

Dates for your Diary 2010

April

- 1 CTC Finance & Policy, Congleton Town Hall, 7.15pm
- 2 Good Friday Service, Town Centre, 12 noon
- 3 '1st Buglawton Scout Group – Coffee Morning & Bric-a-Brac stalls, Congleton Library 9.30am – 12pm
- 4 Images of Congleton, Museum Walk, 2pm at museum
- 6 Blood Donor Session, Congleton Town Hall, 2 – 4pm and 5.30 – 7.15pm
- 8 CTC Planning, Congleton Town Hall, 6.30pm
- 9 Paper Flower making for children, Congleton Park 12.30pm
- 20-24 Don't Dress for Dinner, Daneside Theatre 7.30pm. Tickets TIC
- 21 'Ladies Only' in aid of Breast Cancer, Charity Night Cygnet Club tel 273390
- 22 World Record Attempt – Frisbee – Hankinson's Field from 1.00 – 2.30pm
- 23 Congleton Talks, The Gingerbread Legacy, Museum, 7.30pm
- 23 Elvis Tribute, Town Hall, Tickets £12 – TIC
- 25 Seedling Swap, Astbury Mere, 2-4pm
- 30 – 1 May Variety Show, Daneside Theatre 7.30pm

May

- 1 Choral Society, Congleton Town Hall, 7.30pm, Tickets TIC
- 2 Surprising Trades, Museum Walk, 2pm at museum
- 2 Swing Commanders, Daneside Theatre, 1940s music, Tickets TIC
- 2 Bluebell Walk and music in the Park, 2pm
- 8 – 21 Open Exhibition, Victoria Mill, Foundry Bank
- 13 CTC Annual Council Meeting, Town Hall, 7.15pm
- 13 – 15 Congleton Amateur Youth Theatre, Daneside Theatre Cinema, Daneside Theatre. Tickets TIC
- 16 VE Day 65th Anniversary – Town Hall Big Band tickets TIC
- 22 Children's Plant up weekend, Polytunnel Congleton Park, 10am – 12 noon
- 23 Kayathalon, Astbury Mere 10 – 4.30pm

June

- 1 Blood Donor Session, Congleton Town Hall, 2 – 4pm and 5.30 – 7.15pm
- 6 In search of Georgian Congleton, Museum Walk, 2.00pm at museum
- 13 Cinema, Daneside Theatre. Tickets TIC
- 19 Summer Beer Festival, beside the Leisure Centre
- 20 Food and Drink Festival – Town Centre 10.30 - 4.30pm
- 20 Mayor's Civic Parade, Congleton Town Hall, meet behind Town Hall, 2.15pm
- 21 – 26 Tasty Town Week – Various Food events
- 23 – 26 Mr. Wonderful, Daneside Theatre, 7.30pm. Tickets TIC
- 24 Teddy Bear Picnic, Congleton Park 12.30 – 2.30pm

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 **Congleton Museum** – contact 01260 276360.

For more events see www.congleton-tc.gov.uk
www.mybeartown.co.uk



The UK's only Kayathalon?

Astbury Mere Trust, Astbury Sailsports and Cheshire East Council may well have come up with a national first when it hosts a Kayathalon on Sunday 23 May at Astbury Mere. The fun event – which involves running/walking and kayaking, will put the Mere on the map.

There will be races for year groups 7-12 in the morning involving a one mile run (once around the lake) followed by a 200m kayak course. The Open Classes in the early afternoon will involve two laps around the lake (2 miles) and a 600m course. The Elite races have a three mile run and 800m course. (Course lengths are approximate).

Anyone wishing to take part should book through Astbury Sailsports. There is a minimal entrance fee and entries must be submitted by 9 May. See www.astburysailsports.co.uk or tel. 01260 297172. Spectators are encouraged to view from the Country Park.

Astbury Mere is located close to the Town Centre and has vehicle access from Newcastle Road. An estimated 140,000 people visit this attractive venue every year. An all weather path around the Mere has recently been constructed by the park owners, Astbury Mere Trust enabling full access around the site.

