

CONGLETON IN BLOOM

CREATING A CLEANER AND GREENER CONGLETON

2018



CONTENTS

Page 3–	Congleton In Bloom
Page 4–	2017-18 Aims & Objectives
Page 5–	How CIB is Supported
Page 6–	Improving a Town
Page 7–	Blooming Special Year
Page 8-10–	2017-18 Calendar
Page 11–	A Year in the Life of In Bloom
Page 12-13–	Horticultural Achievement
Page 14-15–	Environmental Responsibility
Page 16–	Pride of Place
Page 17-18–	Community Participation
Page 19–	In Bloom for All the Ages
Page 20-21–	New & Improved
Page 22–	Blooming in Spring
Page 23–	Businesses In Bloom
Page 24–	It's Your Neighbourhoods
Page 25–	Recycling Figures
Page 26–	Plant List
Page 27–	Blooming Facts
Page 28–	Thanks to...



David Brown Chairman of Congleton In Bloom:

"The In Bloom competitions are a real force for good, generating a great deal of improvement and community pride in Congleton. Over the years there has been an amazing amount of support from local communities, businesses, schools, groups and individuals who all pull together to make our town look as good as it possibly can. There is so much more to In Bloom than the pretty flowers, Congleton In Bloom brings the community together!"

CONGLETON IN BLOOM

The In Bloom Committee's core team of ten members have been meeting in the Town Hall since November 2017 on a monthly basis and fortnightly from mid-May to get all the plans into actions for the summer period. In between these meetings, the committee members meet with other community and voluntary groups to help bring the plans and ideas to life and to help enhance the work in and around the town, contributing to a cleaner, greener Congleton.

Congleton In Bloomers

Amanda Martin

Anna Morrison

Bob Edwards

David Brown– Chairman of In Bloom

Glen Williams- Tidy Town Champion

Jackie MacArthur- Town Centre Marketing Manager

Margaret Gartside

Martha Hayes

Patti Pinto- Eco Learning

Ruth Burgess- Streetscape Development Manager



Congleton In Bloom was formed by a small group of dedicated volunteers in 1998. They were determined to do something to brighten up Congleton. Congleton In Bloom is now celebrating its 20th Anniversary and a great deal has been achieved through cleaning and greening Congleton!

The group has achieved national and regional recognition for its efforts:

- Won North West in Bloom– 2000, 2005, 2013, 2015, 2016 & 2017
- North West in Bloom GOLD—2000, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 & 2017
 - Finalists in Britain in Bloom– 2001, 2007, 2014, 2016 & 2018
 - Britain in Bloom Silver– 2007
 - Britain in Bloom GOLD- 2014 & 2016
 - Six time winners of the Cheshire Civic Pride Awards
- Fifteen Green Flag sites for the town– Congleton Park awarded 10 Green Flags
- Congleton Park Awarded the Cheshire Playing Fields Les George Parks Award 2017

2017-18 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- ◇ To make Congleton an attractive place to live, work, shop and visit
- ◇ To provide opportunities for volunteers in the community to become involved either individually or in groups
- ◇ To make Congleton a clean, green town through anti-litter campaigns, organising litter picks, removal of graffiti, removal of fly posting, improving local grot spots and recycling campaigns
- ◇ To promote tourism and support the retail sector by providing attractive floral displays and green spaces
- ◇ To raise standards and promote the town by entering competitions such as RHS in Bloom and the Cheshire Civic Pride Awards
- ◇ To encourage Eco Schools to gain green flag awards, encourage bio-diversity, energy conservation and the growing of local food
- ◇ To involve young people in taking an active role in Congleton in Bloom
- ◇ To encourage people to take pride in the place they live



CIB SURVEY 2017-18 QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS

- ◇ 99% had heard of Congleton in Bloom
- ◇ 90% thought it was worthwhile or very worthwhile, this was a 1% increase from the questionnaire results in 2017
- ◇ Our bloomers range in age; 6% young bloomers (Under 25), 75% Bloomers (26-65) and 19% Senior Bloomers (66+)

