

Bear Necessities

With News from Congleton Town Council & Community Groups
Autumn 2011

Loving Local Life!



A new loyalty card has been launched in Congleton to reward you for choosing to shop locally.

Thanks to support from Congleton Town Council and Congleton Inclosure Trust there are 2,500 free cards available for local people. If you act quickly you may still be able to get a free card from Congleton Tourist Information Centre, Congleton Library or from participating stores.

If you miss out on a free card, you don't have to miss out on the offers. You can buy a 'forever' card for £5 from the places listed here, or download a free mobile app - search Love Local Life in the iTunes app store or Android Marketplace. By registering your card or downloading an app you can find out about hot offers, special deals and the latest news from some of your favourite

Congleton shops. For more information see www.lovelocalife.co.uk

Shops and businesses taking part in Love Local Life include: Tiamo Restaurant, De Laceys Tapas Bar & Café, DV8, Stock at the Pavilion, Top Nosh, Bon-O-Phool, R & J Moore, Bread & Basil, Piano Pub & Kitchen, Everything's Rosy, Browns of Congleton jewellers, The Address, Parkgate, The Flower Gallery, Congleton Indoor Market, A&A Music, Fone House, The News Shop, T&S Electrical, Congleton Chronicle, Wow Portraits, No 1 West St, Bubblegum Ink, Three Way Travel LTD, 8th Planet Beauty, Robin Hood Car Care, Salveo, CTC Physiotherapy, 7th Heaven Bridal, Congleton Vets and Sparkle Hair & Beauty.

A 'Bearry' Merry Christmas



Following the success of Bearmania this summer, Congleton is getting geared up for a 'Bearry' Merry Christmas!

The Town's Christmas Lights celebrations have grown year on year! This year the Christmas lights will be turned on at 5.30pm on Friday 25th November - and the celebrations, fun and activities around the lights will last from 4pm - 7pm. With stalls, craft fayre, fireworks, street entertainment, hot food, childrens' rides, grand lantern procession, Father Christmas, snow and much fun and merriment the evening is one not to be missed!

Look out for the Congleton Christmas Crackers booklet highlighting the full Congleton Christmas Programme of events, activities and services. As Bear Necessities went to print sponsorship was being sought to bring reindeers into town on Saturday 17th December - these majestic creatures were a real wow in 2010 - check online at www.congleton-tc.gov.uk for the latest news.



New Look Web Site

Congleton Town Council is delighted with its new look web site...

www.congleton-tc.gov.uk

After much interest, web company Cyberzia won the tender to develop the web site - creating a fresh look and a programme which is much easier for town council staff to update. The web site has now been 'live' for a couple of weeks and is

already appearing high on google and other search engines. The aspiration is for the Town Council site to be a trusted and used site for everything Congleton. The site will develop and change over time - but if you have ideas for things you would like to find on the Town Council web site please let us know on 01260 270350 or info@congletontowncouncil.co.uk

You can also follow the Town Council on Twitter @CongletonTown

Bear Necessities is produced by Congleton Town Council. The next newsletter will be delivered around 5 January. All contributions should be sent by 5 December to Jackie MacArthur at Congleton Town Hall, High Street Congleton CW12 1BN.

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



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 Your Councillors elected 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



David Martin,
C (Town Mayor)



Jean Parry,
C



Neville Price,
I



Elizabeth Wardlaw,
C

West Ward Councillors

East Ward Councillors



Larry Barker,
C



David Brown,
C (Deputy Leader)



Matthew Carey,
C



Bob Edwards,
C (Council Leader)



David Fletcher,
C



George Hayes,
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; UKIP = UK Independence Party

Congleton's Best Front Garden Competition

Keen Congleton gardeners, Mr and Mrs Cockitt of Hertford Close were the winners of Congleton's Best Front Garden Competition 2011.

Town Mayor Councillor David Martin presented them with a certificate and £30 of vouchers from Congleton Garden Centre, who kindly sponsored the competition.



A £20 voucher went to runner up Mr H Richardson of Boundary Lane, a £10 voucher to 3rd place Mr K Steel of Back Lane.

Congratulations to all who entered.

