

# Bear Necessities

With News from Congleton Town Council & Community groups

Summer 2010

## Town Hall Make-Over

**V**isitors to the Town Hall have been positively delighted by the care and attention that has been given to transforming both the 1st floor Bridgestones Suite and the ground floor De Lacey's Tapas Bar and Café.

Over the past few months the major works has seen the upstairs room change beyond all recognition; the false ceiling and dias removed and natural light once more flooding into this now beautiful room. On the ground floor the Tapas bar run by Posh Nosh, the Town Hall events and catering team is an exciting

new venue for the town.

With a licence for weddings and four rooms available for hire, the Town Council plans to once again make the Town Hall a busy social hub in the heart of the town. The Town Hall is also the home of Congleton Town Council, Congleton Community Projects, Congleton Partnership and the award winning Tourist Information Centre.

For information about hiring a room in the Town Hall contact 01260 270350, email [info@congletontowncouncil.co.uk](mailto:info@congletontowncouncil.co.uk) or see [www.congleton-tc.gov.uk](http://www.congleton-tc.gov.uk)

## Regional Recognition for Beartown Brand

Congleton beartown – where friends are made – has won a regional award from North West Action for Market Towns.



The judges recognised the work of the volunteer Bear Team which over the past 18 months, with support from the Congleton Partnership, Congleton Town

Council and Cheshire East Council has developed an identity, a brand manual, held a schools competition, launched an active web-site, hosted teddy bear picnics, attracted Pudsey Bear to town, decorated Mountbatten Way with lamp post sails and used the branding for a couple of empty shop windows.

The next project is publishing a Beartown Tales book (which will help raise funds for bear rescue charities). The book is inspired by stories submitted in the schools competition. This will be followed by merchandise including a Congleton bear. The team is also working to create more bear-themed activities in the town. More volunteers are needed and welcome – to find out more see [www.mybeartown.co.uk](http://www.mybeartown.co.uk)

## CARNIVAL COMES TO TOWN

Get ready for a great World Cup-themed parade, lots of fun, stalls and entertainment in the park and an evening of Motown magic when Carnival comes to town on Saturday 10 July. A tireless band of volunteers have once again pulled out the stops and kept their cool to put together a special day.

The frivolity starts on Friday night with a rock concert - Holler - in Hankinson's Field, headlined by The Vanguards. The fun in the park starts at 10am on Saturday and continues until 5pm – with arena attractions, craft fayre and lots of stalls. The walking parade will leave Bromley Road at 12.30pm, travel down Lawton Street, the pedestrian area and wind its way through the town to finish at the park gates.

Party in the Park (in a marquee) this year features a Motown Classic show and the Ultimate Tribute to Michael Jackson. Doors open at 6.30pm for a 7.30pm start. Tickets for Holler are £6 and for Party in the Park £10 in advance or £12 on the night. Tickets are available from

A&A Music, the Tourist Information Centre and the Chronicle Office. Holler tickets are also available on line - check out the Holler page on Facebook.

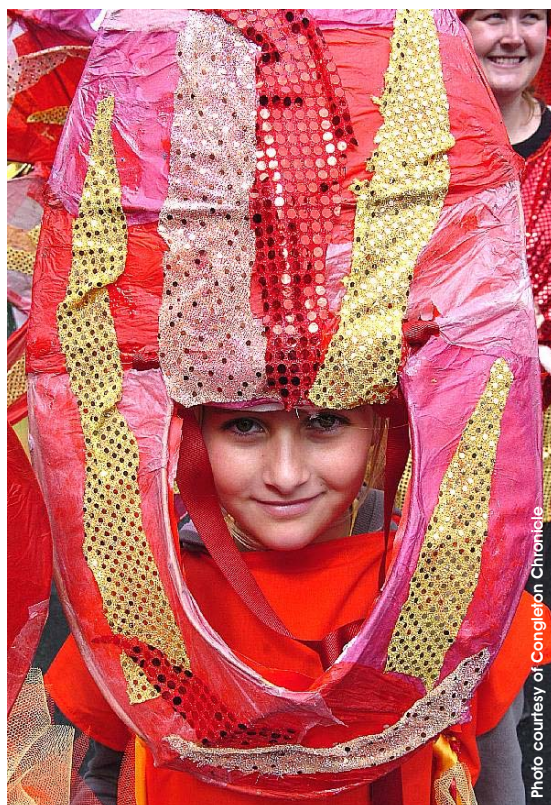


Photo courtesy of Congleton Chronicle

Bear Necessities is produced by Congleton Town Council. The next newsletter will be delivered around 4 October. All contributions should be sent by 7 September to Jackie MacArthur at Congleton Town Hall, High Street Congleton CW12 1BN. Telephone: 01260 270350 or email [jm@congletontowncouncil.co.uk](mailto:jm@congletontowncouncil.co.uk)