HOW CIB IS SUPPORTED

Name	Amount	Details
Congleton Town Council	£12,000	In Bloom Budgets
Congleton Partnership	£640	Supporting the In Bloom Projects
Congleton Businesses	£4,675	Sponsoring Hanging Baskets
Business Sponsorship	£305	Additional £10 sponsorship pledges
National Grid	£500	Disruption from the Town Centre Gas Works
Redrow	£350	In Bloom Sponsorship Grant
Seddon Homes	£570	Sponsor of Planters at the Bus Station and Library Hanging Baskets
Tesco	£2,000	Bags of Help Grant to re-sheet the Poly Tunnel
U3A	£250	Sponsor of a Town Centre Planter
Victoria Beds	£250	Sponsor of a Town Centre Planter
Congleton Young Peoples Trust & Congleton Inclosure Trust	£300 + £600 = £900	Sponsorship of the B2B Gardens
TOTAL	£22,440	
Plus Volunteer Hours	£40,000	4,000 hours at £10 per hour



IMPROVING A TOWN

Over the past 20 years Congleton in Bloom and its partner organisations have physically transformed many parts of the town. This has had multiple benefits – increasing Community Pride, helping people make friends and feel part of the town, helping people to learn new skills and to gain confidence. Congleton In Bloom is one of the biggest and longest lasting community campaigns in Congleton.

The group was set up by volunteers in 1998 and run fully on volunteer power until 2011. It was a campaign that the Town Council wanted to see continue and so agreed to take a more active role as this is a great way to work with the community.

In 2000 Congleton won best large town in the North West: A huge motivating factor pushing the town to achieve more and do more.

Each year the In Bloom team looks to improve new areas and then maintain this improvement. In Bloom has been responsible for so much change that much of it has just become part of Congleton.

Below are some of the transformations that you won't see on the tour:



Moody Street Garden



Public Realm Scheme



New Town Centre



Garden of Reflection





BLOOMING SPECIAL YEAR 2018 ANNIVERSARIES

Congleton In Bloom celebrates 20 years

Congleton Back2Back Gardens celebrates 5 years

**Congleton Sustainability celebrates 10 years of their
Apple Juice Campaign**

Congleton Food & Drink Festival Celebrates 10 years

**Congleton Town Council celebrates
700 years of Mayoralty**

**U3A celebrates 20 years of
Learning, Laughing and Living**

**Hillary Avenue Allotments celebrates
10 years of the allotments**

Buglawton In Bloom Celebrates 15 years

Carnival is celebrated in Congleton

**100 Years since the Suffragette Movement—
Elizabeth Wolstenholme Elmy— Congleton's Suffragist**

2017-18 CALENDAR

In Bloom is an all year round commitment- the work and planning never stops!

Our calendar of events include:

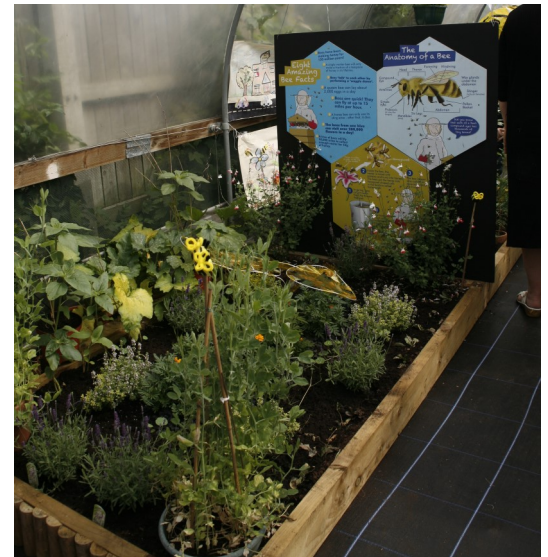
July

- ◇ Last minute tidying up and litter picking before the North West judges arrive
- ◇ Young people from Visyon finish the bug hotel & add sensory crafts to their garden
- ◇ Team member asked to be GreenPlanIt mentor
- ◇ Marlfields School Garden at RHS Tatton– Highly Commended



