

Dates for your Diary 2010

January

- 6 Blood Donor Session, 2 – 4pm and 5.30 – 7.15pm, Town Hall
- 7 CTC, Planning 6.30 Finance & Policy after 7.15pm Town Hall
- 9 – 16 'Dick Whittington' Pantomime, Daneside Theatre, 2.30pm & 7.30pm tickets TIC
- 13 Congleton History Society meeting 7.30pm, Library
- 14 CTC, Council 7.15pm Town Hall
- 16 Museum Jazz night, Mossley Village Hall
- 17 Film night, Daneside Theatre
- 20 Blood Donor Session, 2 – 4pm and 5.30 – 7.15pm, Town Hall
- 23 Trinity Amateur Operatic Society Coffee Morning, Library
- 28 CTC, Planning 6.30 Town Hall
- 30 Somerford Kindergarten Coffee Morning, Library
- 30 – 31 RSPB Big Garden Watch Weekend

February

- 2 – 6 Absent Friends, Daneside Theatre, 7.30pm, tickets TIC
- 11 CTC, Community & Environment 6.30 Amenities & Services after 7.45 Town Hall
- 11 Clough Hall School production, Daneside Theatre
- 20 – 27 Aspire at Victoria Mill
- 21 Film night, Daneside Theatre
- 22 February – 7 March – Fairtrade Fortnight
- 23 Blood Donor Session, 2 – 4pm and 5.30 – 7.15pm, Town Hall
- 25 CTC, Planning 6.30 Finance & Policy after 7.15pm

March

- 5 Town Mayor's Charities Concert, Daneside Theatre
- 6 Silk Brass, Daneside Theatre
- 6 & 7 DeLacey's Holistic Fayre, 10am – 5pm, Town Hall
- 11 CTC, Council 7.15pm, Town Hall
- 18 Blood Donor Session, 2 – 4pm and 5.30 – 7.15pm, Town Hall
- 18 CTC, Planning 6.30 Town Hall after 7.15pm
- 19 Town Mayor's Ball, Town Hall 7pm
- 22 – 27 Trinity Amateur Operatic Society, 'Thoroughly Modern Millie' Daneside Theatre
- 25 CTC, Community & Environment 6.30 Amenities & Services after 7.45pm
- 27 & 28 DeLacey's Spring Fayre, 10am – 5pm, 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 in advance. 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

Carnival Year!



photo courtesy of Congleton Chronicle

It's Congleton Carnival on Saturday 10th July. The theme is 'Nations of the World' and it is hoped that lots of local people will want to support or join in with the walking procession through the town, visit the stalls and enjoy the afternoon entertainment in the park and be part of the Party in the Park in the evening. Local organisations wishing to join in can contact Neil Pile on 07725 357534.

Happy couples book Wedding

Two couples took advantage of the special 50% off hire costs offer by booking their weddings at the Town Hall Open Day. The Town Hall is now licensed to hold wedding ceremonies and civil partnerships, as well as being an ideal venue for receptions, conferences, meetings, dances, exhibitions, craft fayres, interviews and any other event requiring space for two to 300 people. There are four rooms available to hire and a well-respected in-house events and catering organisers ready to work with you. For more details about using the Town Hall for your event please call 01260 270350.



'Aspire' at Victoria Mill

Congleton's Victoria Mill has been chosen as the venue to host Cheshire East's ASPIRE art project from 20-27 February. During the week the mill will be alive with workshops and performances.

Victoria Mill is rapidly establishing itself as a centre for the arts, and over the past few months has hosted numerous exhibitions, workshops and art-related networking events. Its success has not gone unnoticed and officers from Cheshire East are now also involved with the project, and contact has also been made with

MMU Crewe Campus and the Axis Open Space Gallery, who are interested in using the Mill for outreach workshops and events. The middle floor of the Mill is being transformed into artist studios and so far 12 local artists have booked spaces. The Top Floor Gallery is available for exhibitions and if you are interested in booking the space please contact Stella on 01260 277211. See local press for dates of activities and events or call into the Mill during normal trading hours. See www.victoriamillartcentre.com

Food and drink festival

Congleton will be holding its second Food and Drink Festival on Sunday 20 June, followed by a tasty town week where local venues will host food related events.

Building on the success of last year, local people can expect the town to be bursting with food stalls, crafts and demonstrations from 12 – 4pm on the Sunday. The aim is to promote locally sourced, produced and sold products, as well as encouraging more people to get involved with food – whether

growing, preparing, cooking, sharing ideas or trying out new tastes. If you have an interest in food and want to help make Tasty Town Week 2010 even more special please contact Jo Money from Congleton Community Projects on 01260 291156 or email jo@community-projects.org.uk



Bear Necessities

With News from Congleton Town Council & Community groups
Winter 2010

Watch out for Parking Charges

The era of free parking in Congleton will come to an end on 11 January - when Cheshire East introduces parking charges on its car parks. Workers, shoppers and visitors will be faced with paying the following:

Short Stay Car Parks

Fairground, Princess Street, Antrobus Street and Roe Street (Lawton House Surgery) – 30p for up to an hour, 50p for 1-2 hours, £1 for 2-3 hours

Long Stay Car Parks

Back Park Street, West Street, Park Street, Rope Walk and Chapel Street – 50p for 1-2 hours, £1 for 2-4 hours and £1.50 for 4-10 hours

Free Car Parks: there will be no charges on Rood Hill, Royle Street, Thomas Street, or Blake/Edgerton Street. On street parking bays will continue to be free, at least initially, but time restrictions will be 'policed' by Cheshire East.

