

# Bear Necessities

With News from Congleton Town Council & Community Groups  
Autumn 2018



**F**ollowing great feedback from the 2017 Christmas switch-on, Congleton will once again enjoy a Saturday Christmas Festival day.

Visitors to the town centre can enjoy a day of Christmas markets, entertainment, fun and tradition on Saturday 24th November. A bigger and better Makers Market will be held in the closed High Street and pedestrian area from 10am- 6pm. Stage and street entertainment, children's rides, a magical santa's grotto and local groups and charity bazaar in the Town Hall will start at noon and run through to 6pm. The traditional lantern parade will leave Lawton Street at 5pm, ready

to be near the tree for the Big Switch-On at 5.30pm. This will be followed by fireworks and a Congleton good-bye to Father Christmas.

The Christmas team is in need of more volunteers to help on the day with a variety of roles. If you can spare an hour or two between 11am-8pm and fancy being part of the team delivering a great Christmas event, please get in touch with us by emailing [info@congletontowncouncil.co.uk](mailto:info@congletontowncouncil.co.uk)

For more details about Christmas in Congleton see: [www.congleton-tc.gov.uk](http://www.congleton-tc.gov.uk)

**Look out for special treats around the town during a late night shopping event being planned for Thursday 6th December!**

## Congleton's War Memorial Hospital

Congleton people are being asked to unite together to maintain services at Congleton's War Memorial Hospital Services. Congleton Town Council and many others believe that the local services provided by this local hospital are vitally important for the people of Congleton and the surrounding parishes. With a recent announcement that the Minor Injuries Unit would not be open over the weekend during the winter months there is real concern that the hospital is being slowly wound down. There will be a peaceful protest at the hospital on Saturday 13th October at 10.30am.

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

## connected communities Centres

By the end of October, Congleton will have three connected community centres, which are being partially supported by Cheshire East Council to provide space for the delivery of much needed local services and activities. The Well-Being Hub on Parnell Square is already being used, The Old Saw Mill and Ruby's Fund Sensory Centre become connected centres from October 11th and 26th. Bromley Farm Community Centre will join soon. All Connected Community Centres will be equipped with a computer tablet with access to the Living Well website containing details of local groups, services and support.

## 100 Years On... A Call to Remember!

Congleton's Annual Remembrance Parade, organised by the Congleton Branch of The Royal British Legion with support from the Town Council, is expected to be bigger than ever on



Sunday 11th November, the 100th anniversary of the end of WW1. You can support the parade as it marches from Booth Street taking in West Street, Antrobus Street, Mill Street, the pedestrian area, Market Square and Bank Street before reaching the Cenotaph in Lawton Street. After the two minutes silence at 11am, dignitaries and associations will be called up to lay wreaths.

There will be a 100 year concert in the Town Hall on Friday 9th November, with funds going towards the cenotaph project to get the 250 missing names included onto a renovated area with more carved plaques. The poppy appeal will be launched at the October Makers Market on the 27th October.

## Margaret's Fund - Apply Now!

Groups, organisations and individuals with great ideas to strengthen or deliver cultural or environmental improvements in Congleton have until the end of November to apply for a share of £5000 being distributed through the Margaret Williamson Memorial Fund.

Forms and further details can be downloaded from [www.congletonpartnership.co.uk](http://www.congletonpartnership.co.uk) Those selected to receive funds will hear in December and receive the funds in January.

**Bear Necessities is produced by Congleton Town Council. The next newsletter will be delivered around 15th January. All contributions should be sent by 10th December to:**

**Jackie MacArthur, 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),



Peter Broom (C)



David Brown (C),  
Deputy Leader



Bob Edwards (C),  
Council Leader



George Hayes (C)



Sally-Ann Holland (C),  
Deputy Mayor



Anna Morrison (C)



Harvey Richards (C)



Glen Williams (C)

← **East Ward Councillors**

**West Ward Councillors** →



Suzie Akers Smith (C),  
Town Mayor



Dawn Allen (Ind)



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;  
Ind = Independent

## 700 YEARS OF MAYORALTY

A list of the names of Congleton Mayor's from 1318 to 2018 now has pride of place in the Town Hall, along with the pictures of many of the former Mayors.

Twelve of the fifteen contactable Mayors came to the Town Hall for a photo recently as part of the 700 years of Mayoralty.

Former Mayors Louise Bours MEP, Jeanne Whitehurst and Ann Thompson were unable to attend.