Culinary Congleton - Tasty Town Week

Congleton will turn into a gourmet's paradise on Sunday 20th June when the Food and Drink Festival returns to town for the second year. With even more businesses wishing to join in, the organising team – led by Congleton Community Projects – has changed the opening times to 10.30am – 4.30pm. The town centre will be transformed into a

bustling farmers market packed with fabulous food stalls selling local produce and cooking up culinary delights. There will be loads of activities for families – from fair rides to craft workshops. The Town Hall will be turned into a taste theatre – with a non-

stop programme of cooking demonstrations, cook-offs and even a battle for the best cocktail concoction! The Sustainability group will bring its ABUNDANCE project – where local excess produce is turned into apple juice, jam and chutneys. The day will kick start a Tasty Town Week (21-26 June) with a full

programme of special food and drink related events in bars, restaurants and open spaces throughout the town. To take part or to find out more contact 01260 291156 or visit www.foodanddrinkfestival.net



On Track – Team Congleton!



Winning design: Team Congleton logo designed by Cheyanne Vandam from Marfields School. Photo courtesy of the Congleton Chronicle.

Team Congleton is shouting up for Congleton and making plans to ensure that the Olympic year is a great one for the town – both in terms of events and for a lasting

legacy for sport in the area. The team has identified the need for an indoor running track for the area – and is building momentum to realise this dream. A dedicated group of local professionals have volunteered their time to work on grants and applications and more help is required for FUNdraising opportunities and event planning. If you want to be part of this exciting team contact the group Chair, Barbara l'Anson from Triad on 01260 278657 or email barbara@traiduk.co.uk

Bear Necessities

With News from Congleton Town Council & Community groups
Spring 2010

Congleton's Summer of Fun!

There's lots to look forward to in Congleton this summer! There's a World Record attempt in April, Kayathalon at Astbury Mere in May, 2nd Food and Drink Festival and Tasty Town Week in June, Congleton Carnival, Fun Day and Party in the Park and Opening Doors Fun Day in July and the Garden Festival and first Jazz and Blues Festival in August to name but a few. Summer also sees the opening of the

town's Paddling Pool, in Park Road. This year it will open on Saturday 29 May. The opening times will be 10am – 6pm, but weather dependant. This will save energy and money by making sure the pool can be enjoyed on days when people are likely to want to use it. The 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 limited to 30 minutes, so users are advised to walk, cycle, travel on the bus or park in the Town Centre car parks. Congleton Town Council will shortly be recruiting for summer staff to watch over the Paddling Pool when open, and work in the Town Hall at other times. If you are interested contact Chris Jones – cj@congletontowncouncil.co.uk tel 01260 270350.



Help Your Town to Win!

This summer Congleton will once again be entering the North West in Bloom and the Cheshire Community Action's Community Pride competition – and we need the help of everyone if we are going to win!

Local residents can help Congleton's chances in these awards by:

- Keeping your front garden tidy
- Using the bins or taking your litter home
- Not allowing your pet to foul the pavements
- Reporting Grot Spots to the Town Council
- Report incidents of graffiti or vandalism
- Join in a Mass Congleton- Clean-Day – see local press for details.

The Town Council has a number of litter pickers, bags and gloves and if any local groups are prepared to help please contact Jackie MacArthur on 01260 270350.

Plant-Up Day

Congleton in Bloom has organised a Children's Plant Up day on Saturday 22 May from 10am – 12 noon in the Polytunnel, Congleton Park (behind the Pavilion). Children with the help of Youth Organisations and In Bloom volunteers will plant up the 30 tubs to be used around the town.



Another World Record for Congleton?



Hundreds of Children from primary schools across Congleton will be meeting at Hankinson's Field on Thursday 22 April with the aim of getting Congleton in the World Record books – again! The Town already holds the record for the World's largest Maypole Dance and now wants the record for the most Frisbees thrown simultaneously.

The record attempt is being organised by Triad – a promotions company that has been based in Congleton for more than 25 years – with support from the Town Council. The afternoon will be quite a spectacle and it is hoped that lots of local people will come down and cheer on the children for the record attempt at 2pm. If the weather is bad the reserve day is Monday 26 April. Look out for the Frisbee raffle to raise money for Team Congleton Olympic Legacy.