Chance to join the Youth Council

Congleton Youth Council (CYC) was founded in 2008 to give Congleton young people a voice and a chance to put forward their views on issues important to them - such as transport costs and things for young people to do. CYC recently began concentrating on fundraising for local charities and groups that would benefit

from donations. It has 10 Members aged between 13 and 18. If anyone is interested in joining and helping to make a difference more information is available from Linda Minshull at

Im@congletontowncouncil.co.uk or Jon Foster, Chairman of Youth Council at jfoster@eatonbank.cheshire.sch.uk

visyon has a permanent home at Fellowship House!

This September, the local children's charity, visyon moved into Fellowship House, next to the paddling pool on Park Road. The building, which had been a centre for the local elderly and disabled was under threat of closure. It has been granted to visyon by Cheshire East Council for a period of 83 years, provided that the charity covers the running costs of the building and allows current users to maintain their activities. The

charity has already undertaken some internal modifications with support from Plus Dane Group, and has ongoing plans to refurbish and improve the building. The public are welcome to attend an open afternoon on 17th October from 3-6pm to view the building and see future plans. For more information or to volunteer or support visyon contact 01260 290000 or see www.visyon.org.uk.

Lots going on in Buglawton

With its active pub, regular fayres and fetes, two primary schools, In Bloom awards, community centre, playing fields, caravan site, church and many clubs and societies Buglawton is a great community to the north of the Town Centre. This summer Buglawton gained a new resident - in the shape of a 7 foot cedar bear. The bear takes pride of place near the Church House Pub, and is admired by residents and visitors. Also new to Buglawton is the boules court, which can be hired from the Church House. Events planned in Buglawton over the coming months include; a Farmers Market on 8th October 10am - 3pm, American Car Show 16th October, Fireworks and Fun Fair in aid of Congleton Carnival on 6th November, Christmas Market and Fun Fair in aid Congleton Carnival on 26th November

and Community Carols on the car park with Rode Hall Silver Band and pupils from Buglawton and Havannah Primary Schools on Tuesday 6th December.



**If you would like a focus on your community please contact Jackie MacArthur on 01260 270350*

Beartown Apprenticeship Scheme

Are you interested in becoming an apprentice? Are you a Congleton Business that would like to take on an apprentice, but can't face all the paperwork or devote the time to mentoring? Well thanks to the Plus Dane Housing Group, getting an apprentice in place is about to become easier!

Plus Dane has a good reputation for apprenticeships, and as part of its Neighbourhood Investment programme has agreed to share its knowledge and experience to assist other businesses in CW12 to employ an apprentice.

Plus Dane will offer support with recruiting and selection, enrolling the apprentice on relevant courses, providing a mentor, carrying out quarterly

reviews, giving access to training courses and offering advice and guidance throughout the apprentice programme.

For further information email either: lisa.crisford@neighbourhoodinvestor.com or samreynolds@neighbourhoodinvestor.com Alternatively, call 01260 288256/288208.



Help with Job Hunting

30% of people get a new job through friends, family or social networks - if you are currently looking for work, Congleton Work Club could be for you! The club meets on Tuesdays from 10am - 12 noon at the Congleton Learning Centre in Riverside (near Aldi).

Attendees are made very welcome and have the opportunity to chat with other job seekers, share experiences, hints and tips and give each other encouragement. They can also benefit from free Internet access, information on local jobs and volunteering options, access to Next Step Careers Advisor,

opportunities to talk to local employers and introductions to the free 'Preparing for Work' and 'Skills for Work' programmes. There is also support with CV writing and completing application forms and information on training courses and qualifications.

Next Step Careers Advice

The Congleton Learning Centre offers one-to-one Next Step Information and Advice sessions to adults aged over 19. If you would like information about returning to work, career progression or training opportunities call 01260 290682



Congleton Shop-Mobility

Congleton Shop Mobility, run by **Congleton Disability Access Group**, aims to help anyone who finds it difficult to walk around Congleton town. You do not have to have a Blue Badge or be in receipt of any disability benefits to join. You can get help if your mobility difficulties are due to a short or long term illness.

- Members pay £5 per year and can then use the various scooters when in town.

Congleton Shop-Mobility is based in the old council offices behind the Town Hall and can

be contacted on 01260 273733. The office is open on Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 10am -3.30pm. Staff and volunteers are always happy to advise on the use of scooters and to show you how easy the scooters are to work - especially if you've never been on one before!

