

# Bear Necessities

With News from Congleton Town Council & Community Groups  
Spring 2015

## Food & Drink FESTIVAL DELIGHT



**N**ow in its seventh year, Congleton Community Project's popular free Food and Drink Festival is back and bigger than ever! On Sunday 14th June everyone is invited to the town centre from 10.30am - 4.30pm where there will be top quality local and regional produce, a fantastic range of global street food and great entertainment.

Local people are encouraged to cycle to the event and can take advantage of the

'On Yer Bike' activities and storage in the Community Garden. The Green Scene will be located at the top of Mill Street with local allotment produce, cider, apple juice and charity stalls. A Real Ale Trail is being developed with the help of staff at the Young Pretender. A Festival Fringe Art Market

will be hosted by the Electric Picture House in Cross Street and the Tasty Travellers Passport Challenge is back and improved.

Food and Drink is organised by Congleton Community Projects with a great team of volunteers and supported by the Town Council. To find our more - or to volunteer help either now or on the day visit [www.foodanddrinkfestival.net](http://www.foodanddrinkfestival.net)



Or call 01260 270908

**YOUR VOTE MATTERS**

**MAKE SURE YOU'RE IN**



### Get Registered to Vote

Thursday 7th May is Election Day! There is an opportunity to vote for candidates in the General, Cheshire East Council and Congleton Town Council elections. To vote YOU MUST BE REGISTERED on the electoral roll. If you have moved home, recently turned 18 and not on the list, or conscious that you've not registered in the past, now is the time to act!

You can register online by going to [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote) - It takes about 5 minutes and you need your National Insurance Number (if you have one). If you are not sure whether you are registered, call the Cheshire East Elections helpline on 0300 123 5016.

People can now register as individuals, and it is not the responsibility of the Head of the Household.

### Nominate A Garden

Congleton in Bloom is looking for the favourite front gardens in Congleton. If you see a garden that cheers you up and makes the street look good please pass the address to In Bloom volunteer Patti Pinto. Addresses can be sent by email to [patti@ecolearninguk.com](mailto:patti@ecolearninguk.com) or dropped into the Tourist Information Centre for the attention of In Bloom. The In Bloom team will build up a collage of the town's favourite gardens, give certificates to the most appealing gardens and plan to include some as part of our North West in Bloom entry.

Bear Necessities is produced by Congleton Town Council. The next newsletter will be delivered throughout the area around 14th June. All contributions should be sent by 28th May to Jackie MacArthur at Congleton Town Hall, High Street, Congleton CW12 1BN. Tel 01260 270350 or email [jm@conglontowncouncil.co.uk](mailto:jm@conglontowncouncil.co.uk)

## Let's Talk... Neighbourhood Plan!

Congleton's Neighbourhood Plan team will be contacting you soon about your ideas for our town's Neighbourhood Plan. The Plan is all about how Congleton will develop and change over time and is the best way for local people to influence the development of the town. The plan will cover housing, employment, health and education, shopping and recreation, transport, green spaces - everything that makes a successful town where people want to live, work, visit and invest. Congleton's Neighbourhood Plan will look at the area within the town boundary.



Initially, the Neighbourhood Plan team will be looking for your thoughts on general principles for Congleton's development. Later there will be an opportunity to give more detailed views. The plan will only be approved if it meets statutory requirements and if 50% of residents who vote in the referendum approve it. When working on a Neighbourhood Plan we have to accept the housing figures and development planned for the area. We can influence the type, style and location of the development but not the number of houses to be built.



# Know Your COUNCILLOR

**Congleton** is divided into two wards, East and West. As a rough guide East Ward covers Buglawton, Bromley Farm and Mossley. West Ward covers the Town Centre, West Heath, Lower 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, UKIP



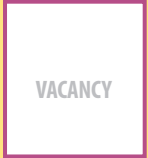
Gordon Baxendale, C



John Saville Crowther, IVC



Robbie Brightwell, C



VACANCY



Amanda Martin, C



Denis Murphy, LD (Mayor)



Jean Parry, C



Neville Price, I



Elizabeth Wardlaw, C (Deputy Mayor)

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



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

## Your Steps will Count!



Team Congleton is pulling together a community-wide walking campaign for July. Lots of groups - such as

schools, sports groups, doctors surgeries and businesses are already pledging support. The next edition of Bear Necessities will include a full programme of walks for July - including a 13 mile skyline walk on the 26th July - as well as ways to make your steps count if you don't want to join in organised walks.

