

# Bear Necessities

*With News from Congleton Town Council & Community Groups*  
**Winter 2018**



**F**ollowing the success of last year's Triathlon, the fun sporting event will return on **Sunday 22nd April** - and this year even more people can join in!

The Congleton Triathlon is designed as a challenge for groups and individuals who do not usually participate in sport. There are 48 places available and there's a chance to join in pre-event training with other participants. People can enter as an individual or as a team of up to three people with each tackling an element of the triathlon: Adults 500m swim at Congleton Leisure Centre (20 lengths), 10km cycle ride around the park and 5km run in the park. Last year the event raised around £7,000 for East Cheshire Hospice and some of the participants hadn't cycled or

jogged until three months before the event!

A Go-Tri event for 8-15 year olds will be held immediately before the adult event. Most of the 60 team slots will be allocated through schools and clubs. There will also be a number of health and well-being stalls, and some medieval themed activities as part of the 700 years of Congleton Mayoralty. Congleton swimming, cycling and running clubs will be helping out on the day.

The entry fee is £20 per participating adult to cover costs. Entrants are encouraged to raise £50 in sponsorship (or £100 per team) to support the Town Mayor's Charities.

For an application form, simply contact [info@congletontriathlon.co.uk](mailto:info@congletontriathlon.co.uk) Spaces are expected to fill up quickly.

## Towards a Dementia-Friendly Town

Helping to make Congleton a more **dementia-aware and friendly town** is one of the biggest challenges of 2018. A steering group has been formed to help direct, co-ordinate and encourage better awareness and more activities to help those with dementia. Congleton has a number of dementia champions who are willing to lead hour-long awareness sessions for groups and organisations where six or more people are keen to attend. The sessions are interesting, thought provoking and have been highly regarded by all who have attended so far. If you would like to attend a session, or wish to invite a champion to one of your meetings, contact [info@congletontowncouncil.co.uk](mailto:info@congletontowncouncil.co.uk) or tel 01260 270350 ext 3.

### Other Dates & Activities

- **Dementia Friendly Swimming Sessions** with access to mixed changing rooms - Saturdays 4.30pm - 5.30pm on 17th February, 3rd March and 21st April.
- **CrISP (Carer Information & Support Programme)** workshops for people caring for someone with dementia, Congleton Library 1.30pm - 4pm on Mondays 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th March
- **Bromley Farm Group** meet at Bromley Farm Community Centre on Thursdays from 10am to 3pm
- **Forget-Me-Not Club at New Life Church** starting from the 26th January, on the 2nd and 4th Friday of the month - 10am-12 noon. Spaces are limited so please register through [clare.sheard@gmail.com](mailto:clare.sheard@gmail.com)
- **Old Saw Mill** will be organising regular dementia-friendly activity sessions, the first ones being held on Wednesday 7th February, then fortnightly.

## Best in the North West

Congleton has won the North West in Bloom Large Town competition for four out of the past five years and is currently waiting for confirmation of its place in the national finals. The strength of the town entry comes from the community involvement in the project. 2018 marks the 20th anniversary of Congleton in Bloom and the team hope that many of those who have played a part since 1998 will wish to get involved to mark the 20th year. The team is keen to hear from groups or neighbourhoods that would be willing to help look after a planter or small area (equipment can be provided), anyone who would like to run a garden competition or residents with ideas or time to help make Congleton a cleaner and greener town.

You can contact the team via Congleton in Bloom on Facebook or by emailing [info@congletontowncouncil.co.uk](mailto:info@congletontowncouncil.co.uk)

## ROYAL VISIT FOR CONGLETON

HRH The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall will be visiting Congleton on Wednesday 24th January.

Their Royal Highnesses will be visiting The Old Saw Mill, Treo Statue, and Town Hall, highlighting Congleton's strong community and charitable projects and activities as well as marking 700 years of Mayoralty in the town.

