

Bear Necessities

With News from Congleton Town Council & Community Groups
Spring 2011



FABULOUS FOOD FESTIVAL

On Sunday June 26th Congleton town centre will once again be transformed into a bustling farmer's market, packed with fabulous food stalls selling local produce and cooking up culinary delights, alongside local wine & micro beer products.

The Food and Drink Festival runs from 10.30am – 4.30pm and promises to be a great family day out with music, street theatre and loads of activities for children. Inside the Town Hall will be a hands-on kids zone where cooking skills and food decoration art can be tried out.

The Community Garden will become a

green zone organised by Congleton Sustainability Group with stalls, exhibitions and entertainment. Schools and local groups will be involved in another great art project to decorate the town.

The Festival will be followed by Tasty Town Week 26th- 2nd July, with a full programme of special food events at eating and drinking venues in and around the town. The pre-school Teddy Bears Picnic in the Park will be held on Thursday 30th June from 12.30 – 2.30pm. For more info or to book a stall visit www.foodanddrinkfestival.net or call 01260 291156, or you can email jo@congletoncommunityprojects.org

Play Your Part!

Last year Congleton was runner up in both the Cheshire Community Pride Award and the North West regional



award. This year we would like to go one step further and win! To do this we will need the support of as many people as possible. You can help Congleton's chances in these awards by:

1. Keeping your front garden tidy
2. Not dropping litter around the town
3. Not allowing your pet to foul the pavements
4. Reporting Grot Spots to the Town Council
5. Report incidents of graffiti or vandalism
6. Join in the Tidy Town morning on April 9th from 10am – 12 noon

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

Plant-Up Day

Congleton in Bloom has organised a Children's Plant Up day on Saturday 14 May from 10am – 12 noon in the Poly Tunnel, Congleton Park (behind the Pavilion). Children with the help of the Army Cadets and In Bloom volunteers will plant up the 30 tubs to be used around the town.

Key Congleton Businesses Support The Expo

The Congleton Means Business Expo, which is taking place in the Town Hall on the 24th and 25th of May this year, has now attracted the support and sponsorship of some of Congleton's biggest and longest established businesses including Siemens, Senior Aerospace Bird Bellows, Berisfords, Botex and Airbags International. This much welcomed backing has given Expo organisers confidence

that the event will be a success, succeeding in its aim to attract new retailers, businesses and developers into our town. Incoming investment could create new job opportunities within the town in addition to attracting shoppers and visitors to Congleton, bringing much welcomed revenue to traders. Further information about the Expo can be found at www.congletonmeansbusiness.co.uk

Bear Necessities is produced by Congleton Town Council. The next newsletter will be delivered around 4th July. All contributions should be sent by 7th June 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

BEST FRONT GARDEN COMPETITION (Entry forms available 27 May)
Closing date 27th June. Judging early July. See www.congleton-tc.gov.uk

Your Town Councillors

Below is a list of serving Town Councillors. All posts will be up for elections on 5th May 2011. All Councillors can be contacted via the Town Council Office, Town Hall, Congleton CW12 1BN. Tel 01260 270350 or fax 01260 280357.

BUGLAWTON

- Ernie Clarke 93 St John's Road, Buglawton, CW12 3AX (L)
- 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 Banky Fields Crescent, CW12 4BY (C)

CENTRAL

- David Martin 32 Howey Hill, Congleton CW12 4DF (C) (DM)
- Jeanne Whitehurst 16 West Street, Congleton CW12 1JR (LD)

SOUTH

- David Brown 21 Leek Road, Congleton CW12 3HU (TM)
- Sally Ann Holland 38 Astbury Lane Ends, 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)
- Rebecca Williams 3 Hillesden Rise, Congleton CW12 3DR (C)

C= Conservative, L = Labour LD = Liberal Democrat TM = Town Mayor, DM = Deputy Mayor

Eco Schools Go To The Show

Congleton has the biggest cluster of Eco Schools in Cheshire East, and possibly in the North West.