## CONGLETON POLICE - Working with you!



Some of the best intelligence the local police receive comes from within our own communities. A great deal of evidence and materials are needed to put together a case for searches or warrants, and the information provided by people living and working in Congleton is vital to help create a full intelligence picture. You can provide information to Cheshire Police in many ways, including anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or online at [www.crimestoppers.co.uk](http://www.crimestoppers.co.uk); via 101 (costs 15p per call) or via one of the Congleton police surgeries advertised on the Cheshire Police Website supported by local Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs). [www.cheshire.police.uk](http://www.cheshire.police.uk)

The PCSOs for wards covered by Congleton Police Station are Jessica Shore, Chris Munro, Georgia Creed, Julia Short and David Bell. Congleton also has six dedicated Beat Management Police Constables - Helen Weeks, Helen Hood, Emma Burns, Kate Ritchie, Ian Bell and Garry Charnock. The Beat Management Sergeant is Keith Graham and the Inspector Penny Jones. Messages can be left for any of the officers at Congleton Police Station in Market Square.

Between January and July this year the team dealt with 1219 reported crimes in the Congleton Town Council area. Violence and Sexual Offences, Public Order and Anti-social behaviour were the largest groups of reported crime.

For the most up to date information on crime statistics see the online crime maps at [www.police.uk/cheshire](http://www.police.uk/cheshire)

## Turning Over A New Leaf

Unemployed... want help getting into work, education or training? On the sick and want support getting work-ready?

Acorn are holding a 1-2-1 drop in session at Bromley well-being hub on Parnell Square 1.30pm - 3pm every Friday afternoon, for people to sign up to the New Leaf programme where they will get support towards education, training or employment and identifying barriers which may be

preventing you from living a happy comfortable life. Issues range from money advice, substance misuse, lower level mental health i.e anxiety, depression and low self-esteem.

New Leaf has access to training, volunteering and other services to help you along the way and has two mentors: one working with 16-24 year olds and the other 24+. Please drop in or call Ashley for more info 07545 211716.

## Help Needed for a Weed-Free Congleton!

Weeds are a growing problem in towns across the country. Changes in legislation on strengths of weed killers, along with reduced council resources means that if we are going to enjoy weed-free streets, more help is needed from local people. The In Bloom team spent hours clearing the judging routes, but it simply wasn't possible to give the same attention to all areas of the town.

The majority of weeds are in front of houses or businesses. If the occupiers could spend 15 minutes a couple of times a year, many of the weeds could be cleared - providing, of course, that it is safe to do so!

Ahead of next year's competitions the team would love everyone to play their part in making Congleton weed free.

# U3A Celebrates 20 Years in Congleton

Congleton's U3A celebrated 20 years of learning, laughing and living in Congleton with a party at Astbury Village Hall in September. The group is one of the biggest in the UK with around 1400 members and is still growing. Although known as the University of the Third Age it is not linked to universities nor is it academically based. The U3A exists for anyone living in or around Congleton who is no longer in full time employment (no age limit, no qualifications required) and wishes to learn, share knowledge, socialise or just have fun! Congleton U3A has more than 100 groups and activities under its umbrella, ranging from the arts, to sports, sciences, music, dance, walking, cycling, writing and languages. The groups are all led by passionate volunteers willing to share their knowledge, expertise and enthusiasm.

The U3A year runs from September to May - but it's not too late to join in! Find out more at [www.congeltonu3a.org.uk](http://www.congeltonu3a.org.uk) or by visiting the information desk between 10am-12 noon on the 1st Monday of each month during term time at the St John Ambulance HQ on West Street.



Founder members of Congleton U3A, Elizabeth and Ken Hallam, cut the U3A birthday cake.

For more information, see Elizabeth's group on Facebook.

## MORE LEADERS NEEDED!



Girlguiding Congleton is part of the largest organisation for girls and women in the UK. It

provides opportunities in Congleton for hundreds of girls and young women to be themselves, have fun, build friendships, gain valuable life skills and make a positive difference to their lives and communities.

Being involved in guiding as a volunteer is a

fantastic opportunity. You can do things you'd never dreamt of doing, add to your CV and make a real difference to the lives of today's girls and young women. Right now more adult volunteers are needed in Congleton so that more girls and young women can experience the joys of the guiding movement.

To find out more contact Sue Taylor on 07970 416371 or register your interest at [www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved) You'll be sure of a warm welcome!

## Elizabeth Statue for Congleton



**Elizabeth Wolstenholme Elmy** was an amazing woman who lived in Congleton for 50 years of her life. She was an activist who fought for equality through marches and speeches and wrote over 1600 petitions and 7000 letters. She worked tirelessly for education for girls, for women's rights to own property and for women's rights to vote. She died in 1918, just after the first women got the right to vote.

Elizabeth was nicknamed the brains of the suffragist movement and is listed on the Millicent Fawcett Statue in Parliament Square in London. In Congleton there is only a blue plaque on her home in Buglawton. Now a local group is working hard to make a statue of Elizabeth a reality for Congleton town centre so she can be remembered and inspire future generations. Raffle tickets to raise funds towards the statue can be purchased from the TIC and other outlets. The raffle will be drawn at the Christmas Lights Switch on.