See [www.congleton-tc.gov.uk](http://www.congleton-tc.gov.uk)

**Bear Necessities is produced by Congleton Town Council. The next newsletter will be delivered around 3rd April. All contributions should be sent by 12th March to Jackie MacArthur at Congleton Town Hall, High Street, Congleton, CW12 1BN. Tel 01260 270350 or email [jm@congletontowncouncil.co.uk](mailto:jm@congletontowncouncil.co.uk)**

# 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.

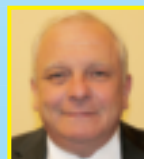
All Councillors can be contacted through the Town Council and further details can be seen at [www.congleton-tc.gov.uk](http://www.congleton-tc.gov.uk) Your Councillors elected to serve until May 2019 are:



Larry Barker (C)



Charles Booth (C),  
Town Mayor



Peter Broom (C)



David Brown (C),  
Deputy Leader



Bob Edwards (C),  
Council Leader



George Hayes (C)



Sally Holland (C)



Anna Morrison (C)



Harvey Richards (C)



Glen Williams (C)

East Ward  
Councillors

West Ward  
Councillors



Suzie Akers Smith  
(C), Deputy Mayor



Dawn Allen (UKIP)



Andrea Armitt (C)



Geoff Baggott (C)



Paul Bates (C)



Robert Boston (L)



Amanda Martin (C)



Jean Parry (C)



Maurice Walker (C)



Elizabeth Wardlaw  
(C)

C = Conservative; L = Labour;  
UKIP = UK Independence Party

## Council Tax

Congleton Town Council is largely funded through a 'precept', which is a tax added to the community tax collected by Cheshire East Council. Additional income is raised through hiring the town hall, sponsorship and specific grants. From April 2018 the Town Council will increase its precept by 2.64%, just over 4p a week on an average band D property. The Town Council is

responsible for running the town's streetscape services, the Town Hall, the Paddling Pool, part funds four PCSOs, pays for the town's CCTV to be monitored, supports the Congleton Partnership, Congleton Community Projects, Citizen's Advice Bureau and numerous other projects and campaigns focusing on enhancing the quality of life in Congleton.

## Mini Bus Hire

Congleton groups in need of transport are reminded that there is a 15-seater and an 8-seater minibus that can be used by local groups and organisations in Congleton. To be eligible the group needs to be linked to the Congleton Partnership. Membership can be through association with sub-groups such as Congleton Youth Forum, Congleton Senior Forum, Congleton Creative, Congleton Sustainability Group or the Executive.

The bus costs £20 per event or day to hire plus 40p per mile. Groups using the bus need to provide their own driver. To comply with the insurance, drivers must be aged 30 or over with no more than 3 points on their driving licence.



Congleton Partnership is also looking to build a pool of volunteer drivers that can assist groups that wish to hire the mini bus but don't have access to their own driver. For more information about the minibus contact the Congleton Partnership Officer, Mike Smith, on 01260 270350, ext 7.

## Margaret's Book

"Motivating Congleton" a book focussing on the life of Margaret Williamson is now available to purchase. The 280 page book has been compiled by Jean Phillips and covers many aspects of Margaret's life as told by friends, family and people who worked closely with Margaret. Margaret was Mayor of Congleton three times, served on the Town Council for 15 years and was involved with a vast array of community activities. The book is available from The Old Saw Mill, The Tourist Information Centre and Congleton Chronicle Office priced £20. You will be amazed by what she achieved.



## Town Hall Wedding & Party Fayre



If you are looking for inspiration for your wedding or party then make sure you pop along to the FREE Wedding and Party Fayre in Congleton Town Hall on Sunday 11th February from 3pm - 6pm. You'll get to meet lots of people with ideas and products to help make your wedding or party that extra bit special - as well as having a chance to explore the magnificent Grand Hall and Bridestones Suite within the Town Hall.

## MIND, BODY & WELLNESS

On Saturday 3rd March, you can discover all about mind and body at a special wellness event in the Town Hall from 10.30am - 4pm. Entry is free and there will be a chance to try out eco-friendly products, attend talks and demonstrations and try a therapy taster session aimed at finding out more about

de-stressing and motivating yourself to wellbeing.

The event is being organised by Holistic, Health and Wellness Events Ltd and if this first event proves a success they hope to hold regular events in Congleton.