As a big thank you for people continuing to support local shops some traders, on a trial basis, will be offering to reimburse customers spending over £5 with one hour's free parking (30p) and customers spending over £10 with two hours (50p) on the production of part of the parking ticket. Look out for stickers and posters identifying participating shops.

A limited number of Annual Parking Permits can be purchased for the long stay car parks from Cheshire East Council at a cost

of £300 for the year. The cost may be increased in April. See Cheshire East's Website www.cheshireeast.gov.uk.

Congleton Town Mayor, Cllr Ernie Clarke, said: "As a Town Council we did not want these charges, but they are coming, and I would urge everyone to keep an eye on the time, park correctly in the bays and start collecting change. We want to keep the number of people paying extra money in fines to an absolute minimum."

Cheshire East will be employing Civil Enforcement Officers (CEOs) – Parking Wardens to manage the car parks and on-street parking. The CEOs will not be on a bonus or incentive scheme and will have no powers of discretion. If there is a contravention (parked over the lines, not displaying a ticket, over the time on the ticket) they must issue a Penalty Charge Notice. Between 14 May 2008 and 31 March 2009 there were 3,316 notices issued in car parks in Wilmslow, 7,480 in Macclesfield and 5,695 in Crewe. Less than 20% were cancelled at appeal. Let's aim for zero fines in Congleton!

Parking like this could get you a fine



Youth Council to Visit Brussels

Young people on the Congleton Youth Council are hoping to see how the European parliament works with a tour of the parliament building in Brussels, thanks to a funding subsidy from the EU. The two-day visit is planned for the 22 March and it promises to be a great experience. The 12 young people on the Youth Council are aged 13-18 and either live or attend school in Congleton. The group regularly brings items to the Council for their attention.



Team Congleton's Olympic 2012 Celebrations

Excitement is building for the 2012 Olympic Games and Congleton wants a part of the action! Local businesses, associations and councils have joined together to form Team Congleton, which will celebrate the year of the games while raising funds to develop new sporting facilities in the area. Youngsters in the community have already been invited to design a logo for Team Congleton. This logo will represent both Congleton's community spirit and its involvement in the games. Fund raising activities will kick off in 2010, so watch this space for exciting events to join in with ...everyone will be welcome and there will fun to be had by all! Team Congleton want to leave a major legacy in the town and plan to host annual celebrations to remind everyone of the talent, inspiration and strength of community within Congleton. If you want to find out more about Team Congleton or offer your support then please contact Barbara L'Anson on tel: 01260 278 657 or email: barbara@triaduk.co.uk

Bear Necessities is produced by Congleton Town Council. The next edition will come out at the beginning of April. All contributions should be sent by the 8 March 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)

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

Waste-saving roadshow stops off in Congleton

Do you always find that there's a bit of leftover lettuce lying about your fridge? Or a pint of milk that's on the turn? Does it always seem a challenge to get through a whole loaf of bread?

Throughout 2010 Cheshire East Council is looking to solve your food waste issues with its 'Love Food Hate Waste roadshow', which will be stopping off in Congleton in March.

With a celebrity chef in tow, who will demonstrate tips and tricks for making more of our leftovers, the roadshow will highlight that the average family could save a giant £50 a week if we planned meals better, kept an eye on portion sizes and used up all the ingredients lying about the fridge.



Celebrity chef Richard Fox and Councillor Margaret Simon

There will be fun-packed games with the chance to win hundreds of waste-busting prizes, as well as composting demonstrations.

Keep an ear on Silk FM throughout March, which will be broadcasting live from the roadshows, or visit www.lovefoodhatewaste.com for tips to reduce food waste as well as great recipe ideas.

Time to learn

Congleton Learn Direct Centre in the Riverside Building, (next to Aldi) has a huge range of courses to offer from basic Maths and English, to ECDL computer skills, business and administration, food hygiene and customer services – and currently many courses can be accessed free of charge.

Thanks to grants from Congleton Town Council, National Learn Direct and

Macclesfield College, the centre is able to offer many of the courses free of charge to those who are either out of work, or who are employed in retail or leisure businesses in the Congleton town area.

The funding is limited, and so if you are interested in gaining some free training please get in touch with the centre as soon as possible, as funding and spaces will be dealt with on a first-come first-served basis. For more information contact the Learn Direct Centre on 01260 290682

Watch your Watts

Congleton Sustainability Group is setting a challenge to people to reduce their energy consumption by 10% over the next year. A poster/chart has been produced to record gas and electricity usage on a weekly basis, and this along with useful tips for reducing usage can be downloaded from the Town Council's website – www.congleton-tc.gov.uk. Understanding how much energy is

being used each week is crucial to start cutting down on usage. Congleton Town Council has had its carbon footprint calculated. It has signed up to 10:10 UK and is aiming to reduce its energy use by 6-10% in 2010. The Town Council's main contributor to its carbon emissions is energy consumption at the Town Hall.