For more, see Elizabeth's group on Facebook.

## Shout, Shout Up With Your Song!

See an interactive celebration of the work of Elizabeth Wolstenholme Elmy and the passing of the 1918 Representation of the People Act in Congleton's pedestrian area at 11am and 2pm on Monday 29th October. During these sessions re-enactors 'Act it Out' and will depict those issues which, for over 20 years, had divided the nation and even today have not

been completely resolved. In addition to the re-enactment, local people are encouraged to visit the exhibition on the life and work of Elizabeth at Congleton Museum, which will open especially for this event. Usually the Museum is open Tuesday - Saturday from 10.30am - 4.15pm and on Sundays from 12 noon - 4.15pm.

## News In Brief...

### EAST CHESHIRE HOSPICE XMAS TREE COLLECTION

You can help this very worthy charity by giving a donation to its volunteers to take away your Christmas tree this year. Tree collections will be on the 12th and 13th January. Details of how to register are at [www.eastcheshirehospice.org.uk/echtrees](http://www.eastcheshirehospice.org.uk/echtrees) or tel 01625 433477.

### CHRISTMAS DAY MEAL

The Old Saw Mill will once again be opening its doors to offer Christmas dinner and companionship to those who may otherwise be alone on Christmas day. Places will be limited and if you are interested in enjoying a meal or volunteering to help serve on the day please contact the OSM on 01260 277658.

### CONGLETON LINK ROAD

Graham Construction has been appointed to build the Congleton Link Road. Work is expected to start early in 2019 and finish late 2020. Local meetings have been promised before construction begins to discuss issues for residents and businesses. Details of the meetings and updates on the Link Road will be at [www.congleton-tc.gov.uk](http://www.congleton-tc.gov.uk)

### RODE HALL SILVER BAND

If you like to play a tune, Rode Hall Silver Band would like to hear from you! The band, which has been making music in Cheshire since 1837, is on the search for more players! They meet in Scholar Green to rehearse on a Thursday from 7.30pm - 9.30pm and on a Sunday from 7pm - 9pm. To find out more information, take a look at [www.rodehallband.org.uk](http://www.rodehallband.org.uk) or contact [bandmanager@rodehallband.org.uk](mailto:bandmanager@rodehallband.org.uk)

### CONGLETON STREET PASTORS

This October marks the fifth anniversary of street pastors in Congleton. The pastors, who volunteer from local churches, take to the streets on alternative Fridays from 8pm-midnight and Saturdays from 10pm to 2am helping to make sure that everyone is safe and well. We wish them well for the next five years!

### NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Congleton's long awaited neighbourhood plan is hoping to be out for its final level of consultation ahead of a referendum on the plan. For more information, see our website [www.congleton-tc.gov.uk](http://www.congleton-tc.gov.uk)

### CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR CHARITY

Congleton Cricket Club is the venue for a 70s, 80s and 90s party to raise funds for the Congleton Town Mayor's Charities. Tickets cost £12 and are available from the Town Hall, Cricket Club and through Rob Moreton.

# Other dates for your diary...

## October

- 8th-13th: National Libraries Week, events at Congleton Library
- 11th CTC Finance & Policy Cmt, Town Hall, 7pm
- 12th Love Gin Event, Town Hall, 7.30pm
- 18th CTC Council Meeting, Town Hall, 7pm
- 20th Motown Soul Night, Town Hall
- 22nd Story & Tea for Grown-ups, Congleton Library, 2.30pm
- 25th CTC Planning Cmt, Town Hall, 7pm
- 27th Makers Market and Poppy Appeal launch, town centre
- 28th Film at Daneside Theatre

## November

- 1st Delia Metcalfe Fashion Show, Town Hall
- 2nd The West Coast Eagles at Daneside Theatre, 7.30pm
- 3rd St James Bazaar, New Life Church, 10-2.30pm 50p entry
- 3rd Hope4Em Charity Concert, Town Hall
- 3rd Rotary Bonfire, Congleton Park
- 4th Museum Walk "The Co-operative in Congleton", Congleton Museum, 2pm
- 6th NHS Blood Service, Town Hall, 1.45-4.15pm // 5.30-7.45pm
- 8th CTC Community, Environment & Services Cmt, Town Hall, 7pm
- 9th 100th WW1 Remembrance Concert, Town Hall
- 11th Remembrance Parade and Service
- 14th-17th: Congleton Amateur Youth Theatre present "Oliver", Daneside Theatre
- 15th CTC Town Hall Committee, Town Hall, 7pm
- 16th Congleton Football Club Dinner, Town Hall
- 17th U3A Christmas/Craft Fayre, New Life Church 10-2pm
- 20th South Cheshire Floral Society Demonstration, Daneside Theatre, 7.30pm
- 22nd NHS Blood Service, Town Hall, 1.45-4.15pm // 5.30-7.45pm
- 22nd CTC Planning Committee, Town Hall, 7pm
- 23rd East Cheshire Hospice Charity Concert Night, Town Hall
- 24th Congleton Christmas Lights Switch-On Event, Town Centre, 10am-6pm
- 25th Film at Daneside Theatre
- 29th CTC Finance & Policy Cmt, Town Hall, 7pm
- 30th 1st Dec - A Christmas Concert, Daneside Theatre