Team Congleton is looking to buy thousands of pedometers - and plan to clock up more than 100 million steps. This gentle form of exercise has been proven to improve mental and physical health and it is hoped that walking habits formed will continue beyond July. Team Congleton is also working with others to improve and promote healthier walking routes in and around the town.

For more information, to register an interest or to get involved, please contact: [info@congletontowncouncil.co.uk](mailto:info@congletontowncouncil.co.uk)

## IMPROVING ANTROBUS STREET GARDENS

Antrobus Street Gardens, the green space between Readesmoor Medical Centre and Antrobus Car Park, is getting a facelift this spring to make it a more usable and pleasant green space in the Town Centre. The work is being spearheaded by Congleton Partnership in conjunction with Congleton Town Council, Cheshire East Council & Readesmoor Medical Centre.



Some of the old conifer trees have already been removed and improvements will include a new 'Apple Core' seat, a new path and archway from the garden to the carpark, some outdoor fitness equipment and new

planting and landscaping. The works will be completed this summer.

See [www.congletonpartnership.co.uk](http://www.congletonpartnership.co.uk)

## Congleton Artisan & Vintage Market



The market is held on the 2nd Sunday of every month and is located on the pedestrian area. The market is open from 10am - 3pm. It has a great mix of stalls selling top quality specialist food, drink and produce from local growers, producers and businesses together with vintage, handmade and artisan crafts and products.

The popular Artisan style market is organised by City Markets, who run Congleton's retail markets on Tuesdays and Saturdays. For more information or to book a stall tel 0773 9529225 or see:

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

**THE BIG ONE!** Congleton Artisan and Vintage Market will be celebrating its 1st Birthday on Sunday 12th April.



## Getting Ready to Bloom

After the success of In Bloom 2014 Congleton is getting ready to bloom again! Shops and businesses have been ordering hanging

lots of areas around the town are being given a good clean and make-over. The town will be judged in July. You can play your part by joining in - or organising local litter picks, nominating favourite front gardens and not dropping litter. For the latest, see Congleton In Bloom on **facebook** or see [www.congleton-tc.gov.uk](http://www.congleton-tc.gov.uk)

baskets, the extra daffodils planted last autumn are making an appearance and



## MEET CONGLETON'S PCSOs...

Meet Congleton's seven Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) – **Amy Spurrier, Amy Gillett, Barry John Phillips, Carol Holmes, John Warren, Julia Short and Matt Steele** – This team of PCSOs work hard to support the Police in keeping crime, and the fear of crime, low in Congleton.

All seven are based at Congleton police station, and patrol the Town Centre and neighbouring areas. Four of them are part funded by the Town Council. Their main roles include collecting CCTV footage, protecting

routes into schools, supporting community events, school talks, presentations and reassuring victims of crime.

The best way to contact your Congleton PCSOs is to call the non-emergency police line 101. Alternatively, call in at Congleton Police Station, drop in to the Police Surgery events at Congleton Library or speak to them when they're out on their beats.

**In case of emergency, call 999. To report a crime anonymously call Crime Stoppers on Freephone 0800 555 111.**



NHS Blood and Transplant Service is in need of more blood donors! Donated blood offers a lifeline for people in an emergency or under-going long-term treatments – everyone expects blood to be available

when needed, but currently only 4% donate. By giving blood, you can help to save a life.

Anyone fit and healthy, aged 17 to 66 and weighing over 7 stone 12lbs can donate. You can give blood at Congleton Town Hall on Wednesday 22nd April, Friday 8th May and Wednesday 17th June. Sessions are from 1:55pm -4:15pm and 5:30pm -7:45pm and you can either walk in or book an appointment. See [www.blood.co.uk](http://www.blood.co.uk) for more information.

## Tuesdays@Ten 188

St. Peter's, Congleton's Georgian town church, will be open 10am - 2pm on Tuesdays from April 7th until late July. The programme of events includes; recitals by Chetham's School of Music, Congleton Children's Choir and organist Chris Cromar (conductor of Congleton Choral Society); talks about Congletonians in the Battle of Mons, and Cheshire East Living Well Dying Well Partnership; access to family history records on the second Tuesday of each month and a short worship service on the first Tuesday of each month. Programmes are at Tourist Information Centre, the Library and the Parish Office (01260 273212)



The church will also be open on Saturdays from March 14th to October 24th. Visitors are welcome to drop in for a quiet space; to join in events; or enjoy the Georgian interior of this church with many links with the historic, civic and industrial life of Congleton.



