

Bear Necessities

With News from Congleton Town Council & Community Groups
Spring 2012

Congleton Celebrates The Diamond Jubilee



Everyone is invited to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee 'Loverlee Jubilee' event in Congleton Park on Monday 4th June from 1pm - 6pm. There will be childrens' entertainment, brass bands, live music, art activities, displays and much more. Bring a picnic, wear something red, white or blue and come and join in the fun.

Youngsters aged 13 and under are encouraged to enter the town and district Diamond Jubilee Art Competition. Entries

need to be A3 size and can be any style (paint, drawing, collage) but must be handed in to the Plus Dane HQ in Worrall Street (or to your teacher) by 27 April. Entries need to include name, age, school and contact details on the back. There will be prizes for the winners of each of the five age groups plus the winning entries will be put on display around the Cheshire East area.

As a lasting memorial Jubilee apple trees have been planted at all of the schools and two jubilee arches will be installed in the community garden.



Congleton food & drink festival 2012

Sunday 17th June • 10.30am - 4.30pm

Congleton's Food and Drink festival goes from strength to strength! This year there will be nearly 100 stalls in the Town Centre promoting local and regional food products and producers as well as a great range of street food cooking up fabulous flavours from around the world. There will be music, kids activities, magic, dance and demos all day. Free entry and free parking make it a great day out for all the family - and a special treat for dad on Father's Day!

The festival will be followed by Tasty Town week where many of the town's bars and restaurants put on events and promotions.

Visit www.foodanddrinkfestival.net or find us on facebook.

TORCH RELAY WORKSHOPS

There will be public art workshops to decorate the route on Saturday 14th and 25th April Congleton Leisure Centre 10am - 1pm and 2pm - 4pm. Booking essential - no skills just enthusiasm required!

FLAG MAKING WORKSHOPS

Saturday 12th May at Electric Picture House 10am - 4pm.

More information tel Congleton Community Projects on 01260 291156 or email: jo@congletoncommunityprojects.org.

Congleton to Welcome Olympic Torch



The World's media will be watching Congleton as we welcome the Olympic Torch relay through our town on Thursday 31 May. The relay will begin at 8.55am by the 'Welcome to Congleton' sign on the Sandbach Road near Congleton High School.

The relay will then pass along Sandbach Road, West Road, Clayton By-pass, Rood Hill and finish at the National Speed Limit sign on the

Macclesfield Road near Eaton Bank School at around 9.30am. The route will be closed to traffic for up to an hour before the relay starts to ensure the safety of the crowds. The roads will be re-opened as soon as it is safe to do so.

Congleton Town Council, Congleton Community Projects and Team Congleton are helping to co-ordinate activities along the route. Creative workshops are being organised to make decorations and flags. There will be a chance to learn the Congleton anthem at a singing workshop in the Park on Saturday May 26. For more information see www.congleton-tc.gov.uk

Bear Necessities is produced by Congleton Town Council. The next newsletter will be delivered around 3 July. All contributions should be sent by 11 June to Jackie MacArthur at Congleton Town Hall, High Street Congleton CW12 1BN

Tel 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



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)



Vacancy in progress of being filled



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

NEW DEFIBRILLATOR IN TOWN

A defibrillator is a life-saving machine that gives the heart an electric shock in some cases of cardiac arrest. Weatherspoons Counting House, on Swan bank, is the latest place in town to host a defibrillator machine. Staff recently completed a training course and with the pub open from 8am - late it is seen as a useful location to house a machine. Defibrillator machines can also be found at Boots, Morrisons and the Tourist Information Centre in the Town Hall, West Heath and High Town Pharmacies, Tesco, Congleton Leisure Centre and Congleton and Astbury Golf Clubs. With every minute that passes the chances of survival decreases by 14% - so being aware of where defibrillators are really can save lives.



FREE Heart Start Training

The Congleton First Responders are offering local people the chance to register for FREE Heart Start basic life

support training. The 2½ hour course will give participants the skills and confidence to deal with a wide range of medical emergencies, including a cardiac arrest, heart attack, un-conscious patient and choking. People of 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 on 07747 825708.