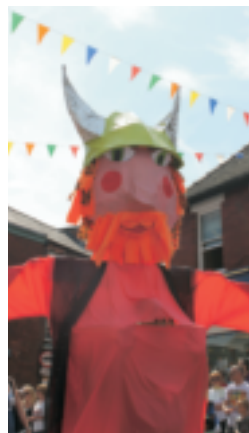
For more details about the day or if you wish to have a stall at the event contact Kerry Huckerby, Eunice or Jen Foster on [kejevents15@gmail.com](mailto:kejevents15@gmail.com) or 07808844380



## Carnival Funds up for Grabs!

Local charities and organisations are being invited by Congleton Carnival to apply for a donation from the monies received from the carnival procession bucket collection. Local groups or organisations that are interested should email [info@congletoncarnival.co.uk](mailto:info@congletoncarnival.co.uk) by Monday 29th January supplying full details of their request and reasons for the application. The requests will be considered and assessed on their merits and the benefits to the local community. The decision will be made by members of the carnival committee and successful applicants will be notified by the 2nd February.

The next Congleton Carnival will be held on Saturday 7th July. If you would like to get involved - as a helper, in the procession or with a trade or charity stall you can register your interest at [info@congletoncarnival.co.uk](mailto:info@congletoncarnival.co.uk) and will be sent the relevant forms and applications.



## New Congleton Heritage & Antique Festival (CHAF) Planned

Congleton is adding a new festival to its annual events calendar. Based around Heritage Open Days 2018, it will be two weeks of celebration of all things Heritage and Antique, from 8th to 23rd September 2018. Many local buildings take part in the national Heritage Open Days, including Biddulph Grange, Little Moreton Hall, Congleton Bath House & Physic Garden, St Peter's Church and others. The Heritage Open Days will fall in the middle of the new Congleton festival fortnight.

The plan is to hold heritage talks by experts in their fields, history walks around the town, antique fairs and auctions, heritage displays including one in the Town Hall linked to 700 years of Mayoralty and much more. A festival guide will be produced in the summer. Anyone interested in getting involved, putting on an event or connecting their existing event to the festival can contact Congleton Heritage and Antiques by phone 01260 278972 or by emailing [Congletonhanda@gmail.com](mailto:Congletonhanda@gmail.com)

## Rotary Swimathon

Swimmers are being asked to take the plunge for charity and join in the annual Rotary Swimathon at Congleton Leisure Centre on 9th and 10th March. The event aims to raise funds for local charities. Groups taking part can nominate a local charity to receive 50% of the funds that they raise. Relay teams aim to complete as many lengths as they can in 45 minutes.

For more details, contact Robin Platt on 01260 273358 or email [robin@talkechem.co.uk](mailto:robin@talkechem.co.uk) Rotary is always keen to encourage new members to enable them to organise more events and raise funds for local, national and international causes. Congleton Rotary has an active group which meets at the Plough at Eaton on Monday evenings. For further information google Rotary Club of Congleton.

## Neighbourhood Plan

Congleton's Neighbourhood Plan went through the Regulation 14 consultation from 2nd October to 13th November. A number of residents, developers and statutory groups submitted comments and the various sub groups are now working through those comments and where appropriate suggesting changes to the draft plan. The new draft plan will then be put through a further round of consultation, known as Regulation 15 consultation. Ultimately the plan will be put out to a referendum where Congleton Town electors can either approve or reject the plan. If approved the Congleton Neighbourhood Plan would be part of the planning documents for Congleton and need to be adhered to within future development.

## Makers Market to come to Congleton

The work on Congleton's Public Realm is expected to be completed by the end of February 2018. Improvements have included new lighting, blocked paving and new street furniture as well as creating usable space by the Royal Bank of Scotland and more seating at the House to Home end of the pedestrian area. Once the works are complete the Makers

Market is looking to hold a regular monthly artisan market in the town centre. Consultation is expected to be held later in January with traders and others to agree on the best day to hold the markets for Congleton. This will either be on a Saturday or a Sunday and it is anticipated that the markets will begin in March.

## News In Brief...

### CONGLETON CREDIT UNION

The Congleton Credit Union provides a safe place to save money and, once a credit history has been achieved through regular saving, it enables access to affordable loans. It is a small welcoming group that has over 120 members. Representatives of the Credit Union are available in Congleton Library on a Saturday between 10am - 11am to set up accounts, receive payments and explain more about how the Union works.