'In Bloom' JUDGING DAY - Monday, 12th July

# 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.

## 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

- Clive Anstice 15 Ennerdale Drive, Congleton CW12 4FR (C)
- 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 40 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)
- Phillip Smith Briar Cottage, Astbury Lane Ends, Congleton CW12 3AY (C)
- Rebecca Williams 3 Hillesden Rise, Congleton CW12 3DR (C)

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

# Embrace The Games

A call is going out to all Congleton-based organisations to get together and embrace the 2012 games – making the year a truly memorable one for the town. Under the umbrella of Team Congleton, the aim is to promote the wealth of sport and culture already taking place in the town, as well as getting communities involved in putting on some special Olympic-inspired events. Team Congleton is also looking at ways that the town can support and encourage its sport and arts stars of the future.

Come and vote for activities you would like to

see in Congleton during the Olympic year at the Team Congleton stand in the park at the Carnival on 10 July. The team will also be at the 'Open Doors' Fun Day in the park on Sunday 25 July. This free event is being run by Cheshire East Youth and Play Development Team and will give local people an opportunity to try out new sports and activities.

If you are involved in a local group or organisation which is running events in 2012 and want to link it in with the Congleton 2012 programme please contact Congleton Town Council on 01260 270350 or [info@congletontowncouncil.co.uk](mailto:info@congletontowncouncil.co.uk)



## Pride In Our Town



Our entries for the North West in Bloom and the Cheshire Pride awards got off to a flying start with almost 50 people turning up for a mass litter pick at the end of April. In May children from the primary schools planted

up the tubs which can be seen around the town, and the Town Council took over planting and watering of Mountbatten Way early in June.

Now the Town has a new challenge; the date for the North West in Bloom judging has been set - immovably – as Monday 12 July. This is considerably earlier than previous years, but more importantly the day after our carnival weekend when thousands are expected into town! Litter, graffiti and weeds play as important a part in the judging as the quality and quantity of blooms – so please use the

bins proved or take your litter home with you this Carnival! The Town Council can provide bags and litter pickers to any groups willing to carry out a litter pick - please contact Chris Jones on 01260 270350.

## New Town Mayor

Cllr David Brown has been elected as the Town Mayor for 2010/11. His daughter, Jane Brown is the Mayoress for the year. Funds raised by the Town Mayor will be shared between Cheshire East Hospice and young people's charities. This year's Mayor's cadet is Jack Schofield from the Explorers. Anyone wishing to invite the Town Mayor to a function should contact Linda Minshull on 01260 270350 [lm@congletontowncouncil.co.uk](mailto:lm@congletontowncouncil.co.uk)



## New MP

Fiona Bruce has been elected to serve as the Member of Parliament for the Congleton area. Fiona can be written to via House of Commons, Westminster, London SW1A 0AA or contacted via [fiona.bruce.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:fiona.bruce.mp@parliament.uk)

## TOWN MAYOR'S CHARITIES 2009/10

Last year's Town Mayor, Councillor Ernie Clarke, raised £8,200 through the Town Mayor Charities. So far £7,400 has been allocated to the following groups and organisations who work hard to make life a little bit better, particularly for the older generations in Congleton.

*Bradwell Court, Clayton Manor, Fellowship House, WRVS Dancing Club, VIP Club, Cross St Church, Buglawton Friendship Club, Chapel Brook House, Greengables Home, St Peter's Church, Wellsprings Tea Club, Hellirosa Nursing Home, Cross Roads, St James' OAP Club, St Mary's Ladies, United Reformed Church, Veterans Club St Mary's, Brook St. Ladies, NSPCC, Wagg St Church, and Cross Roads Young Carers.*

## Mayor for a Day



Molly Bridge from Quinta and Cameron Jackson from Havannah enjoyed the roles of Mayor and Deputy Mayor when elected at a recent Junior Council event at the Town Hall. Just over 30 pupils from Congleton's junior schools attended the event.