Electric Picture House - exciting new venue!



The Electric Picture House Artists' Cooperative has set up in Cross Street with the aim of providing affordable studio space in an inspiring and supportive environment. There are 11 members who aim to encourage community participation in the arts by providing workshops and gallery space and by organising exhibitions and workshops – such as the public flag making workshops on Saturday 12th May from 10am-4pm.

The opening event 'Premiere' begins on 20th April with a public exhibition from 21st April until 5th May. There's a Mayday! Street fair on May 7th and a Rural Touring Arts theatre production on 18th May. For full events see www.electricpicturehouse.com or email electricpicturehouse@gmail.com

St Peters Church - a COOL place for a HOT summer!



Photo: Copyright Angelo Homak. Used by St. Peter's with permission.

St. Peter's will open its doors every Tuesday from 1st May to 21st August from 10am - 1pm. Visitors can enjoy a programme of short, accessible services, talks, displays, music, guided tours, and the sale of plants, fair trade goods and refreshments. The registers will also be available once a month.

St. Peter's will be hosting three concerts this year.

- April 21st sees a welcome return of Macclesfield Male Voice Choir
- June 16th the international celebrity organist Carlo Curley will battle with popular concert organist Keith Hearnshaw
- October soprano Judith McAuslan will be delighting us with operatic arias and songs from musicals and other cultures.

Enquiries about Tuesdays@Ten or our Cushion Concerts series can be made to padidrew@btinternet.com

Alternatively, visit the Parish website www.congletonteamparish.co.uk

EcoSchools

Congleton & District can now boast 8 schools with one (Mossley, Astbury and Quinta) or two (Marlfields, St Mary's, Smallwood, Daven, Black Firs) prestigious Green Flags from Eco-Schools, which is an international award programme that guides schools on their sustainable journey, providing a framework to help embed these principles into the heart of school life. Two more schools (Scholar Green and Bosley St Mary's) are awaiting their green flag assessment in the next few weeks.

Patti Pinto, the eco schools representative for Congleton Sustainability Group, says the aim is for all 16 schools to achieve Green Flag status by December 2012. Patti runs an eco cluster with termly meetings when eco coordinators can meet and share ideas and best practice. In addition Patti has ensured that, by March 2012, all 16 schools

reached the gold level for Wildlife Friendly Gardens awarded by Cheshire Wildlife Trust. This means they have at least 12 features (habitats, planting and maintenance) within the school grounds to encourage wildlife.

Several of Congleton's eco schools have registered with the RHS Campaign for school gardening, with Marlfields now at level 5 (celebrating with the wider community) and St Mary's at level 4 (sharing best practice).



Cheshire Lord Lieutenant David Briggs joins Congleton School Children

Fantastic News!



Adventure Assault Extension Built

An £80,000 Adventure Assault Course is awaiting residents who like a physical challenge at **Bromley Farm Recreational Park**, Edinburgh Road. Phase two has now been completed, while phase one was opened last year.

The £53,000 extension has been funded through the Community Spaces programme which is being managed by Groundwork UK as an Award Partner to the Big Lottery Fund. Community Spaces is part of the Big Lottery Fund's Changing Spaces Initiative. £50,000 was granted by Community Spaces to be spent on the course and landscaping features. Congleton Town Council and Bromley Farm Community Development Trust provided additional financial resource.



There are numerous challenges including a zip wire, tunnel and mound, slide, skater, wobble beam, wobble bridge, tarzan walk and various climbing frames. There is something to suit any age or ability. So come and give the best play park in the town a try!

Other play areas in Congleton include:

- Congleton Park, Park Road Congleton
- Lower Heath, Tidnock Avenue, Congleton
- Quinta Park, Brooklands Road Congleton
- West Road, Danesford, Congleton
- Marshall Grove, Reades Lane, Congleton
- St Johns Road, Congleton

Congleton Children's Centre



Congleton Children's Centre team, located in part of the Daven School building in New Street, (off Canal Street), provides a wide range of services to children and their parents/carers in the Congleton area.