The four churches which make up Congleton Team Parish; Holy Trinity, Mossley; St. John's, Buglawton; St. Peter's, Chapel Street; and St. Stephen's, Brook Street will be hosting a series of events from May 2nd to

10th helped by a team of eight Christians from around the country. The events will be known as 'Connect'. Anyone who is interested in connecting with the message of Christianity is invited to come along, join in and find out more. For details see [www.plzconnect.org.uk](http://www.plzconnect.org.uk) or pick up a leaflet from Congleton Tourist Information Centre, Parish Office, Congleton Library or the churches or phone 01260 278362.

## News In Brief...

### ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Residents are invited to an Annual Town Meeting in the Town Hall on Thursday 30th April at 7pm. This is an opportunity to hear about events affecting Congleton and to pick up a copy of the Council's Annual Report. It is not a Council Meeting. If Councillors choose to attend they do so as a resident.

### WEEKDAY ROOMS AVAILABLE AT THE TOWN HALL

During the weekends the Town Hall is often fully booked, but there is room for more bookings during the week. There's a choice of three rooms which can be set in a variety of styles to cater for 2 to 250 people. Prices start at just £15 per hour. For more information see [www.congleton-tc.gov.uk](http://www.congleton-tc.gov.uk) or tel 01260 270350, Ext 6.

### MAYOR MAKING

Will take place in the Town Hall at a public meeting on Thursday 21st May starting at 7pm. The Town Councillors will elect a councillor to serve as Mayor for 2015-16. The Mayor's Civic Parade and Service will take place on Sunday 7th June.

### SEED SWAP – ASTBURY MERE

Congleton Sustainability Group will be holding its annual Seed Swap at Astbury Mere Visitor Centre on Sunday 26th April from 2pm to 4pm. Everyone welcome! Bring seedlings, cuttings and spare plants to swap; Congleton Apple Juice and good company will be in abundance, come and join in!

### NEW TOWN GUIDE

Copies of Congleton's New Town Guide should have been delivered to households in CW12. The cost of the guide was covered through the generous advertising of local companies. Extra copies can be picked up from the Tourist Information Centre, local Estate Agents, show homes and places to stay.

### LINK ROAD

Residents are reminded that they have until the end of March to give their comments on the proposed route for the Congleton Link Road see: [www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/congletonlinkroad](http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/congletonlinkroad)

### IMPROVING THE TOWN'S PEDESTRIAN AREA

Engineers and designers are busy putting together detailed designs for improving Congleton's town centre pedestrian area. The plans will be shared when they are available.

### TOWN CENTRE OPEN AS USUAL DURING GAS WORKS

Essential works to replace the gas pipe running through Congleton Town Centre - from Willow Street to Swan Bank are expected to start on 18th May and last for 25 weeks. The pipes are around 30 years old and in need of replacement. All businesses and residents on route will be given full information by the contractor. Please continue to support your town through these essential works!

# Dates for your diary

## March

- 21 Hush Hush Cinema- Secret Cinema event by Be Arts, Tickets £6/ £5 conc EPH 7.30pm
- 21 Congleton Choral Society Concert, Town Hall, 7.30pm
- 24 National Blood Service, Town Hall, 1.55-4.15/5.30-7.45
- 25-28 Centre Stage "THE ADDAMS FAMILY", Daneside Theatre, 7pm+ Sat 2.30pm
- 25 Congleton & District Horticultural Society, Meeting, Congleton Library- 7.30pm
- 26 CTC Finance & Policy Meeting, Town Hall- 7pm
- 27 Folk@Clonter in Collaboration with The Biddulph Folk Club, Clonter Opera- 6pm for 8pm start
- 27-25th April - Out of the Blue- Group Exhibition EPH
- 28 Holy Trinity- Table Top Sale, Mossley Village Hall 11am
- 28 Congleton Choral Society Concert, Congleton Town Hall- 7.30pm
- 28 Rotary- Know Your Blood Pressure, at Boots, Barn Road, 10am-1pm
- 29 Daneside Trust/ Reels on Wheels, "THE THEORY OF EVERYTHING", Daneside Theatre, 7pm

## April

- 2 Planning Committee, Bridgestones- 6.30pm
- 3 GOOD FRIDAY - Town Centre Service 12 noon
- 4 Beartown Boxing, Amateur Boxing Tournament, Congleton Town Hall - 7.30pm
- 5 Museum Walk: Ancient Places- Ian Doughty- 2pm
- 10-11 Jean Clarke School of Dance "A Celebration of Dance", Daneside Theatre- 7.30pm
- 16 CTC Council Meeting, Bridgestones- 7pm
- 18 Skutch Manos- Dynamic, Acoustic, Instrumental Music- Tickets £5 in ad., £6 door EPH
- 21-25 CPATC - "The Birthday Party", Daneside Theatre- 7.30pm
- 22 National Blood Service, Town Hall, 1.55-4.15/5.30-7.45
- 24 Fundraising Ball for Parkinson's & NICU, Town Hall, 7pm
- 26 Film at the Daneside, The Second Best Marigold Hotel, Daneside Theatre- 7pm
- 30 CTC Annual Town Meeting, Town Hall- 7pm

