

Bear Necessities

With News from Congleton Town Council & Community Groups
Spring 2018



Congleton Food & Drink Festival will be celebrating its 10th anniversary on Sunday June 10th. From 10.30am - 4.30pm the town centre will be buzzing with around 120 stalls selling a wonderful range of dedicated local produce. The stall holders will be sharing their passion for their top quality, healthy and mostly locally produced food with the thousands of visitors in town.

Congleton Cycling Campaign group will set up a free bike parking area to encourage cycling to the Festival. The Green Scene supports Congleton Sustainability group, Food4free, Vale allotment produce, the

RSPB, Compassion in World Farming and the Bath House and Physic Garden who will be selling their medicinal herbs. Plus the popular Festival Fringe will have art stalls and activities in Cross Street.

The Festival is organised by Congleton Community Projects and a great team of volunteers. Together they add the extra magic with a range of music and street entertainment which has helped to build the festival's reputation as a 'must visit' attraction for the North West.

If you'd like to be on the team or volunteer on the day, call 01260 270908 or contact jo@congletocommunityprojects.org or visit www.foodanddrinkfestival.net



Nearly everyone knows someone whose life has been changed due to developing or caring for someone with dementia. As a town, Congleton is looking to create at least 250 Dementia Friends this year. A Dementia Friends session lasts around an hour, are free to attend and are open to all. The content is designed by Alzheimer's Society and run by trained dementia friend champions. By attending one of the sessions you'll find out about what dementia is and what it isn't, plus some guidelines on how to present a friendly face.

The Dementia Friendly Congleton Group is also helping to spread the word about dementia friendly activities taking place across the town. These range from coffee mornings, to church services, swimming and a range of clubs.

To find out more about activities and friends awareness sessions, contact Mike Smith on 01260 270350.

Support Congleton's Sprint Triathlon!

Come down to Congleton Park on Sunday 22nd April from 1.30pm to support local people taking part in the Congleton Sprint Triathlon and raising funds for the Town Mayor's charities. This year there is a young person's Go Tri followed by the adult event. As Bear Necessities went to print, there was still a few spaces available.

If you fancy trying the 500m swim, 10km bike ride and 5km run/jog, either as an individual or as part of a team, then please contact: info@congletontriathlon.co.uk.

Calling ALL Superheroes & Villains!



Congleton Carnival is looking for Superheroes and Villains to join in the grand parade on Saturday 7th July! Friends,

neighbours, local groups, organisations and businesses are all invited to add to the colour and spectacle of the 'Marvel-lous' parade. The Parade will be ready to leave at 11am from Bromley Road and snake its way around the town finishing near the Leisure Centre. Parade forms can be downloaded from www.congletoncarnival.co.uk

The fun continues in the park from 11am - 7pm with stalls, entertainment, food, music and children's rides. Spaces in the park are booking up quickly, so get your applications in to the Carnival team as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

Bear Necessities is produced by Congleton Town Council. The next newsletter will be delivered around 25th June. All contributions should be sent by 8th June to Jackie MacArthur at Congleton Town Hall, High Street, Congleton, CW12 1BN. Tel 01260 270350 or email 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 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

New Look Leisure Centre

The much promised new Leisure Centre for Congleton took a big step forward in March when Cheshire East Council approved funding and a preferred bidder for the £8.8 million project. The centre will remain in the same location and will benefit from a brand new pool hall incorporating a new learner and main pool. There will also be a complete redevelopment and refurbishment of the remaining building, with much improved

fitness and gym facilities. The centre will continue to be run by Everybody Sport and Leisure and the aim is to keep as much of the centre open as possible during the works.

Cheshire East Council will be entering into discussions with the preferred bidder to refine the final design details and agree on a timeframe for the pre-construction stage, prior to applying for planning approvals.



Police Surgeries

Congleton Police are keen to work even more closely with local communities to ensure that their voices are heard and concerns answered. Congleton's PCSOs hold a number of surgeries where you can pop in for a chat. Police Surgeries will be held at:

- **New Life Church Café:** Thursday 19th April, Tues 8th May and Thurs 21st June; 10-11am
- **Stock at the Pavilion:** 1pm on Saturday the 7th April, 19th May and 30th June
- **Congleton Library:** 11am-1pm, Saturday 21st April
- **Astbury Mere:** 12-2pm, 8th April, Bike Marking.

Information received from the public - either via the 101, Crimestoppers tel 0800 555 111 or online at www.crimestoppers-uk.org provides the Police with vital information. It takes a lot of evidence to build a case.