Activities, groups and events are run from the centre both in term time and holidays. They range from ante and post natal clinics, to child minder drop in sessions, Dadventure, School Nurse, Sensory Sensation, Well-Baby,

Young Parents, Smoking Cessation and Parent Craft Classes amongst others.

If you have children and are looking for activities, advice and support or just want to make new friends and not to feel you are on your own, please call the centre 01260 371061 or check out the children's centre website to find out what's going on www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/education_and_learning

News In Brief...

CHILDREN'S PLANT UP

Schools and youth organisations are invited to send a couple of representatives to plant up a tub in their name ready for the summer In Bloom and Community Pride Awards. The Summer Plant-Up will take place on Saturday May 12th from 10am-11.30am at the Polytunnel in Congleton Park. For more information contact Jackie MacArthur on 01260 270350.

WEDDING FAYRE

Following the great success of the Spring Wedding and Bridal Fayre, the Town Hall will be hosting an Autumn Wedding and Bridal Fayre on Sunday 14th October. 20 stalls have already signed up and it promises to be another special occasion. For more information please contact Liz on 07813 772469.

TOWN CENTRE STRATEGY

Thank you to everyone who completed a response form to the Town Centre Strategy consultation carried out in March. Cheshire East Planning department is currently collating all the responses and will amend and update the documents for the Town Council to discuss. Amended documents will be put on the web site www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/localplan.

DENIS MURPHY CO-OPTED ONTO COUNCIL

Denis Murphy has been co-opted onto the Council to serve the West Ward. Denis was a popular Town Councillor from 2003 until he lost his seat in 2011. Councillors agreed to co-opt Denis from a strong field of candidates.

CARNIVAL

Carnival will come to town on Saturday July 14th. There will be a procession through the town which will include vehicles (upto 7.5 tonnes and 16 ft long). If your club or society wish to join in with the procession please contact Janet on 07817 616744. The procession will start at 11.30am. The family fun day in the Park is being co-ordinated by Al Fisher - to discuss getting involved tel 078541 36720. Tickets for Party in the Park in the evening will be on sale via the Tourist Information Centre.

Dates for your diary

April

- 13 St Marys Hall - Charity Quiz Night 7.30
- 20 Electric Picture House launch Event
- 20 Folk Concert, Town Hall
- 21 St Peter's Church Macclesfield Male Voice Choir 7.30
- 22 Family Pond Dipping 2-3pm Astbury Mere, Cost £2
- 24 National Blood Service, Congleton Town Hall
- 24-28 Lord Arthur Savile's Crime, Daneside Theatre
- 25 Horticultural Soc Unusual Edibles - Congleton Library 7.30
- 25 Torch Relay workshop, Leisure Centre
- 27 Congleton Ballet School production, Town Hall
- 27 Museum Talk - Turnpike Roads of Cheshire 7.30pm
- 27 St.Marys Hall Diamond Jubilee Cabaret & Dance 7.30pm
- 28 Mini Beast Hunt, Astbury Mere, 10.30 - 12 noon cost £2
- 28 Choral Society Spring Concert, Town hall
- 29 Seed Swap Sunday 2-4pm Astbury Mere, CSG

May

- Tbc Polyathlon Kayak and Raft building
- 3 Annual Town Meeting
- 6 Museum Walk 2.00pm
- 9 Canals, Ways and Edges 7 mile circular walk 10 - 2pm
booking 01625 383777
- 10 Mayor Making Town Hall
- 10-12 Daneside Theatre - The Tempest
- 11 National Blood Service, Town Hall
- 13 Pantathlon Sailing Regatta, Astbury Mere
- 13 Daneside Theatre - Film
- 13 Mayor's Civic Service and Parade
- 13 A walk through the Woods - Congleton Town Wood
2-3.30pm. £3 adults, £2 children booking
- 18 Electric Picture House - The Honey Man
- 19 Astbury May Day
- 20 Walk through the Woods - 2 - 3.30pm Astbury Mere
- 20-2 June Electric Picture House, Chris Godber Solo Exhibition
- 25 Foden's Band Concert, Town Hall
- 30 Horticultural Soc - Private Gardens of Cheshire,
Congleton Library 7.30
- 31 Olympic Torch Relay 8.55am - 9.30am