Bear Necessities is produced by Congleton Town Council. The next edition will come out around the 28 June 2010. All contributions should be sent by 4 June to Jackie MacArthur at Congleton Town Council, Congleton Town Hall, High Street, Congleton CW12 1BN, tel 01260 270350 or email jm@congletontowncouncil.co.uk



Your Town Councillors

Below is a list of Town Councillors elected to serve until 2011. All Councillors can be contacted via the Town Council Office, Town Hall, Congleton CW12 1BN. Tel 01260 270350 or fax 01260 280357 or email info@congletontowncouncil.co.uk

BUGLAWTON

- Ernie Clarke 93 St John's Road, Buglawton, CW12 3AX (L) (TM)
- Douglas Parker Copper Beeches, 101 Buxton Road, Congleton CW12 2DY (C)
- Bob Boston 29 St John's Road, Buglawton CW12 2AU (L)

NORTH-WEST

- Gordon Baxendale 5 Suffolk Close, Congleton CW12 1SQ (C)
- Bob Edwards 33 Park Lane, Congleton CW12 3DG (C)
- Chris Nield 18 Bankyfields Crescent, Congleton CW12 4BY (C)

CENTRAL

- Clive Anstice 15 Ennerdale Drive, Congleton CW12 4FR (C)
- David Martin 32 Howey Hill, Congleton CW12 4DF (C)
- Jeanne Whitehurst 16 West Street, Congleton CW12 1JR (LD)

SOUTH

- David Brown 21 Leek Road, Congleton CW12 3HU (DM)
- Sally Ann Holland 40 Astbury Ends Lane, Congleton CW12 3AY (C)
- Peter Mason 43 Cross Lane, Congleton CW12 3JX (C)
- Matthew Carey, 9 Mill Street, Buglawton, CW12 2AE(C)

NORTH

- Lisa Bossons 25 Belgrave Avenue, Congleton, CW12 (L)
- Louise Daniels 100 Edinburgh Road, Congleton CW12 3EN (C)
- Andrew Thwaite 44 The Parklands, Congleton CW12 3DS (C)

WEST

- Nigel Bayley 18 Camborne Close, Congleton CW12 3BG (C)
- Denis Murphy PO Box 164, Congleton CW12 1FL (LD)
- Phillip Smith Briar Cottage, Astbury Lane Ends, Congleton CW12 3AY (C)
- Rebecca Williams 3 Hillesden Rise, Congleton CW12 3DR (C)

A New Mayor and Deputy Mayor will be elected on May 13th from the Councillors listed above.

C= Conservative

L = Labour

LD = Liberal Democrat

TM = Town Mayor

DM = Deputy Mayor

Congleton Town Hall A Great Congleton Venue



Since the Town Council took over the Town Hall in June 2008 bookings for the Grand Hall, Bridestones Suite and meeting rooms have increased significantly, but there's still room for your event!

There are three rooms for regular hire - the Grand Hall - which is ideal for large parties, receptions, markets, exhibitions, dinner dances, concerts and public meetings. The Hall costs £35 per hour (minimum booking two hours) and £300 on Friday and Saturday nights. Congleton-based charities and voluntary groups can get a 50% discount for the hall on Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights - (subject to availability) and a 20% discount on all rooms for daytime bookings.

The Bridestones Suite is undergoing a dramatic transformation from a 1960s court room to a light airy 'mini Grand Hall'. Works are expected to be completed in April. At £25 per hour this will then be the

ideal room for conferences, training and meetings and for smaller social functions (up to 75 people) in the evenings and weekends.

The Spencer Room is ideal for meetings and interviews for up to 12 people - at just £15 an hour this room is already well used by local companies needing a bit of extra space.

The building is licenced for civil weddings and partnerships and will soon have a ground floor tapas bar run by the Town Hall's events and catering partners. For more information about booking the Town Hall tel 01260 270350 or see www.congleton-tc.gov.uk.

*all prices are exclusive of VAT**



Congleton is back up to strength with four Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs).

Two new PCSOs - Carol Holmes and Rhys Davey - have recently joined Julia Short and Barry John Phillips.

Congleton Town Council helps to part fund the posts by contributing £47,200 a year. The team will work closely with the Town Council on events and local issues as well as working with schools and the local community. Each

Meet the Congleton PCSOs

PCSO has a particular area of responsibility these are: (left to right as seen on the picture) Rhys Davey - Buglawton and the area around Eaton Bank School

Barry John Phillips - Congleton North/Bromley Farm area.

Carol Holmes - Mossley and the Town Centre area.

Julia Short - West Heath and the area around Astbury Mere.

Anyone wishing to leave a message for their local PCSO should call the Police Community Action Team on 0845 458 6382.

Town Centre Developments

Congleton is now in the envious position of having two companies wishing to develop its town centre. The 'Bridestones 2' development first put forward by Modus, and now through Scarborough Developments Group, wish to develop a foodstore, hotel and public square on the Princess Street and current market area. The planning application has been submitted for this development and will be determined by Cheshire East in the next few weeks.