The lighter evenings often coincide with an increase in the amount of Anti-Social Behaviour. Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour often involves many groups and organisations in the local community.

- If threatened, intimidated or criminal damage - Police on 999 or 101, depending on if in-progress or reporting
- For noise nuisance - Environmental Health 0300 123 5015
- For fly-tipping, dog fouling, and abandoned vehicles where there could be a prosecution - 0300 123 5021.

Makers Market Comes to Congleton

The last Saturday of the month will see the pedestrian area packed with stalls as the Makers Market comes to town! The first market will be held on the 28th April and is designed to offer something different for local people as well as boost footfall



to help Congleton's town centre shops and market. The Makers Market company organises monthly artisan markets in 14 towns across the area and is really excited about bringing the offer to Congleton now that the public realm works are complete.

Managing Director Victoria Crane said: "Stall holders had a great time in Congleton at the Christmas market and we can't wait to be able to offer a regular monthly market. The local shops

were very positive when we consulted them about on the right time to hold this market for Congleton and we really believe everyone will benefit from this monthly event." For the latest information see: www.themakersmarket.co.uk

A Cenotaph Fit for Congleton

The Congleton Partnership and Congleton Town Council are working on a project to refurbish the Cenotaph site on Lawton Street Congleton. The current site is looking tired, has poor access for anyone with a disability and more crucially close on 250 names of the casualties are not recorded on the plaque. To right this wrong we need to extend the site to include more plaques for the names and at the same time improve accessibility, appearance and general

aesthetics of the area. Plans have been developed with the community and have received planning permission from Cheshire East (Application number 17/3982C). Congleton now has three years to raise the necessary £230,000 to make the project possible. £20,600 is already in the fund. Every amount large and small will help. If you wish to donate or have ideas of ways to raise funds contact Partnership Officer Mike Smith on 01260 270350 ext 7

Building Up for the National in Bloom Finals



In the year that Congleton in Bloom celebrates its 20th anniversary, the town will also have the opportunity to shine on the national stage as it takes its place in the National in Bloom finals. Congleton will be up against nine other towns, including Perth, Royal Tunbridge Wells and Bury St Edmonds for the coveted Best Large Town in the UK. Judging is likely to be late July for North West in Bloom and early August for Britain in Bloom. The In Bloom competitions are about

community involvement and environmental responsibility as well as horticultural excellence.

To stand out in the competition we really do need as many people as possible to get involved - you can help by:

- Sending In Bloom pictures of your favourite Congleton front gardens
- Join in local area tidies - See Congleton in Bloom on Facebook for dates, times and locations
- Help out with the Canal Adoption Group on the 4th Thursday of the month, 10-2pm; Tel 07742 450068
- Help look after a small local area - Litter pickers provided
- Report in grot spots to info@congletontowncouncil.co.uk

Heritage, Herbs and Health!

Congleton Bath House and Physic Garden is holding its first 2018 Open Day on Saturday May 12th. This historic and beautiful site is only two minutes' walk from the Town Hall, in the former grounds of Bradshaw House, Lawton Street. History tours of the early 19th century listed Bath House will be running throughout the day and there will also be tours of the garden with a medical herbalist. There will be other stalls, including one offering plants for sale.

Admission is free with the site open from 10 am until 4pm



WANTED - Stunning Seasonal Photos of Congleton

The Congleton in Bloom team is on the lookout for stunning photographs of Congleton for a 2019 calendar. If you're a keen amateur or just a little snap happy the In Bloom team would love you to enter. The competition is open until the end of July and you can enter a maximum of 12 pictures. The entries must be set in Congleton and need to be at least 1mb each in density. The creators of the 12 pictures chosen for the calendar will each receive a gift voucher. The

judges will be looking for a variety of seasons and locations across the town.

To enter, send your photos by email to info@congletontowncouncil.co.uk or in the post to: *CIB Photo Competition, Congleton Town Council, Congleton Town Hall, High Street, Congleton CW12 1BN*. The works must be your own. Details sent with the photo will only be used for the purposes of contacting the winners.

Lots of Reasons to Visit

Congleton's **Old Saw Mill** is going from strength to strength. An Artisan Shop has opened, selling hand-made cakes, biscuits, jams and chutneys, plus Congleton apple juice and cider as well as local beer. The café also serves delicious Vegan choices and a Slimmer's menu.

There's a whole host of classes from pilates to crafting, and a range of meeting rooms that can be hired out by the hour or day. All profits from the centre are used to enhance the lives of residents, particularly those who are socially isolated, or need additional help and support to lead happy and fulfilling lives. The hub always needs more volunteers - pop in and see what you can do for the Old Saw Mill, and what the Old Saw Mill can offer you! Back River Street, off Antrobus Street. Tel 01260 277658.