June

- 1 National Blood Service ,Town Hall
- 3 Museum Walk, 2.00pm
- 4 Loverlee -Jubilee Fun in the Park 1-6pm
- 7-9 Daneside Theatre, Alan Bennett's Talking Heads
- 8-21 Electric Picture House, Postcard Exhibition
- 9 St James Coffee Morning - Congleton library
- 10 Daneside Theatre , Film
- 10 It's a Knockout Congleton Park 12-6pm
- 12 South Cheshire Floral Society Demonstration 7.30
- 16 St Peter's Church, Battle of the Organs 7.30
- 17 Food and Drink Festival
- 17 -23 Tasty Town Week
- 17 Congleton Cycling Campaign , Pedalling Picnic
- 21 Teddy Bears Picnic - Congleton Park free
- 22 Summer Lovin' Daneside Theatre
- 24 Lions Youth Brass Concert in Congleton Park at 3pm
- 27 Horticultural Soc, Gardening for Wildlife, Congleton
Library 7.30
- 30 Congleton Youth Orchestra Summer Concert 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

IT'S A KNOCKOUT!

Come and support local teams battling out and getting very wet over large inflatable obstacles in Congleton Park on Sunday 10th June. Congleton's It's a Knockout promises to bring back memories of 1972 when the original BBC It's a Knockout came to town. Teams from businesses, clubs, pubs, sports groups and neighbourhoods were quick to sign up to the event, which is being organised by Team Congleton. There will also be a range of challenging activities and games for spectators to join in with. The fun starts at 12 noon and is expected to last until 6pm. For more information see www.congleton-tc.gov.uk



Another 'Splashing' Summer!

Congleton's Paddling Pool, in Park Road will open on Saturday 2nd June until Sunday 9th September. The opening times will be 10 - 6pm daily, with the Town Council having the discretion to close the pool on cold, wet days.

Generations of children have enjoyed the Paddling Pool since the 1930s, and it's an asset that Congleton Town Councillors have continued to protect for the town.

The Paddling Pool is designed for children aged 11 and under. A member of staff will be present, but all children must be accompanied by a responsible person. Car parking on the roads surrounding the Pool is now resident only and the Daneside Theatre car park is private, so users are advised to walk, cycle, travel on the bus or park in the Town Centre car parks.



Teddy Bear's Picnic

If you go down to the Park on June 21st you're sure for a big surprise!! For that's the day the Teddy Bears - and their pre-school

owners have their teddy bears' picnic!! Now in its 4th year, the picnic has become a firm favourite in the Congleton Calendar. It is a free event organised by Congleton Town Council and friends during Tasty Town Week. Local youngsters are invited to bring a picnic, bring a teddy and bring an adult and join in some free fun including story time, rhythm time, dancing, games, music and a chance to meet some 'character bears'. The fun starts at 12.30 and finishes at 2.30pm - in plenty of time to pick up older brothers and sisters from school! For more details see www.congleton-tc.gov.uk



LOVE LOCAL LIFE

Don't forget to use your Love Local Life Card and be rewarded for supporting local shops. Your card can be used in the following shops:

7th Heaven Bridal, 8th Planet Beauty, A&A Music, Bon-O-Phool, Bread & Basil, Browns of Congleton, Bubblegum Ink, Burns Garage, Congleton Chronicle, Congleton Veterinary Centre, CTC Physiotherapy, De Laceys, DV8, Everything's Rosy, Flower Gallery, Fonehouse,

Indoor Market, No 1 West St, Parkgate, Piano Pub & Kitchen, RJ&J Moore, Salveo, Stock at the Pavillion, T&S Electrical, The Address, The News Shop, Three Way Travel LTD, Tiamo Restaurant, Top Nosh, Wow Portraits

Free cards are still available via Congleton Tourist Information Centre, Congleton Library and Congleton Leisure Centre. Full details of the offers can be seen at www.lovelocallife.co.uk