11 schools are committed to the scheme and five have achieved 'green flag' status while the others are on silver status. The Eco-schools scheme covers a variety of environmental themes, ranging from litter and waste to healthy living and biodiversity. As part of the Eco-schools project schools in Congleton have been planting mini orchards, thanks to funding from Grassroots Grants, William Dean Trust and the Congleton Sustainability Group's Apple Juice initiative. Congleton Schools will be telling the rest of Cheshire about their Eco-school successes at this year's Cheshire Show (in Cheshire East Education Tent).



Reception and Year 6 children work together planting trees at St Mary's RC school at Outdoors Day organised by Eco learning organiser Patti Pinto.

Summer of Gas Works

The National Grid (Gas Alliance) is proposing to replace a number of gas pipes in Congleton this summer. The work is being driven by the Health and Safety Executive as part of their enforcement policy for the replacement of all 'at risk' cast iron mains.

1. **Holmes Chapel Rd** Phase 2; 6 April - 28 June
2. **Back Lane** phase 1; 3 May - 3 June
3. **Three Fields Close**; 11 May - 3 June
4. **West Road**; 20 June - 1 August
5. **Clayton By Pass**; 25 July - 26 August
6. **Back Lane** Phase 2; 30 August - 7 October
7. **Longdown Rd Open Cut**; 19 Sept - 21 Oct.

Cheshire East Highways will be working closely with the Alliance to minimise disruption to traffic.

On-line Volunteers Needed

The Town Council is looking for a 100 volunteers to form an on-line Citizens Panel to help advise councillors and officers on policies and consultations.

Every effort will be taken to ensure that the panel reflects the demographics of the town, and anyone living or working in CW12 can apply. Volunteers will be contacted via email and asked to respond on-line to a range of subjects. It could be as simple as did you receive a copy of the Spring Bear Necessities through your door; to more complex questions on public realm designs. All responses will be given to councillors, but individuals will not be identified against their answers. The time commitment needed is not expected to exceed one hour a month. If you are interested in helping your town in this way please send your email address to info@congletontowncouncil.co.uk marked "CITIZENS' PANEL". You will then be sent an application form. Quotas will be filled on a first come first served basis.



May 5th - Make Sure YOU CAN VOTE!

Voting for Cheshire East Councillors, Congleton Town Councillors and the Alternative Vote (AV) referendum will take place on Thursday 5th May. Polling stations will be open from 7am to 10pm. To vote you must be registered on the electoral role before Thursday April 14th. You can check if you are registered to vote by contacting Cheshire East Council's Electoral Services Team on: 0300 123 5016.

Polling cards, with details of your polling station, will be sent to registered voters. The Town Council will be divided into East and West wards and you will have the opportunity to vote for 10 Town Councillors. If you are not able to vote in person on the 5th of May you can apply to CHESHIRE EAST Electoral Services team for a postal or proxy vote. Deadline for new postal votes/changes to postal or proxy votes is 5pm on 14th April, 2011. Deadline for applications for new proxy votes is 5pm on 21st April. The count will take place on the 6-7 May in Congleton Town Hall. For more information see www.cheshireeast.gov.uk

Shop Mobility for Congleton

GOOD NEWS! Shopmobility is coming to Congleton. After three years of campaigning, fund raising and planning Congleton Disabled Access Group (CDAG) is pleased to announce that they are opening a shopmobility scheme in the old Council Offices on Market Square. The opening times will be Tuesday, Friday and Saturday 10am – 3.30pm. The office will be manned by volunteers and all people who wish to use a mobility scooter, power chair or manual wheel chair to access the town centre will be welcome. Hire will be free of charge with a scheme joining fee of just £1

per year. Trained volunteers will be on hand to offer advice and show you how to use the vehicle safely. An access guide will be available to assist shoppers. A grand opening will be announced in the press.

For more information please contact Sue Thorley on 07759 480900 or email: wthorley@btinternet.com



Watch Your Watts

Congleton Sustainability Group is working on a Carbon Reduction Plan for the town. You can play your part by downloading or collecting and filling in a free Watch your Watts sheet. The single sheet of paper is simple and easy to use and will help you check how much gas and electricity you use in your home. Simply read the meters once a week on the same day at the same time and record it on the sheet. Once you know how much energy is being used, the next step is simple actions to reduce usage – switching off lights and appliances, energy efficient bulbs – then noting the difference. Using less energy means less expensive bills for you, and less carbon dioxide released into the environment. Watch your Watts sheets can be downloaded from www.mybeartown.co.uk or picked up from the Tourist Information Centre.