Congleton Shop-mobility has entered into Natwest's Community Force programme and is looking for local votes. The video Shopmo-a-gogo can be seen on Youtube and Congleton-Shop-Mobility can be followed on Facebook.

News In Brief...

REMEMBRANCE PARADE

This year's Royal British Legion Remembrance Service Parade will take place on Sunday 13th November. The Town Mayor and Senior Officers from the Mercian Regiment will join the parade leaving the Cricket Club and arriving at the cenotaph for 11am. This will be followed by a service at St Peter's Church.

PUBLIC REALM STRATEGY

The Public Realm strategy was well received during consultations and is now being revised to reflect suggestions and comments. To complete all 12 projects that have been identified and discussed would cost around £9M. The projects are now being split into manageable chunks and discussions are taking place to see how the projects can be included in wider planning policies and the emerging Neighbourhood Plan.

EVENTS CALENDAR

The winter edition of Bear Necessities - distributed early January - will include a 2012 events calendar. If your club or organisation is planning an activity for 2012 let Jackie MacArthur know before the 5th December. Event information will also be added to various websites.

TOWN HALL FIRST WEDDING FAYRE

There will be a Wedding and Bridal Fayre in Congleton Town Hall on Sunday 4th March - stalls are filling fast. For information about the Fayre or getting married/celebrating your wedding in the Town Hall contact Liz or Lesley - the Town Hall event and catering partners on 07813 772469.

LANTERN MAKING WORKSHOPS

There will be three public Christmas Lantern Making Workshops held in November for people wishing to make lanterns to carry in the Christmas Lights Switch on parade on 25th November. The workshops will take place on Saturdays the 5th, 12th and 19th November from 10am - 4pm at the Cygnet Club, Swan Bank. They are free to join in (£1 for LED lights) - and great fun for all the family!

SPECIALS RATES AT TOWN HALL

The Town Hall is currently offering discounted rates for local businesses wanting to hire rooms during the week. Rates start from just £15 per hour. For more information contact Sue or Sheron on 01260 270350 ext 6.

Dates for your diary

October

- 4-8 Keeping up Appearances, Daneside Theatre, 7.30pm
- 6 Big Kiss, Careers Event, Congleton Town Hall, 11am-5pm
- 6 CTC Community and Environment & Amenities and Services, Congleton Town Hall, 6.30pm
- 6 CTC Amenities and Services, Congleton Town Hall, 7.45pm
- 9 Congleton Half Marathon, Congleton High School, 9.30am
- 9 Focus on Pots and Pewter, Little Moreton Hall, 11am
- 14 Congleton Town Autumn Ball, Congleton Town Hall, 7pm
- 15 Choral Society, On Angel's Wings, Congleton Town Hall, 7.30pm
- 18-22 Oliver!, Daneside Theatre, 7.30pm
- 20 CTC Planning, 6.45pm Finance and Policy, Congleton Town Hall, 7.15pm
- 21 Museum Talk- Congleton Histories and Mysteries, Congleton Museum, 7.30pm £2/ free for Friends of the Museum
- 23 Film at the Theatre, Daneside Theatre, TBA
- 23 The Band of the Royal Airforce College, Congleton Town Hall, 7pm
- 28 Rock Night in Association with Beartown Bikers, Daneside Theatre, 7pm
- 28 Who Lived in a House Like This? Book launch by Lyndon Murgatroyd, Congleton Museum, 4.30-8pm
- 29 Ga Ga presents Guitar Anthems, Danside Theatre, 7.30pm

November

- 3-5 Don't stop the Beat, Daneside Theatre, 7.15pm
- 3 CTC Council, Congleton Town Hall, 7.15pm
- 4 The Biography of an Insurgent Woman, Short Talk by Dr Maureen Wright, followed by refreshments, Congleton Museum, 6.30pm
- 5 Bonfire and Firework Display, Congleton Park, 5pm
- 6 Shadows in the Town, Museum Walk led by Peter Aston, Congleton Museum, 2pm. £4/£3 Friends of the Museum, includes Cream Tea
- 10 CTC Planning, Congleton Town Hall, 7.15pm
- 14-19 Patricia MacKinnon 'Private Views Made Public' art exhibition, Victoria Mill, 10am -5pm
- 15-19 Oklahoma, Daneside Theatre, 7.30pm
- 17 CTC Community and Environment, Congleton Town Hall, 6.30pm
- 17 CTC Amenities and Services, Congleton Town Hall, 7.45pm
- 25 Christmas Lights Switch-on, Congleton Town Centre, 4-7pm
- 26-30 Our Gang 2011, Daneside Theatre, 7.15pm
- 27 Choral Society, Advent Service, St Peter's Church, Swettenham, TBA