### MAD 4 CONGLETON

Congleton Mayor, Cllr Charles Booth, is getting behind a Congleton Youth Make a Difference day on Friday 7th April. Young people will have an opportunity to join in a wide range of tasks and activities all aimed at improving Congleton.

Contact [info@congletontowncouncil.co.uk](mailto:info@congletontowncouncil.co.uk) for more details.

### TOWN COUNCIL GRANTS

Congleton Town Council gives out over £65,000 grant funding each year to local groups and organisations looking to or already providing services to the community of Congleton. Applications are discussed at the Council's Finance & Policy Committee which is held every 6-8 weeks. To enquire about a grant application pack, email: [mh@congletontowncouncil.co.uk](mailto:mh@congletontowncouncil.co.uk) or see [www.congleton-tc.gov.uk](http://www.congleton-tc.gov.uk) for more information.

### FOOD AND DRINK FESTIVAL

The 10th June marks the 10th anniversary of the Congleton Food and Drink Festival.

If you are interested in having a stall at the Festival, or are prepared to help out on the day as a steward, please contact Jo Money, at Congleton Community Projects on 07833 742200 or take a look at their website, [www.foodanddrinkfestival.net](http://www.foodanddrinkfestival.net)

### CHRISTMAS 2018

Following the feedback from the 2017 switch on the organising team has agreed to keep to a Saturday for the switch-on and is already looking at how to make Saturday 24th November an extra special day for Congleton.

### WEDDING LICENCE

Congleton Town Council has applied to Cheshire East Council to have its wedding licence for the Town Hall extended until April 2021. Couples are able to get married in the Grand Hall, Bridestones Suite, Balcony or Spencer Suite.

# Events to Look Forward To in 2018

Below are some of the key events that we have been made aware of for 2018. We know that there are more events being worked on by various organising committees.

For the most up-to-date list of events , please check our website... [www.congleton-tc.gov.uk](http://www.congleton-tc.gov.uk)