## December

- 1st Congleton Youth Orchestra Concert, Congleton Town Hall, 7pm
- 6th NHS Blood Service, Town Hall, 1.45-4.15pm // 5.30-7.45pm
- 6th CTC Council Meeting, Town Hall, 7pm
- 6th-8th: Louise Carter School of Dance Show, Daneside Theatre
- 14th CTHEP Christmas Party Night, Town Hall, 7pm
- 16th Film at Daneside Theatre
- 22nd Congleton Choral Society Concert, Town Hall, 7pm
- 27th NHS Blood Service, Town Hall, 1.45-4.15pm // 5.30-7.45pm

## January

- 3rd CTC Planning Committee, Town Hall, 7pm
- 10th CTC Finance & Policy Committee, Town Hall, 7pm
- 12th-19th: Congleton Pantomime present "Snow White", Daneside Theatre

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 Chief Officer, in writing or by e-mail, at least 7 working days before the day 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](http://www.congleton-tc.gov.uk)

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# Bonfire & Fireworks in the Park

**Congleton Rotary Club** will be lighting up the sky on Saturday 3rd November with Congleton's annual bonfire and firework display, taking place in Congleton Park. Gates to the park will open at 5pm, with the torch-lit parade to light the bonfire at 6pm. The firework display for the children will begin at 6.30pm with the main firework display commencing at 7.30pm. In the park there will be stalls,

refreshments and children's rides.

Tickets are available from the Tourist Information Centre in the Town Hall. Tickets will also be on sale in the Town Centre on Saturday 20th and 27th October. Tickets cost £6 for adults and £4 for children (under 5s free) if purchased before Saturday November 3rd and £8 for adults and £6 for children on the day. All proceeds going to charity.

## Strictly Musicals

To give theatre-goers in Congleton a real treat, Congleton Musical Theatre (CMT) and Centre Stage are coming together to present "Strictly Musicals" an evening of terrific music from memorable shows such as Carousel, Oklahoma, Les Miserables, Phantom of the Opera and many more. Of special note will be numbers from The King and I, CMT's next

production. "Strictly Musicals" will be at Daneside Theatre on Friday 26th and Saturday 27th October at 7.30pm.

Visit [www.congletonmusicaltheatre.co.uk](http://www.congletonmusicaltheatre.co.uk) for more details. Tickets are sure to sell quickly; yours can be obtained via the website or by calling in at Congleton Tourist Information Centre.

## Generations of Lantern Making!



The tradition of Christmas Lanterns is alive and strong in Congleton with generations of families joining in this fun activity! This year's lantern making workshops will be held at the Electric Picture House, Cross Street. Come along and join in any time between

10.30am and 3.30pm on Saturdays 3rd, 10th and 17th November. All equipment is provided and experienced makers are on hand to offer advice and help. A £1.50 donation towards the light would be appreciated. All that is asked is that you return on Saturday 24th November and carry your lantern as part of the grand procession at the lights switch-on. For information, tel. 01260 270908 or email [jo@congletoncommunityprojects.org](mailto:jo@congletoncommunityprojects.org)

## Congleton Pantomime proudly presents...

# Snow White

**The fairest panto in all the land!**

Hi Ho... Hi Ho... to panto land we go! For its 40th Anniversary Show, Congleton Pantomime is excited to present the fairest panto in all the land... Snow White. After the Magic Mirror declares Snow White to be the fairest in all the land, the Wicked Queen is sent into a jealous rage. Will her friends be able to save Snow White from the Queen's rage and will they all be able to live happily ever after?

Enjoy traditional family pantomime fun with Snow White, her charming Prince,

the Wicked Queen, and seven dependable dwarfs, backed by lavish sets, wonderful costumes, and

all the cheers, jokes, and jeers everyone loves from the yearly panto! Mirror, mirror on the wall... this is the must-see panto of them all!

Performances are from the 12th - 19th January. Tickets cost £9 from the Tourist Information Centre in the Town Hall. Signed performances for those with hearing difficulties take place on Sunday 13th at 1pm and 5.30pm and Wed Jan 16th at 7.30pm. For the best view of the signer, please book seat numbers 11 to 20.