## May

- 1-30 Girl with a Pearl Earring- EPH Artists and Mossley Primary School- EPH
- 3 Museum Walk: Age of Enlightenment- Ian Doughty, 2pm
- 6 Congleton Team Parish Tea Dance, Town Hall- 1.30pm
- 7 ELECTION DAY - National, Cheshire East and Congleton Town elections
- 8 National Blood Service, Town Hall, 1.55-4.15/5.30-7.45
- 9 ATC Plant Sale collection at Squadron- Orders from 9 April
- 14-16 CAYT presents "Rats Tales", Daneside Theatre- 7.30pm
- 15-16 Vale Juniors Presentation Evening, Town Hall- 7pm
- 16 Hidden Places- day and evening performances - MMU, Schools and Professionals
- 17 Rode Hall Silver Band, FREE Concert, Congleton Park
- 21 CTC Annual Mayor Making, Town Hall, 7pm
- 23 Paddling Pool opens for the summer, Park Road, 10am-6pm

## June

- 7 Civic Parade & Service, meet at 2.30pm Town Hall. St Peter's Church- 3pm
- 7 Brass on the Grass - Congleton Park - 1-5pm
- 7 Museum Walk: A Pub Crawl Through Time- Lyndon Murgatroyd- 2pm
- 5-27 Art Market at Electric Picture House
- 9 Cong. Partnership Executive Meeting, Bridgestones- 5.30pm
- 11-13 Nomads Theatre Company presents "Talking Heads", Daneside Theatre- 7.30pm
- 13 Going Up The Country Music Festival, Church Hse- Tickets
- 14 FOOD & DRINK FESTIVAL, TOWN CENTRE, 10.30am-4.30pm
- 14 Congleton Food Festival Fringe - Art, Food and Entertainment at the Electric Picture House
- 16 Teddy Bears Picnic, Congleton Park- 12.30-2.30pm
- 17 National Blood Service, Town Hall, 1.55-4.15/5.30-7.45

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)

## Brass on the Grass

In 2014 a team of volunteers organised a 'Brass on the Grass' afternoon to celebrate 100 years of Congleton's bandstand. It was such a fabulous afternoon that the Friends of Congleton Park are organising the same again for Sunday 7th June. It's a free concert that can be enjoyed by all - although a donation into one of the collection buckets for future events in the park would be appreciated! The fun starts at 1pm and continues until at least 5pm. Performers lined up include Macclesfield Silver Band, Rode Hall Brass Band, Can't Sing Choir,



Beartown Ukulele Band and Salt City Jazz. There will be some light refreshments on sale. For more information see: [www.friendsofcongletonpark.co.uk](http://www.friendsofcongletonpark.co.uk)

## TEDDY BEAR'S PICNIC



If you go down to Congleton Park on Tuesday 16th June you're in for a big surprise! For that's the day the Teddy Bears - and their pre-school owners have their picnic! This free event is organised by Congleton Town Council and friends as part of tasty town week. Local youngsters are invited to bring a

picnic, teddy and adult and join in some free fun including story 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! For more details see [www.congleton-tc.gov.uk](http://www.congleton-tc.gov.uk)

## Cool Down at the Pool!

Congleton's Paddling Pool, in Park Road, will open daily from 10am-6pm from Saturday 23rd May until early September. The Paddling Pool is managed by Congleton Town Council and has been enjoyed by the younger generation for decades!

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 adult. Car parking on the roads surrounding the Pool is time-limited and restrictive. 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 when using Congleton's Paddling Pool.



## Hidden Places Theatre

**Hidden Places Theatre will take place on Saturday 16th May from 1.00pm until 10.30pm.**

There will be five different performances throughout the day and evening in Hidden Places throughout the town, including performances in the garden of Rueben Stubbs, the Bath House, St Peter's churchyard and The Electric Picture House.

The local High Schools, Manchester Metropolitan University and professional actors are involved so there will be a good mix of performances for everyone.

Tickets cost £5 per daytime performance, £10 for the evening performance and £15 for a promenade ticket to enjoy all five performances.

Tickets are available from The Electric Picture House, Cross Street, Congleton, CW12 1HQ. Tel. no. 01260 270908 or email: [electricpicturehouse@gmail.com](mailto:electricpicturehouse@gmail.com)