Local people can also find out more about reducing energy use and saving money at an Energy Projects Plus event in the Town Hall on Saturday 4th June 10am – 2pm.

Don't Recycle, Reuse!

Nearly 50% of kerbside collected materials are recycled in Cheshire, but what about the bigger things? White goods and furniture are always difficult; there's always the nagging doubt that someone, somewhere could make good use of it – but who will take it?

In Congleton we have an answer – DRD Trading on Buglawton Business Park. DRD refurbishes goods returned from a major chain store and works with Plus Dane and New Life Church helping people trying to get back on their feet. Demand for goods has quickly outstripped supply. If you have white goods, furniture or furnishings that you no longer need why not give DRD a call on 01260 221009 and make better use of your goods than recycling them down the tip!

TELLING THE STORY OF THE TOWN HALL

The Town Hall will become an even more interesting place to visit from this summer thanks to an exciting interpretation arts project being developed by Illuminos exploring the origin, importance and modern relevance of the building.

Illuminos beat competition from 29 other artists and organisations to deliver the project. Local schools, artists and the community will be involved in the development of the project. Illuminos's winning idea is to create a split screen video artwork, filmed within the many rooms of the Town Hall, from

great hall to cellar, to cupboard and stairs. The work will directly involve community groups and individuals in the filming. Illuminos work can be viewed at www.illuminos.co.uk



Illuminos filming from a recent project for Derwent Valley Mills.

News In Brief...

CONGLETON ENTERPRISE CENTRE

Do you have an idea for a new business? Do you have a project in mind that will help the community? Would you like some support to help develop an existing business or community project? CONGLETON ENTERPRISE IS NOW OPEN FOR ENTRIES – find out more at www.congletonenterprise.co.uk

CRAFT AND FOOD FAYRES

City Market in partnership with the Congleton Business Association has held successful Craft and Food Markets in February and March. If you missed these, come to the next ones on Sunday 10 April, Sunday 8 May and Sunday 5 June. Stalls cost £20 per fayre or £40 for all three dates. Tel 07739 529225

ALLOTMENT PLOTS

Congleton Disabled Access Group has a few plots available on its fully accessible allotment at the Hilary Avenue site. Use of the allotment is free to members of CDAG (membership costs £1 per year). Contact; Roy Sample Allotment Manager on 01260 279470.

TOWN HALL'S BETTER OFFER

Local companies and organisations wishing to hire the Town Hall for training or conferencing purposes can take advantage of the new hi-tec audio system which has been installed. To find out more about hiring the Town Hall contact 01260 270350

TUESDAYS@TEN

St. Peter's Church in Chapel Street will open every Tuesday morning from 10am – 1pm during May, June, July and August for visitors to wander round the church or just spend some quiet time. A variety of activities will be offered each month including access to the 20th century registers, guided tours, a short informal service, a Fairtrade stall, and a display of Bibles to mark Bible week in May. Refreshments will be available. For more details see leaflets in the Tourist Information Centre and the Library or tel 01260 272315.

JAZZ AND BLUES FESTIVAL

The Second Jazz and Blues Festival will take place on Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th August. For further information contact Joe Manning at The White Lion, High Street. Tel 01260 272702.

Dates for your diary

April

- 1-29 May, Tulip Time, Little Morton Hall 11-5pm
- 7 Planning Meeting, Town Hall
- 8 NSPCC Charity Quiz Night, St Mary's Parish Centre, 7.30pm
- 9 Big Town Tidy 10- 12 meet in the Community Gardens
- 9 Annual Rotary Club Concert, Trinity Methodist Church, 7:30pm
- 9 Choral Society Spring Concert, Brahm's Requiem, Congleton Town Hall
- 10 Craft and Food Fayre in Congleton Market
- 11-16 The Full Monty, Daneside Theatre
- 12 "Godspell" The Musical, Astbury Church, 7.30pm
- 13 "Godspell" The Musical, New Life Church, 7.30pm
- 13 Congleton History Society, John Worgan, Library 7.30pm
- 14 Council Meeting, Town Hall,
- 21 Blood Donor Session, Town Hall, 2-4pm and 5.30-7.30pm
- 26-30 Blythe Spirit, Daneside Theatre
- 27 Horticultural Society, Library, 7.30pm
- 29 Royal Wedding Party, Timbersbrook from 12.30pm (funds to bus shelter)