December

- 1 CTC Planning, Congleton Town Hall, 6.30pm
- 1 CTC Finance and Policy, Congleton Town Hall, 7.15pm
- 1-3 Our Gang 2011, Daneside Theatre, 7.15pm
- 8 CTC Council, Congleton Town Hall, 7.15pm
- 10 Rotary Club Brass and Carols, Daneside Theatre, 7.30pm
- 11 Green Christmas - arts and crafts making, Astbury Mere 10 - 12 tel 07979 858657
- 11 Film at the Theatre, Daneside Theatre, TBA
- 17 Choral Society, Christmas Carol Concert, Congleton Town Hall, TBA

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.

Consider yourself ...part of the Family!!

Congleton Musical Theatre really can consider themselves part of the family with no less than four generations of the same family involved! The theatre group are putting on a production of Oliver! at Daneside from Tuesday 18th October to Saturday 22nd October. Great Grandmother Mary Brown, who is still a member of the group - can boast involvement of two daughters, a son-in law, two granddaughters and their husbands, a great grandson - Cory Evans and a great granddaughter - Autumn Evans - quite a dynasty! Other family ties include Sheila Rowley who has a daughter, son-in law and granddaughter involved in the theatre, and father and son Richard and Christopher Wain are both in the production.



Congleton Musical Theatre was formally known as Congleton Operatic Society, and has been in existence for just over 75 years.

The production of Oliver starts at 7.30pm each night and has a matinee on Saturday. Tickets can be purchased from Congleton Tourist Information Centre tel 271095

Bears to Hibernate for the Winter

The **Bearmania** bears located around Congleton have proved a massive hit this summer, attracting thousands of visitors to come into the town. Now with the winter approaching the bears are coming in. Some are being sold by public auction - see www.mybeartown.co.uk, some are being taken back by the companies which bought them, while many are filling two units in Capitol Walk. It is hoped that the bears can be involved in the Carnival celebrations next July. Bearmania merchandise is still available from Congleton Tourist Information Centre in the Town Hall.



Left to right: Alpha Road Safety Bear, Truth Bear, and X-Ray Ted

Exciting Times for Team Congleton



With the Olympics less than a year away - **Team Congleton** is bursting with ideas and enthusiasm for 2012. There's so much going on! We have so much to announce later this year. News of Team Congleton is spreading far and wide - don't miss out! If you are involved in sport, the arts, music or the community you should be involved! Look out for a big article about Team Congleton in the next edition of Bear Necessities - but in the meantime you can keep yourself up to date at www.congleton-tc.gov.uk

Private Views Made Public

Congleton Community Projects in collaboration with the Cheshire Rural Touring Network are delighted to be showing 'Private Views Made Public' by internationally renowned artist **Patricia MacKinnon** at the Victoria Mill Arts Centre from 14th-19th November 10am-5pm. Through film portraits and audio interviews the work focuses on the unique relationship between women and their rural setting. Free entry. Victoria Mill is on Foundry Bank near Congleton Leisure Centre

Congleton Beartown Market Fishing Competition



One ...two ...three ...four ...five - Congleton youngsters will have a chance to catch a fish alive! A junior fishing competition is being held at Moreton Fisheries near Pecks on the A34 on Saturday 15th October. It is free to enter and there will be two competitions - one for ages 6- 11 and one for the 12- 17s. Entry forms can be picked up from the Fishing Shop in Lawton Street or downloaded at www.mybeartown.co.uk. Entrants need to be at the fisheries for 8.45am, pegs will be drawn at 9am and with fishing from 9.45 - 12.45pm. Prizes will be awarded at 1.15pm.

For more information please email: roystonbeard@yahoo.co.uk