August:

- ◇ Open weekends at the Back 2 Back Bug Gardens, designed & planted by 350 young bloomers, ranging 2-20
- ◇ Wildflower meadow in full bloom- Congleton Park
- ◇ Keep on top of watering, deadheading and weeding
- ◇ Apple collections begin at Astbury Mere Visitors Centre/ Old Saw Mill continues until November
- ◇ Taking pictures and notes for plant choice decision making for the following year
- ◇ Free summer concerts continue in the park organised by the Friends of Congleton Park Team– to enjoy the music and the floral displays
- ◇ First meeting with the IYN's– to make sure their visions for Summer 2018 will all be met



September:

- ◇ Open weekends at the Back 2 Back Gardens with the 2017 Bug theme
- ◇ Keep on top of watering, deadheading and weeding
- ◇ Taking pictures and notes for plant choice decision making for the following year
- ◇ Guided walk to celebrate the bicentenary of Edward Kemp at Congleton Park
- ◇ IYN Congleton Bath House & Physic Garden open day with a herbalist giving talks on site
- ◇ Congleton & District Horticultural Society host their annual show in the Town Hall



October:

- ◇ Reviewed the marking sheets to plan for improvements for both sets of 2018 judging
- ◇ Agreed Park Plaque to celebrate Congleton In Bloom 20th anniversary– designed by members of the group and planted by the head gardener of the Streetscape team



2017-18 CALENDAR

November & December:

- ◇ Congleton In Bloom received the North West In Bloom results from the summer judging:
 - Best Large Town and Category Winner, GOLD– Congleton**
 - Britain in Bloom– Becoming Finalists for 2018**
 - 1x Level 3, 1x Level 4 & 6x Level 5 Awards for the IYN's**
 - 3x Gold Awards for the Businesses**
 - Astbury Mere Care Home Awarded "The Community Housing Award"**
- ◇ Town Centre Winter Tubs planted up by the school children, helped by the Mayor and his family
- ◇ Second In Bloom Survey carried out for feedback and public perception
- ◇ Delivery of Christmas Trees
- ◇ In Bloom Celebration Evening– more than 120 attendants
- ◇ Streetscape team protect plants from the frost
- ◇ Rotary Club plant up– 10,000 crocus plants



January & February:

- ◇ The Congleton In Bloom team had the honour of meeting HRH The Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall at the Royal Visit in the Town Hall– the group was commended on their community achievement
- ◇ Designs, colour choices and plant orders were finalised and ready to be planted in the spring
- ◇ Winter maintenance– pruning trees, hedges and shrubs etc.
- ◇ Recycled over 120 Christmas Trees
- ◇ Team member attended Britain in Bloom finalists seminar in Birmingham to meet the judges and other finalists
- ◇ New Community Orchard feature added to the entrance of Tesco Barn Road– this was worked on by volunteers, including Tesco's Community Champion



March & April:

- ◇ More meeting with the IYN entrants, to make sure all works and aims are on track
- ◇ Congleton's Big Spring Clean was disrupted by the snow and bad weather
- ◇ More work and plants added by volunteers to the Community Garden
- ◇ Orders received for 230 hanging baskets for the shops in the town centre
- ◇ Members of the In Bloom team gave a talk at Congleton's Annual Town Meeting
- ◇ Held a plant-up and recruitment session at the Easter Treats day in the Town Centre.
- ◇ The In Bloom team was awarded funding from the Tesco Bags of Help Scheme to re-sheet the community poly-tunnel.
- ◇ Two members from the In Bloom team attended the North West In Bloom seminar at Myerscough College- here they participated in the workshops on preparing advice sheets for main town entries
- ◇ The first of monthly Makers Market events in the Town Centre on the last Saturday of the month
- ◇ Work on the £1 million public realm scheme was completed and the In Bloom team held a walk through to agree a plant-up scheme.
- ◇ Congleton Town Council, Cheshire East and Friends of Congleton Park set a 5 year management plan for Congleton Park. Details of the management plan were written to comply with guidelines of the heritage lottery fund.
- ◇ Daneside Theatre joined the In Bloom movement by purchasing, planting up and showing off their new large planters. The planters create a floral entrance to the theatre
- ◇ RHS Tatton accepts Congleton In Bloom's blooming boarder design



2017-18 CALENDAR

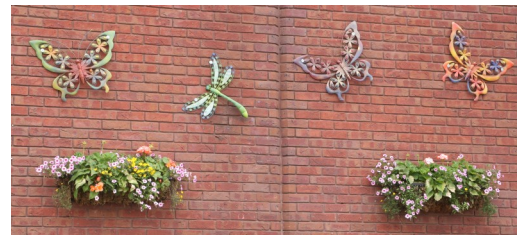
May:

- ◇ Town Centre tubs planted up for the summer and all old compost recycled by local school children
- ◇ Hanging baskets, troughs and planters brighten up the town
- ◇ More community Great British Spring Cleans organised
- ◇ More volunteers signed up to the In Bloom database
- ◇ Beds rotovated and fertilised ready for bedding to be planted
- ◇ Bradwell Court has an open plant-up day session with residents and volunteers
- ◇ Rangers attend Astbury Mere to help weed the Community Orchard
- ◇ Hilltop Nursery continue to look after the sensory garden in Moody Street– they also held an art competition, judged by In Bloom team members



June:

- ◇ Streetscape team added 26,063 summer plants to the roundabouts and public spaces
- ◇ Many residents and visitors enjoy the local produce at Congleton's annual Food & Drink Festival
- ◇ Town Bears on the roundabout have their yearly hair cut! And gained a decorative wheelbarrow feature designed and created by member of the Adullam Homes Housing Association Limited.
- ◇ New butterfly artwork feature also designed and created by Adullam on Morrisons wall
- ◇ Intensive summer season of mowing, weed spraying, strimming and watering
- ◇ Schools and Youth Groups get organised for the 5 & 20 themed Back2Back gardens.
- ◇ IYN Heathview Care Home holds an open garden event day
- ◇ Congleton Park is awarded the Cheshire Playing Fields Les George award 2017
- ◇ Congleton Fire Cadets work on the West Road entrance project– with the theme of 100 year anniversary of the Suffragettes
- ◇ Two open garden trails held this month by the U3A group and Congleton Choral Society
- ◇ Members of the Fire Brigade and Fire Cadets have helped to clear the beds at the entrance to the West Street, ready for planting
- ◇ Local school children planted up new planters for the new café area at IYN Astbury Mere

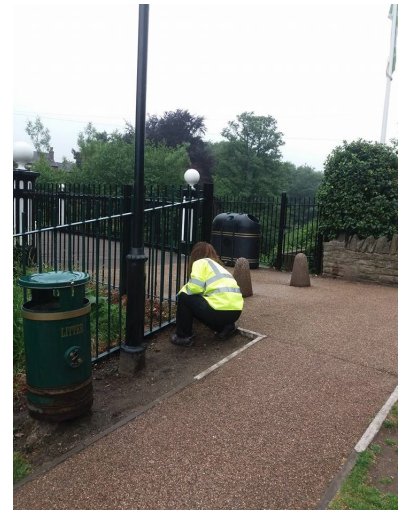


July:

- ◇ Battle with the hot weather to keep their areas watered and looking their best for the summer period
- ◇ B2B Gardens planted and open
- ◇ Grass and hedge cutting, deadheading, weeding, watering and litter picking works ongoing
- ◇ Commissioned by In Bloom, the Flower Festival at St. Peter's Church is confirmed with arrangements based on "Life of Congleton through the ages" once entries in, this will be open to the public
- ◇ Hillary Avenue Allotment Association hold at 10th anniversary celebration event
- ◇ Congleton In Bloom plants a blooming boarder at RHS Tatton
- ◇ In Bloomers enter the Superheroes and Villains Carnival– Poison Ivy theme.