## Town Council Annual Report 2009-10

Copies of the Town Council Annual Report and accounts can be seen online at [www.congleton-tc.gov.uk](http://www.congleton-tc.gov.uk) or can be read at the library or Congleton Tourist Information Centre.

## Another World Record?

As Bear Necessities went to print, we were waiting to hear if Guinness World's Records had accepted the town's claim for 504 frisbees thrown simultaneously. 530 children from



Congleton primary schools attempted the throw, which was organised by Team Congleton and held in Congleton Park. Congleton still holds the record for the Worlds largest maypole dance, which it gained in May 2008.

## ON TRACK TO OUTSTANDING!

Eaton Bank School is enjoying the success of its recent Ofsted inspection which judged the school to not only be "good" across the board in terms of its overall effectiveness, but also acknowledged how it was improving towards its goal to become 'outstanding'.

Student behaviour, teaching, learning, progress, pastoral care, achievements and standards were all found to be good.

The inspection team also acknowledged that the school is "well placed to make further improvement" based on the impressive work and student achievements that they saw in their two day visit.

## Congleton Credit Union

Congleton Credit Union is available for business in Congleton Library every Saturday from 10am - 11am. For further information contact 07504 184902.

## News In Brief

### MONEY IN THE RIVER DANE

Funding is being sought by Dane Valley Renewable Energy Group, part of Congleton Partnership, to build a hydro scheme on the River Dane at the weir near Congleton Park. It is believed that enough energy could be generated by the plant to power around 50 houses a year. An application has been submitted to the North West Development Agency and a social enterprise scheme is also being considered.

### WHERE WERE YOU IN '72?

This is the question posed in a major summer exhibition at Congleton's Museum. 1972 was an exciting year for Congleton, full of events, competitions and festivities to celebrate the 700th anniversary of the town's charter. The Queen even visited! The exhibition opens on 3rd July and runs for the summer. Opening hours 12- 4.30 Tuesday to Friday and on Sunday and from 10 - 4.30 on Saturday. Cost £2 or £1 concessions. Tel 276360.

### NEW CRAFT & PRODUCE MARKETS

It is hoped to increase interest in Congleton and footfall in the town by putting on regular craft and local produce markets in the Town Centre. The markets will be on a Sunday and discussions are underway to turn the idea into a reality.

### PREPARING FOR WORK

Free one-day programmes are being held at Riverside, Mountbatten Way on 8th July and 22nd July from 9.30 - 3.30pm. The day will help with CV writing, confidence building, preparing for interviews and recognising skills and qualities. Free lunch. Contact Orly on 07752 556334 or email [congkiss59@ymail.com](mailto:congkiss59@ymail.com)

### CHRISTMAS CRACKERS

The Town Council and Congleton Community Projects are putting together a Christmas in Congleton leaflet to promote the town's Christmas activities - from carol concerts to Christmas fayres and from street entertainment to the big lights switch on. Please make sure we know about your event by calling Jackie on 01260 270350.

### ABUNDANCE CAR BOOT SALES

Grown too much produce? Local people are invited to take up a free pitch from 2pm - 4pm to sell their spare fruit and veg at Hilary Avenue car park on Sunday 5th and 19th September and Astbury Mere on the 12th and 26th September. Congleton Sustainability group will offer to take any remaining produce to turn into Congleton jam, chutney or apple juice.

## The Coolest Building in Town?

St Peter's Church, Chapel Street will be opening its doors from 10am - 1pm every Tuesday over the summer until August 24th. Tours of the Georgian building will take place at 11am on July 6 and August 3.

On July 10 St Peter's Church will add to the variety of carnival events by hosting a concert by the internationally acclaimed organist Carlo Curley. Carlo has played in major venues including the White House and will be performing at the Bridgewater Hall in 2011. Tickets cost £10 and are available from the Tourist

Information Centre or by phoning 01260 272315/273212

### HERITAGE OPEN DAYS:

Congleton Museum, Congleton Town Hall and St Peter's Church will be open to the public as part of the National Heritage programme. St Peter's will be open from the 10-12 September using a Celebration of Marriage as its theme. Congleton Town Council will host an Open Day where the Town Treasurers will be amongst the displays on Friday 10 September. The museum will also join in the with the Heritage events.