CWC Group, which owns Capitol Walk shopping arcade, in conjunction with Jameson Group, has brought forward an alternative proposal for a foodstore, indoor and outdoor market site and supporting public realm work on the Fairground/High Street area. This development is several months behind the Scarborough one - but is creating interest.

For further information see www.congleton-tc.gov.uk

One stop shop now in the library

Anyone wishing to pay bills or find out about Cheshire East Services should call into Congleton library, which will now handle all the issues previously dealt with at the One Stop Shop in the Town Hall. Cheshire East made the switch on March 22 with the aim of bringing council services under one roof and improving customer care. Similar moves are planned for Alsager, Holmes Chapel, Knutsford, Middlewich, Poynton and Wilmslow.

Business Success

Congleton businesses took home 7 out of the 13 awards at the East Cheshire Chamber of Commerce business awards 2010. Congratulations go to:

- Manufacturer of the Year: Berisfords
- Customer Service Award: Traid
- Accommodation Provider of the Year: The Alexandra Court Hotel
- Exporter of the Year: Genesys International
- Professional Service Provider of the Year: Franklyn Financial Management
- New Business of the Year: Zeus Public Relations
- Business of the Year: Auto Legal Protection Services
- Special Achievement Award: Congleton Business Group



Zeus PR celebrate success

Congratulations also go to Dane Plus Housing for getting a mention in the Sunday Times 30 Best companies to work for list. The group has also made it to the Finals of the Housing Heroes Awards 2010 for Development Team of the Year. The awards are organised by Inside Housing magazine and the Chartered Institute of Housing (CIH) and will be presented in London on the 14th May.

If you are a Congleton business, organisation or individual with something to be proud of let us know and we'll put it on the mybeartown.co.uk web site - email details to jm@congletontowncouncil.co.uk

12 Artists have now taken up studio space on the ground floor of the Victoria Mill building on Foundry Bank. See the local press for details of open days and exhibitions or check www.victoriamillartscentre.com

Victoria Mill - the place to be Art!

Calling all gardeners

If you have any spare garden or house plants, seeds or cuttings and would like to swap them with other green-fingered gardeners come along to Astbury Mere Visitors Centre on Sunday 25th April from 2-4pm. There'll be music, refreshments and free gardening advice. The event has been organised by the Congleton Sustainability group as part of its Abundance Project.

Green-fingered readers will also be pleased to know that there will be the

BEST FRONT GARDEN

BEST FRONT OF A COMMERCIAL PREMISES

competitions again this year.

Entry forms will be available on the web and at the Tourist Information Centre from the 10th May. Judging will be in July.



Beartown Buses will run on Good Friday

Thanks to a subsidy by Cheshire East Council the popular Beartown Buses will operate a normal service, rather than a Bank Holiday service, in Congleton this Good Friday (2 April). This will make it easier for local people wishing to come into town to shop or to attend the 'Churches Together' service at 12 noon outside the Royal Bank of Scotland.



News in Brief

PARKING REIMBURSEMENT SCHEME

33 shops have been offering to reimburse customers handing over the second section of their parking ticket with one hour of free parking (30p) when they spend £5 in store or two hours (50p) when they spend £10. Traders were due to decide the future of the scheme on the 30 March.

REAL TIME CALENDAR

Thanks to a local volunteer with Friends of Congleton Park, Congleton now has a real time calendar listing events in the town see www.congleton.org.uk. If you want your event to appear on the calendar please email your details to jm@congletontowncouncil.co.uk or drop the details into the Tourist Information Centre.

TOWN MEETING

An Annual Town Meeting has been called for May 4th starting at 7.15pm in the Town Hall. The meeting is a right of local people and will be chaired by the Town Mayor. Anyone living, working or with business in the town is welcome to attend.

CHRISTMAS 2010

The Christmas Lights Switch on will take place on Friday 26th November from 4-8pm.

The Town Council is already starting to take bookings for charity stalls in the High Street and Craft Stalls in the Town Hall. We also need details of other Christmas-related activities taking place in the town to help co-ordinate the marketing.

If you are interested contact st@congletontowncouncil.co.uk or call Sue/Sheron on 01260 270350.

CIVIC PARADE

The New Mayor's Civic Parade will take place on Sunday 20 June. The Parade will assemble at 2.15 at the back of the Town Hall ready to leave at 2.30pm. Led by the Rode Hall Silver Band, the parade will make its way to Trinity Church for a service at 3pm.

POLICE SESSIONS

Want to have a word with your local Police Officer? The Police hold a drop in session at Congleton Library every Saturday from 2.30- 3.30pm