Moody Street Flower Power

Spring flower collages made by nursery children from Hilltop Day Nursery can be seen in the public Moody Street garden. The garden is home to sensory plants, bird boxes and a butterfly sculpture, and is open for all Congleton residents to enjoy. Children and staff from the nursery are regular visitors to the garden and help to maintain the area by planting new bulbs and installing bird feeders. For more information about the nursery, based in Chapel Street, contact Gail Ollier on 01260 276 085.

News In Brief...

MAYOR MAKING AND PARADE

Congleton's next Mayor Making ceremony will take place as part of the Annual Town Council meeting held in the Town Hall on Thursday 17th May at 7pm. This meeting is open to all and is part of a long tradition of Mayors in Congleton. The Mayor's Civic Parade will be held on Sunday 17th June, meeting at the back of the Town Hall at 2.15pm.

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Congleton's Annual Town Meeting will take place on Thursday 26th April from 7pm - 8.30pm. This is not a Council meeting but a meeting for residents where you can have your say on all matters connected to Congleton and is hosted by the Town Mayor. There will be a number of short presentations followed by a chance to ask questions.

PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER

A new order has been passed to give Police and Wardens extra powers to tackle anti-social behaviour in the Market area, Princess Street and Victoria Street. New signs will be put up in April and those breaking the order could risk a £100 fine.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Congleton Neighbourhood Plan should be going to Regulation 15 this summer and to a referendum by the end of 2018. More can be seen at www.mycongleton.org

LONGER TO WRITE SHORT STORY

The deadline for Congleton's 700 word short story competition about a Mayor has been extended until April 16th to allow the full use of the Easter Holidays to get creative! The stories will be judged by three authors and prizes awarded at the Triathlon on the 22 April.

More at www.congleton-tc.gov.uk

DECORATING THE TOWN

A series of public art workshops to create bunting to decorate the town for the summer activities is being planned by Congleton Community Projects. If you are interested in this project please contact jo@congletoncommunityprojects.org or call 07833 742200 for further details.

BRASS ON THE GRASS

The 5th Annual Brass on the Grass concert has been organised by Friends of Congleton Park and will take place on Sunday 17th June in Congleton Park. The afternoon of free music starts at 1.30pm and continues until 5.30pm. This is the start of a summer of Sunday band concerts in the park. The Concerts are from 2.30pm - 4.30pm. See 'Other Dates for Your Diary' for dates and venues.

Other Dates for Your Diary

April

- 7 Life Art Lessons, The Old Saw Mill, 11am
- 7 Congleton Choral Society- Spring Concert, Congleton Town Hall
- 7 Easter Dance, St. John's Community Centre, 8pm
- 10 Family Fun Festival, Congleton Leisure Centre, 1pm
- 10 Craft-ernoon Tea, Congleton Library, 2pm
- 12 CTC Council Meeting, Town Hall, 7pm- followed by Town hall Committee
- 20 NHS Blood Service, Town Hall, 1.45-4.15pm - 5.30-7.45pm
- 20-22 Gawsworth Methodist Church Flower Church
- 21 Life Art Lessons, The Old Saw Mill, 11am
- 22 Congleton's 2nd Triathlon, Congleton Park
- 23 Story & Tea for Grown-Ups, Congleton Library, 2.30pm
- 24-28 Constellations by Congleton Players, Daneside Theatre
- 26 Annual Town Meeting, Town Hall, 7pm

May

- 3 NHS Blood Service, Town Hall, 1.45-4.15pm - 5.30-7.45pm
- 5 Hidden Places Theatre Day & Performance, 1pm
- 5 May-We-Dance, St. John's Community Centre, 8pm
- 6 Museum Walk "Throstle Nest by Tommys Brook", Congleton Museum, 2pm
- 8 Craft-ernoon Tea, Congleton Library, 2pm
- 10-12 Wind in the Willows by Congleton Amateur Youth Theatre, Daneside Theatre
- 11 All Stars Cricket, Mossley Cricket Club, 5.30pm
- 13 "Finding Your Feet" Film at Daneside Theatre, 7pm
- 17 Annual Council Meeting & Mayor Making Ceremony, Town Hall, 7pm
- 19 Carnival Fundraiser- Soul Night, Congleton Town Hall, 7pm
- 19 Ga Ga- A Tribute to Queen, Daneside Theatre
- 24 NHS Blood Service, Town Hall, 1.45-4.15pm - 5.30-7.45pm
- 25 Beartown Boxing, Congleton Town Hall
- 26 Congleton Paddling Pool Opens for Summer
- 26 West Coast Eagles, Daneside Theatre