A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF IN BLOOM



HORTICULTURAL ACHIEVEMENT

In 2018 the emphasis is on bold and bright colours to celebrate our Carnival year. The colourful and attractive floral displays along with the town centre bunting creates a fun, festival feel to the town. The routes into town are lined with brightly coloured plants, with alternating coloured troughs adorning the centre of Mountbatten Way. This year the Congleton In Bloom team experimented with colour zoning the different areas of the town, following advice from North West In Bloom judges to give each area a bold impact. Our zones consist of the Town Centre, Bus Station Area, Mountbatten Way- including the roundabouts at each end and following on into the park.



This is the fourth full “In Bloom year” in which the Streetscape services have been managed by Congleton Town Council. This has made it easier to co-ordinate work with the In Bloom team and Friends of Congleton Park, it has enabled the groups to introduce town-wide themes.

Congleton Town Council’s Streetscape team is made up of 13 operatives, with one full-time apprentice, another apprentice has recently graduated as a full time Streetscape employee. The team continues to work in both the park and town centre, planting up the public open spaces and gaining new horticultural skills along the way, ensuring these skills aren’t lost.

Public areas are re-planted twice a year, so there are only four weeks in the year without plants. Several areas have been converted to sustainable planting to provide year round colour, reduce work load and attract pollinators, especially bees.

The In Bloom team noted and planned works to improve on the North West In Bloom judges feedback from 2017: signage in the park and town centre have improved with the new Town Centre Maps in the Car Parks and new interpretation boards are planned for the park to explain the history of the park and its current design. Litterbins have also been replaced in both the town centre and park, these are dual recycling bins.



Horticultural Practice

The team do a great job watering, deadheading and weeding public places, this along with litter picking and public bin emptying. This is backed up by the support of local volunteers at the many organised Town Tidy events that the In Bloom team organise. These events are carried out in different locations across the town and used to recruit new volunteers in these locations. The areas that are heavily managed by volunteers include Astbury Mere Country Park, Community Garden, Congleton Bath House and Physic Garden, Congleton Canal, Capitol Walk Garden, Dutch Wall, Fairground Car Park, Railway Station, the Secret Garden at the Old Saw Mill and the Buglawton “green” area in front of the Church House.

HORTICULTURAL ACHIEVEMENT

Congleton Park- The park is maintained by Congleton Town Council's Streetscape team with help from the Friends of Congleton Park. In recent years, the four small beds in the park have been replaced with two larger curved beds with a change in bedding to more perennial planting. Sustainable planting has been added at the sides of the park, which leads to a new seating structure in honour of the founder and great supporter of Congleton In Bloom, Margaret Williamson MBE DL. The roses in the two large beds have been replaced with grasses. There is a fun children's bed planted up as a butterfly and an allotment has been added with an established herb garden, information flyers are provided for the allotment to show what is grown in the beds.

The formal plaque, designed by a member of the In Bloom team, to celebrate the 20th anniversary, is planted using carpet bedding to create the detailed design.

Congleton Community Garden- Planted and maintained by volunteers, the garden has won many awards. It is planted with a huge variety of trees, shrubs, hardy perennials, bulbs and has over 20 species of roses in the "scented" garden.

Capitol Walk- The Food4Free garden was planted by volunteers who meet monthly to maintain the edible and bee-friendly plants. This adds all year round colour.

Dutch Wall- Adding colour and hardy plants, this area is looked after by a volunteer.