Fairtrade fortnight

Congleton has been a Fairtrade town since 2007. An active group is busy planning activities for Fairtrade fortnight, which takes place from 22 February to 7 March. This year the emphasis is the Big Swap and nationally Fairtrade wants one million and one people to swap their usual stuff – sugar, coffee, chocolate, oranges etc, for Fairtrade stuff. Every swap will be proof that the UK wants

developing world producers to get a better deal. As a Fairtrade Town, it is hoped that many schools, organizations, businesses and restaurants will wish to get involved in the week. For more details contact Dennis Wood from the Fairtrade group on 01260 273935 or see the national Fairtrade web site www.fairtrade.org.uk



Congleton Partnership

The Congleton Partnership is going from strength to strength and now has six groups carrying out a huge range of projects aimed at improving the town.

The Partnership is made up of voluntary, public and business sector people who bring strengths and contacts to the groups. The group is widening to include education and emergency services and will become a NAG (Neighbourhood Action Group) to align with Cheshire East's structure of Local Area Partnerships. In this edition we look in more detail at two of the groups.

Congleton Sustainability Group
A rapidly expanding group of enthusiastic people from across Congleton is meeting monthly with the aim of raising the profile of the Climate Change agenda in a positive way across the town. There are already many positive projects going on in the town – such as the cycling campaign (see www.congletoncycling.co.uk) and the Congleton Eco-Schools programme (www.ecoschools.org.uk) and work through Dane Housing and the Town Council on projects to reduce energy use.

Thanks to the work of these volunteers, Congleton is one of 450 low carbon communities putting in for a £0.5m grant - you can see the application at www.decc.gov.uk/challengeregistration/List.aspx. The group has also harvested 450lbs of spare apples and with the help of Eddisbury Fruit Farm turned it into Congleton Apple Juice. A sub-group is working on a



hydro-electric scheme to use energy from the River Dane. To sign up to their newsletter contact peteraston@btinternet.com or become a fan on facebook of Congleton Sustainability Group.

Bringing the Bears to Congleton
With roadside banners, a great new web-site www.mybeartown.co.uk, a visit from Pudsey and school competitions, the volunteer Bear Team is starting to make an impact. The team is tasked with developing a distinct brand image for Congleton; enriching, awakening and reviving the town. Their shared vision, together with Congleton Partnership and Congleton Town Council, is to make Congleton a happy, healthy and prosperous Community where people love to live, work, rest and play.

In 2010 you can expect much more from the team. The team has been working with an illustrator and writer weaving together a great adventure story based on ideas from local children about the Congleton bear. It is hoped that this will be published in the spring – once local children have picked a name for the bear. The Bear team is also working with Manchester University on a special Beartown garden for Tatton next year and is exploring options for bringing more friendly bears to town.



Supporting local shops and local producers is part of working towards a more sustainable town. By shopping locally, you can reduce your fuel consumption as well as supporting your local high street and local employers.

Christmas 2010

A big thank you to everyone involved in last year's Christmas Lights Switch-on. It was probably our best yet. At a review meeting it was agreed that we want more of the same – with a few improvements for 2010 – so please put Friday 26th November in your diary.

Anyone wishing to get involved in the event, or with ideas of how to improve it, please contact Jackie MacArthur, Congleton Town Council (01260 270350) or Jo Money, Congleton Community Projects (01260 291156)



News in Brief

CONGLETON WILL BLOOM AGAIN

The Town Council is exploring the best way to continue the great work carried out by Congleton in Bloom, following notice that the group will no-longer take responsibility for the town's floral displays this summer.

NEW TOWN GUIDES

A new free Town Guide has just been published and is available to visitors, residents and those thinking of moving to the town. The Town Council would like to thank all the advertisers, without whom there would not be a guide. Anyone wanting copies to give to visitors or for recruitment should contact the Town Council on 01260 270350.

BUDGETS

The Town Council is due to agree its budgets for 2010/2011 in January. While every effort will be made to keep increases to a minimum, increased costs of running the Town Hall, local organisations looking for greater support from the Town Council and greatly reduced interest on capital reserves means that Councillors will be faced with difficult decisions.

HEALTH CARE PROJECT

The fairground site has been identified by the developers as its preferred site, and detailed discussions are on-going with all parties involved to ascertain exactly what services are required and options for others currently occupying the site. The public consultation planned for the New Year has been put back to the summer in order to get full answers to questions ahead of the consultation, and to avoid carrying out such a major consultation in the run-up to a General Election.

BRIDESTONES 2 PROJECT

Work is on-going and this project is now being supported by a bank. The developers have been working on issues raised during the public consultation, and the plans are expected to be discussed by the Executive Planning Scrutiny Committee early in the New Year