<b>JANUARY</b>		22nd	CTC Finance & Policy Committee, Town Hall, 7pm	7th	<b>CONGLETON CARNIVAL DAY</b>
18th	Scam Awareness Session, Congleton Library, 10.30am	24th	Congleton Youth Orchestra Concert, Town Hall	7th	Congleton Youth Orchestra Concert, Town Hall
18th	CTC Council Meeting, Town Hall, 7pm	<b>APRIL</b>		8th	Congleton Lions Club- Band Concert, Congleton Park, 2pm
21st	Film at Daneside Theatre	1st	Museum Walk "Lambersloone-Routeways to the Past", Congleton Museum, 2pm	14th	Congleton Choral Society- Summer Concert, Town Hall
24th	<b>Royal Visit by The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall</b>	3rd	<b>Easter Treats Day, Town Centre</b>	19th	NHS Blood Service, Town Hall, 1.45-4.15pm; 5.30-7.45pm
25th	CTC Planning Committee, Town Hall, 7pm	5th	CTC Planning Committee, Town Hall, 7pm	<b>Congleton in the Regional and National In Bloom Judging Competition</b>	
31st	NHS Blood Service, Town Hall, 1.45-4.15pm; 5.30-7.45pm	7th	<b>Make A Difference (MAD) for Congleton Event</b>	29th	Rode Hall Brass Band, Congleton Park
<b>FEBRUARY</b>		7th	Congleton Choral Society- Spring Concert, Congleton Town Hall	<b>AUGUST</b>	
1st	CTC Community, Environment & Services Committee, Town Hall, 7pm	12th	CTC Council Meeting, Town Hall, 7pm	5th	Museum Walk "Congleton and the Age of Enlightenment", Congleton Museum, 2pm
6th-10th	Congleton Players "The Ghost Train", Daneside Theatre, 7.30pm	20th	NHS Blood Service, Town Hall, 1.45-4.15pm; 5.30-7.45pm	12th	Salt City Jazz Men, Congleton Park
8th	CTC Planning Committee, Town Council, 7pm	22nd	<b>Congleton's 2nd Triathlon, Congleton Park</b>	19th	Rode Hall Brass Band, Congleton Park
11th	Town Hall Wedding Fayre, Town Hall, 3 - 6pm	26th	<b>Annual Town Meeting, Town Hall, 7pm</b>	<b>25th-26th Congleton Jazz and Blues Festival</b>	
13th-15th	Eaton Bank Academy present "High School Musical", Daneside Theatre	<b>MAY</b>		<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	
14th	Letters of War Project, Town Hall	3rd	NHS Blood Service, Town Hall, 1.45-4.15pm; 5.30-7.45pm	1st	Congleton & District Horticultural Show, Town Hall
15th	CTC Finance & Policy Committee, Town Hall, 7pm	5th	Hidden Places Theatre Day & Performance, 1pm	2nd	Museum Walk "From Mansion to Cottage", Congleton Museum, 2pm
18th	Film at Daneside Theatre	6th	Museum Walk "Throstle Nest by Tommys Brook", Congleton Museum, 2pm	<b>6th-9th &amp; 13th-16th: National Heritage Days</b>	
22nd	NHS Blood Service, Town Hall, 1.45-4.15pm; 5.30-7.45pm	17th	<b>Annual Council Meeting &amp; Mayor Making Ceremony, Town Hall, 7pm</b>	8th-23rd	<b>Congleton Heritage &amp; Antiques Festival</b>
24th	Meet the Author: Matt Buckingham, Congleton Library, 10am	24th	NHS Blood Service, Town Hall, 1.45-4.15pm; 5.30-7.45pm	9th	<b>Last Day of Paddling Pool Season</b>
24th	Pinked Floyd Concert, Daneside Theatre, 7.30pm	26th	<b>Congleton Paddling Pool opens for Summer</b>	9th	Lions Duck Race, Congleton Park
<b>MARCH</b>		<b>JUNE</b>		9th	8th Annual Congleton Lions Duck Race, Congleton Park, 2pm
1st	CTC Council Meeting, Town Hall, 7pm	3rd	Museum Walk "Pub Crawl Through Time", Congleton Museum, 2pm	<b>OCTOBER</b>	
2nd-4th	<b>Congleton Unplugged</b>	6th	NHS Blood Service, Town Hall, 1.45-4.15pm; 5.30-7.45pm	7th	Museum Walk "Importance of Water", Congleton Museum, 2pm
3rd	Mind, Body & Wellness Event, Town Hall, 10.30am	10th	<b>Congleton Food &amp; Drink Festival - 10th Anniversary</b>	<b>NOVEMBER</b>	
4th	Museum Walk "Religion in Congleton", Congleton Museum, 2pm	16th	<b>700 Years of Mayoralty Medieval Banquet, Town Hall</b>	3rd	<b>ROTARY BONFIRE, Congleton Park</b>
6th-10th	Rent, Trinity Operatic Society, Daneside Theatre	17th	<b>Congleton Town Mayor Civic Service, Town Hall</b>	4th	Museum Walk "The Co-operative in Congleton", Congleton Museum, 2pm
8th	CTC Planning Committee, Town Hall, 7pm- followed by Town Hall Committee	17th	<b>Congleton Brass on the Grass, Congleton Park</b>	10th	<b>Remembrance Dinner, Town Hall</b>
9th	<b>Congleton Mayors Ball, Town Hall, 7pm</b>	20th	NHS Blood Service, Town Hall, 1.45-4.15pm; 5.30-7.45pm	11th	<b>Remembrance Parade &amp; Service</b>
9th-10th	Rotary Swimathon, Congleton Leisure Centre	24th	Audley Silver Band, Congleton Park	24th	<b>Congleton Christmas Lights Switch-On, Town Centre</b>
15th	CTC Community, Environment & Services Committee, Town Hall, 7pm	<b>JULY</b>		<b>DECEMBER</b>	
16th	NHS Blood Service, Town Hall, 1.45-4.15pm; 5.30-7.45pm	1st	Museum Walk "Mill Walks and Industrial Yarns", Congleton Museum, 2pm	1st	Congleton Youth Orchestra Concert, Town Hall
20th-24th	Les Miserables, Centre Stage Youth Theatre, Daneside,			22nd	Congleton Choral Society Concert, Town Hall