# Dates for your diary

## JULY

- 4 Museum Walks - from Swan Bank to Lawton St. Leader Lyndon Murgatroyd
- 7 Blood Donor Sessions – Town Hall
- 8 CTC Planning meeting
- 9 Holler - Making a noise in Congleton Hankinsons Field 4pm - 11pm
- 10 Carlo Curley - Organ Spectacular St Peter's Church - 7.30pm tickets TIC £10
- 10 Fodens Brass Band Town Hall tickets TIC
- 10 Congleton Carnival Procession, Fun Day and Party in the Park
- 13 South Cheshire Floral Society - Demonstration Town Hall 7.30pm tickets £7.50
- 25 Olympic Open Doors Day Congleton Park – Free Fun Day
- 29 Blood Donor Sessions Town Hall
- 29 CTC Planning meeting

## August

- 1 Museum Walks - More Images of Congleton Leader - Ian Doughty
- 3 Blood Donor Sessions Town Hall
- 8 Congleton Garden & Eco Festival, Congleton Park
- 10 U3A Enrolment - Congleton High School 10am - 12pm, Chair - Maureen Jones 01477 533735, Secretary - Evelyn Holt 01260 273063
- 13/14 Return to the Forbidden Planet - Daneside Theatre Tickets from TIC
- 19 CTC Planning & Council Meetings
- 24 Action for the Blind – advice bus in the Town Centre
- 28-29 Congleton Jazz & Blues Festival Congleton Bars & music venues
- 31 Blood Donor Sessions Town Hall

## SEPTEMBER

- 2 CTC Community & Environment and Amenities Meetings
- 3/4 Horticultural Society Town Hall - Tickets from TIC
- 5 Museum Walks - The Power of Water Leader - Ian Doughty £2.50 inc cream tea
- 5,12,19 & 26 – Abundance Produce Car Boot Sales 2-4pm
- 9 CTC Planning & Finance & Policy Meetings
- 10 CTC Open Day Town Hall
- 17 Congleton Talks - Mills, Walks and Yarns Congleton Museum - 7.30pm
- 18 Choral Society Town Hall - Tickets from TIC
- 23 CTC Council Meeting
- 29 Blood Donor Sessions Town Hall
- 30 CTC Town Hall & Planning Meetings

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

Sunday Museum Walks cost £3.50 which includes a cream tea.

# Garden & Eco Festival

Congleton's annual Garden Festival will be held on Sunday August 8th from 10am - 4pm in the beautiful setting of Congleton Park.

The main marquee will be full of stalls selling plants, flowers and herbs, as well as crafts and some local produce. There will be the arts marquee with special art exhibition from the Orme Arts Group and fun creative activities for kids. A special addition this year- a marquee dedicated to the Abundance Campaign including eco schools, allotment association, master composting and sustainable living projects. Plus Creative Space eco arts activities, wood walks, refreshments and music from Rode Hall Silver Band. A fun



free family day out organised by Congleton Community Projects and funded by Congleton Town Council.

### Contact:

jo@congletoncommunityprojects.org  
01260 291156.

# Congleton's 1st Jazz Festival



The 28-29 August is guaranteed to be a weekend to remember with fantastic free live music from midday to 6pm throughout Congleton Town with

many special events in pubs and clubs. The town's first-ever Jazz Festival has been largely put together by staff from the White Lion and The Bulls Head.

For more information see [www.congletonjazzandblues.co.uk](http://www.congletonjazzandblues.co.uk)

# LIONS GETTING READY TO RUN

The 27th Annual Congleton Lions 'Sting in the Tail' Half Marathon and supporting Quarter Marathon events will be held on Sunday 10 October. Last year the event attracted more than 600 runners, and this year the group is hoping for even more!

Application forms for both events together with full details are available on the web at [www.congleton-harriers.co.uk](http://www.congleton-harriers.co.uk).

As well as runners, the group needs the help of local people to act as marshals to ensure that runners have a safe

passage around the course. Some of the longstanding marshals are no longer available. If you think you could help with this local and prestigious event please contact the Race Director at [mark\\_p\\_thomas1953@hotmail.com](mailto:mark_p_thomas1953@hotmail.com) or [congleton.lions@uwclub.net](mailto:congleton.lions@uwclub.net)

The races start from Congleton High School, Box Lane, West Heath. The start time is 9.30am. Marshals are to report at the school between 8.30am and 9.00am.

# Congleton Paddling Pool



Congleton Paddling Pool is open from 10am – 6pm on every sunny day until at least Sunday 5 September. It is run by the Town Council for the benefit of young children and is a special facility which has been enjoyed by local people for decades. Access is not allowed when the gates are locked and the Town Council and partners will be taking a zero tolerance approach to those causing a nuisance.