June

- 2 Early Summer Dance, St. John's Community Centre, 8pm
- 3 Museum Walk "Pub Crawl Through Time", Congleton Museum, 2pm
- 8 NHS Blood Service, Town Hall, 1.45-4.15pm - 5.30-7.45pm
- 10 Congleton Food & Drink Festival- 10th Anniversary
- 12 Craft-ernoon Tea, Congleton Library, 2pm
- 17 Congleton Town Mayor Civic Service, Town Hall
- 17 Congleton Brass on the Grass, Congleton Park
- 20 NHS Blood Service, Town Hall, 1.45-4.15pm - 5.30-7.45pm
- 24 Audley Brass Band Concert, Congleton Park
- 25 Story & Tea for Grown-Ups, Congleton Library, 2.30pm
- 30 Congleton Youth Orchestra Concert, Congleton Town Hall, 7.30pm

July

- 1 Museum Walk "Mill Walks and Industrial Yarns", Congleton Museum, 2pm
- 7 Congleton Carnival and Fun Day in the Park 11am - 7pm
- 7 One Act Playwriting Festival by the Congleton Players, Daneside Theatre, 7.30pm
- 8 Congleton Lions Club- Band Concert, Congleton Park, 2pm

Congleton in the Regional and National In Bloom Judging Competitions

Members of the public are welcome to attend Congleton Town Council (CTC) meetings – Anyone may ask questions during the 15 minutes allocated at the beginning of the 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 on 01260 271095.

For Congleton Town Council (CTC) contact 01260 270350. For more events, see www.congleton-tc.gov.uk

Paddling-Pool Time of Year!

Congleton Paddling Pool in Park Road is getting ready to open its gates for the summer season, starting on Saturday 26th May. The town's paddling pool will remain open, weather permitting, from 10am - 6pm daily until early September. Due to concerns over safety, numbers may need to be restricted on the busiest, hottest days. Last year this wasn't necessary. On days where more than 150 people wish to access the pool at the same time two sessions may be introduced and tickets given at the gate to restrict numbers.

Residents are reminded that the pool is designed for primary school aged children



and all children must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Alcohol, smoking/vaping, dogs and cycling are not permitted inside the Paddling Pool area. Users are reminded to be respectful of local residents and to remember that Daneside Theatre Car Park is a private car park and cannot be used for the pool. Town centre car parks are just a short walk from the pool and park.



Jazz & Blues Warm-Up Gig

Congleton Jazz and Blues Festival gets that little bit bigger each year! In 2018 the Town Hall will be joining in as a venue and things are starting early with a warm-up gig featuring some of the festival favourites - Robin Pierce Band, Heidi Browne and Vavoom on Saturday 21st April. Doors open at 7pm for what promises to be a super-doooper packed out night. Tickets are £10 in advance or £12 on the night and are available from the Town Hall Tourist Information Centre and A&A Music. All proceeds will go to the Congleton Jazz and Blues Festival.

Promenade Theatre and Workshops

There's a chance to experience theatre at venues across Congleton on Saturday 5th May. Promenade Theatre Day will start at 1.30pm with a kids performance of their own play, followed by 4-5 short pieces written and performed by students from Manchester Metropolitan University.

For those aged 12-17 wishing to take part in the kids performance there is a chance to help write, act, direct and create scenery at workshops being held at the Electric Picture House in Cross Street. The workshops are free but have limited places, they take place at various times on the 7th, 9th, 10th, 21st and 26th April and 3rd May. It promises to be lots of fun and a bit messy. Please reserve your child's place by

emailing electricpicturehouse@gmail.com or Tel: 01260 270908. A packed lunch will be needed on the full days.

In the evening of the Promenade Theatre Day there will be a professional performance at in the Electric Picture House at 7.30pm by Sam Brady and is called Things I Say When I Don't Say I Love You and was created as part of the Lowry's 'Developed With' programme. It is a poignant and perfectly judged one-man play about male relationships within one family when dealing with a life changing dementia diagnosis. This project is supported by Congleton Town Trust, and the Inclosure Trust.

MEDIEVAL BANQUET PLANNED FOR SEPTEMBER

The Medieval Banquet planned as part of the 700 Years of Mayoralty events, will now take place on Saturday, 22nd September as part of the calendar of events for the Congleton Heritage and Antiques Festival. It promises to be a memorable and spectacular evening in the Town Hall, so hold the date!