOR HIRE

Congleton Town Hall has a number of rooms available to hire at very reasonable rates - from weddings to board room meetings, rooms for interviews to keep fit classes, naming ceremonies to conferences, we're keen to work with you to make your event, meeting, class or occasion a special one. Call 01260 270350

AUTUMN BALL

Congleton Youth Council are organising an Autumn Ball on Friday 14 October in the Town Hall to raise funds for youth charities in Congleton. Tickets cost £25 and are available from DeLacey's Tapas Bar.

Dates for your diary

July

- 6 Town Sports, Congleton Football Club, 6pm
- 7 CTC Planning & Town Hall Meeting, Congleton Town Hall, 6.30pm
- 8 Ruby's Fund Summer Ball, Lion & Swan 7.30pm, Ticket £10 pp
- 8-9 Showstoppers 2011, Daneside Theatre 2.30 & 7.30pm
- 9-26 Aug 40 Rotating Pictures, Victoria Mill
- 10 Mayor's Civic Service and Parade, 2.30pm
- 10 Brass in the Park with Rode Hall Silver Band - Congleton Park, 4pm
- 13 Northwest in Bloom Judging Day
- 15 The Trojan War and the Fate of Odysseus, Daneside Theatre
- 16 Jewellery Making 10am to 12pm; Silversmith Basics 1pm - 4.30pm Victoria Mill
- 16 Congleton Youth Orchestra Summer Concert, Trinity Methodist Church, 7:30pm tickets £6 (£3 for u16s)
- 18 Police Question Time, Congleton Town Hall, 7.30 - 8.30pm
- 20 Place Shaping Consultation, Town Hall, 2pm-8pm
- 22-23 World Record Attempt, Congleton Rugby Club, 4:00pm
- 23 Jewellery Workshop with Ruth Garner, 10am to 12pm and 1pm to 3pm, Victoria Mill
- 24 Family Fun Day at Congleton Football Club. Tickets in advance - see TIC.
- 28 CTC Planning Meeting, Congleton Town Hall, 6.30pm
- 29 Blood Donor Sessions, Congleton Town Hall

August

- 6&23 Jewellery Workshop with Ruth Garner, Victoria Mill
- 7 At the Chalk Face, Congleton Museum Walk, 2pm
- 12-13 Our House, Daneside Theatre 7.30pm
- 13 Jewellery Making 10am to 12pm ; Silversmith Basics 1pm - 4.30pm Victoria Mill
- 23 Action for Blind - Bus in Town Centre 10am - 4pm
- 25 CTC Planning & Council Meeting, Town Hall, 6.30pm
- 27 Blood Donor Session, Congleton Town Hall
- 27-28 Jazz Festival, Congleton Town Centre
- 28 Rotary Family Fun Day, Church House, Buxton Road, 12- 4pm

September

- 1 Community & Environment and Amenities & Services meeting, Congleton Town Hall, 6.30pm
- 3 Congleton & District Horticultural Society, Congleton Town Hall, 10:30 - 3:15pm. 50p per adult, Children free
- 4 Men of Power, Congleton Museum Walk, 2pm
- 4 A Tudor Inn, Little Morton Hall, 11:00am- 4:00pm, various prices
- 8 Blood Donor Session, Congleton Town Hall
- 8 CTC Planning and Finance & Policy, Congleton Town Hall, 6.30pm
- 10 Heritage Open Days - see press for details
- 16 Museum Talk - 'Lands Army Days', Congleton Museum 7:30pm, £2
- 22 CTC Council meeting, 7.15pm
- 29 CTC Planning & Town Hall meeting, Town Hall, 7.15pm
- 30 Blood Donor Session, 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.

Congleton's Half Marathon

Online entries have now opened for the 28th Sting-in-the-Tail Congleton Half Marathon. Organised by Congleton Harriers and supported by the Mercian Regiment, the event will take place on October 9th and follows a picturesque, undulating route on country lanes.

This year's race expects to attract over 700 entrants and will embrace the Bearmania theme launched in the town in May, with all finishers receiving a unique race-day memento. The event has a friendly atmosphere and sweeper system in place, so runners of all abilities are encouraged to take

part. Congleton Harriers are happy to offer training, support and advice to anyone new to the distance.

The organisers would love to see even more people involved this year - running or supporting - and proceeds raised will be donated to local charities.

Visit www.congleton-harriers.co.uk/half.htm to enter online and join the Facebook page to keep up to date with race information and tips. Anyone who would like training advice can contact Harrier Derek Lucas on 01260 274624.



Picture courtesy of Congleton Chronicle

Ruck Around The Clock

Congleton Rugby Club, is looking to enter the record books for hosting the longest game of Rugby Union ever played. The record breaking attempt will kick off at 4pm on Friday 22 July and will attempt to smash the current record of 24 hours, 5 minutes and 24 seconds! Residents are encouraged to come and support the two sides, formed from players around the country, as they attempt this mammoth test of endurance!

Boys and girls can start training with Congleton Rugby Football club from age 6. The mini and junior teams meet on a Sunday morning and new players are very welcome. Training starts at the end of August. See www.pitchhero.com/clubs/congleton

Congleton also holds the Guinness World

Records for the largest Maypole Dance, most Frisbees thrown simultaneously and the world's smallest cow!



JAZZ AND BLUES RETURNS!

After the success of last year's festival, Congleton will be holding its 2nd Jazz and Blues Festival on the August Bank Holiday Weekend, 27th and 28th of August. With styles of music ranging from Soul to Funk and Bebop to Big Band, the festival will cater for many different tastes, attracting people from miles around.



The programme is now out and is available in the Tourist Information Centre. The latest information can be seen on the festival website: www.congletonjazzandblues.co.uk or on the facebook site:

Congleton-Jazz-Blues-Festival

The bands already confirmed include Junk House Dog Blues Band, Forty4, Robin Pierce, Orli Jones, Salt City Jazzmen, Cry Baby and The Hoochie Coochie Boys, Tom Hingley, Dave Jackson and Paddy Maguire - see you there!