May

- 1 Religion in Congleton Guided Walk, Congleton Museum, 2pm, £4 per person
- 5 Local Council and Voting Referendum Elections
- 6-8 Rugby Club 150 year Celebrations, Congleton Park
- 8 Craft and Food Fayre at Congleton Market
- 8 Spring Tree Decorating, Congleton Park
- 8 Beartown Seedling Swap, Astbury Mere Visitor Centre 2-4pm
- 16-22 Congleton Bible Week, Various Locations
- 19 Mayor Making, Congleton Town Hall, 7pm
- 21 Bear Mania Public Launch
- 24&25 Congleton Means Business Expo, Congleton Town Hall
- 25-28 Nasty Neighbours, Daneside Theatre
- 26 Annual Town Meeting Town Hall
- 28 Opening of Congleton Paddling Pool

June

- 2 Blood Donor Session, Town Hall, 2-4pm and 5.30-7.30pm
- 4 Renewable Energy Roadshow, Town Hall
- 4 Craft and Food Fayre at Congleton Market
- 5 Mill Walks and Industrial Yarns, Congleton Museum, £4 per person
- 11 The One Act Plays, Daneside Theatre
- 11 St. Peter's Church IDMC Gospel Singers
- 25 Summer Beer Festival, Hankinson's Field
- 26 Congleton Food & Drink Festival, in the Town Centre
- 26-31 Tasty Town Week
- 30 Teddy Bears Picnic, Congleton Town Centre 12-3pm

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.

Another 'SPLASHING' Summer

The town's Paddling Pool, in Park Road will open on Saturday 28th May. The opening times will be 10 – 6pm everyday, 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 is a great facility for the town. A voluntary donation box has been added this year; customer feedback indicates that just over 50% of users are from outside of CW12 so it is hoped that they will contribute towards running costs.

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

limited to 30 minutes 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.



Olympic Fun & Games for Congleton



With just over a year to go to the London Olympics, the challenge is on to make 2012 a truly memorable year for Congleton. Team Congleton is planning an 'It's a knock-out' style event in the Park on Sunday 10 June 2012, a 'Polyathlon' multi-sports event with the support of local sports clubs and organisations from February to September and a sports awards night in September. This is in addition to Carnival which is being

organised by the Carnival Committee for July 2012.

Team Congleton is also setting up a legacy funding programme focusing on helping young sports people in Congleton reach County or Regional level. This will compliment the Sport Cheshire Rising Stars Programme which is aimed at helping sports people get from County or Regional level to National level. If you would like to be involved please contact Congleton Town Council on 01260 270350.

Enjoy a 'Staycation' in Congleton?

The award-winning Congleton Tourist Information Centre (TIC), based in the Town Hall, is a great place to discover more about places to visit, events and things to do for all ages. Packed with leaflets advertising places to go, and knowledgeable staff able to advise you, and some special discounts – such as Chester Zoo tickets – it's well worth a visit! From 2 April the TIC is open six days

a week from 9am – 5pm tel 01260 271095 or see www.cheshirepeakdistrict.co.uk

Free entertainment for young children – Congleton has 11 formal play areas, a Paddling Pool, the Town Wood, Astbury Mere, Congleton Park, Biddulph Valley Way and Brereton Heath to explore as well as the 2011 Bear trails. See www.mybeartown.co.uk

Can You Find All The Bears?



From 21 May, Congleton and the surrounding areas will be the home of around 70 uniquely decorated 5ft bears as BEAR MANIA comes to town... can you spot them all? The community arts festival has been organised by the Congleton Beartown Company, with support of the Congleton

Schools, Congleton Town Council, Congleton Community Projects, Congleton Partnership, Plus Dane and Cheshire East Council. Proceeds from the sale of the bears and bear merchandise will be donated to local charities and Animal Asia to help rescue caged bears. Large scale art projects are usually only found in cities, and it's thanks to the co-operation of so many groups that Congleton can experience such an event. Find out more from www.mybeartown.co.uk