Margaret's Place- This public open space was renovated in 2015 adding perennials, shrubs, an apple core sculpture, soft fruit bushes and trees and bee-friendly bedding as well as outdoor gym equipment. New bulbs and signage were added in 2016.

Moody Street Garden- This area has had a make-over with new surfacing and furniture. A sensory garden has been planted by local nursery groups and is a calm, sensory retreat in town.

Mountbatten Way- 100 brightly coloured troughs and 78 half moon planters line the centre and outer edges of the road. In Spring 2017, the Partnership project for greening Mountbatten Way started, by removing the railings and replacing 16 old planters with new containers and added a total of 12 new Rowan trees in large wooden box planters. After the success of the first section being completed, Congleton Partnership funded the opposite end of the carriageway. There are now 17 trees in total.

Roundabouts- Congleton has a reputation for fantastic roundabout designs. Three with seasonal bedding plants and two with sustainable planting. This year the two bears roundabout has a wheelbarrow full of bedding plants as an additional feature to give a splash of colour.

Congleton & District Horticultural Society- Over 50 years old, the group has monthly meetings, open to the public with an annual show in September at the Town Hall, where local people display over 140 varieties of plants, flowers, fruit, veg and handicrafts. A record number of young gardeners were presented with awards.



ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

Congleton is a Transition and Fairtrade Town. We take our commitment to the environment seriously. Congleton has one of the biggest clusters of Eco Schools in the North West. All 16 schools are registered with the RHS campaign for school gardening, with awards at various levels. 13 of these schools have been awarded at least one green flag from KBT Eco-schools. Their eco topics include school grounds, biodiversity, healthy living, litter and waste.

Conservation & Biodiversity

Astbury Mere Country Park and Eco Centre— Astbury Mere is a former silica sand quarry that has been transformed into a much loved Country Park, managed by a volunteer trust with paid Countryside Ranger Support. The land covers 1400 acres of open space— which includes a wildflower meadow, pond, all weather easy access path and Cheshire's first and only Keep Britain Tidy Eco Centre. The majority of tree stock is less than 40 years old. The site has been awarded multiple green flags and is one of the most visited free attractions in the North West. The trust raises £30,000 a year for upkeep of the site. Schools from around the area use the educational facilities. There is a programme of activities including; weekly Parkrun, Nordic walking, Pram Fit and Nature walks. The Congleton Sustainability Group introduced a Community Orchard in 2012 within easy walking distance of the Mere, in Spring 2016, this was upgraded with new steps, sculpture and soft fruit under planting. A commemorative woodland and wildflower meadow for late Trustee Margaret Williamson was created at the Mere in 2016 by volunteers. The Orchard at the Mere was the first of Congleton's community orchards.

Congleton Town Wood— The Town Wood is an important biological resource in the heart of Congleton to the north of the park. It is an Ancient and Semi-Natural woodland, a 1000 year old remnant of riparian woodland, now a County SBI. Formal bound gravel paths ensure accessibility through the wood throughout the year and the park wardens along with volunteer teams ensure the paths are kept clear. During the Spring there is a superb display of native bluebells, local people can find out more through organised walks and talks. Numerous bird species can be observed in the wood and new bird boxes have been added, along with an interpretation board.

Dane-In-Shaw Pastures— This is an SSSI with grassland of national importance. It is managed by Cheshire East Countryside Rangers with support from local farmers. In 2014 it was designated a Coronation Meadow— an honour awarded to one meadow in every county. It is also a "donor" meadow, which provides seeds for the creation of new meadows at "recipient" sites in Cheshire, including nearby Swettenham Meadows.

Wildflower Meadows— Congleton Rotary has sponsored a wildflower meadow in the park at the site of the annual Rotary Bonfire for 7 years. There are also wildflower meadows at the Mere and at many of the schools.



ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

Eco Schools Project— Out of the 16 Primary and Secondary Schools in Congleton, one of the schools became joint Winner of the Cheshire East JRO finals after two years as runner up. The major project was harvesting 225kg excess apples in their school orchard, making 118 bottles of Saint Mary's Apple Juice. They were awarded best set of recycling materials in 2017 out of 60 schools in Cheshire East having made 368 bottles of their own apple juice. In Summer 2017 Havannah Primary School won an award for wildlife equipment from Learning from Landscapes. In May 2018 Havannah's local IYN group Buglawton In Bloom visited the school to talk about litter and recycling, resulting in a class litter pick around the school area after the talk.

Re-Using Summer & Winter Bedding— Over the past three years there has been a campaign to re-use bedding plants where possible. After the children's winter plant up, the winter bedding was bagged up and offered to local residents of Congleton to over-winter and use again in the Spring/ Summer. The plants not taken were used for composting.

Sustainability Group— The Sustainability Group collect the apples to make them into apple juice and cider, this prevents the apples from going to waste. 5 tons of apples were collected in 2017. Other unwanted fruits that were donated were made into a variety of jams, jellies and chutneys. The profits from the sales of these items are ploughed back into local community projects. Teams of volunteers from Congleton High School make juice at the Old Saw Mill weekly— for the first time, the team have experimented with making cider vinegar.

Recycling

All households have "silver" recycling bins collected every two weeks, 78% of waste taken to the household amenity centre is recycled. This is less than 5% landfill.

Recycling Bins in the Town & Park— dual bins incorporating separate sections for recycling and general waste.

Congleton Park— In the park there are four water butts and a compost heap to help with the town efforts to recycle

Reuse of Planters— The planters that have been replaced in the Town Centre and along Mountbatten Way have been reused by local groups, who have purchased the planters and re-planted to bring some colour to their areas— groups include: Bromley Farm In Bloom, Daneside Theatre, Old Saw Mill, Residents in Mossley.

Local Heritage

Congleton Park— Originally designed in 1871 by Edward Kemp. September 2017 marked Kemp's bicentenary, the Friends of Congleton Park team celebrated this with a guided tour around the park in his name.

Congleton Bath House & Physic Garden— Introducing plants used for medicinal and industry purposes in Congleton since the 18th Century and protecting the heritage. It is set to become a national teaching centre for medicinal remedies using their herbal gardens, this is to educate and pass on horticultural skills.

Congleton Bears— Congleton is nicknamed "Bear Town" from the 17th Century when according to legend Congleton Rare, Congleton Rare, Sold the Bible to Buy a Bear! You'll see bear references all around the town— including the bears on the main roundabout.

Heritage Trail— Congleton is hosting its first Heritage and Antiques Festival in September 2018. More than 40 activities are planned including a heritage trail.

Treo Statue— New statue erected to a local war hero dog "Treo" funds raised by local people to honour this award winning dog.

West Street Entrance— The project in this area has been planted using Green, White and Violet plants— an acronym for "Give Women the Vote" as this area is tribute to the 100 year celebration of women gaining the right to vote.



PRIDE OF PLACE

Congleton Town Centre- has benefited from a £1 million Public Realm improvement scheme. This has seen new street furniture, lighting and paving, as well as new planting opportunities. Although footfall was reduced during the works, the town centre is now attracting more people. Occupancy rates for the town centre are at 90%.

Shop Front Improvement Grant– Congleton Town Council introduced a £5,000 shop front improvement grant to encourage shops to carry out repairs and decorate.

Cenotaph– Planning permission has been granted for a £225k renovation of this site. Works include adding more plaques at the site to include the 250 missing names. It will also improve accessibility and the general aesthetics of the area. The Streetscape team are currently responsible for the maintenance and planting up of the site.

Congleton Park awarded the Cheshire Playing Fields Les George Parks Award 2017

Congleton Bowling Green– Purchased new equipment. The group make a major commitment to have a professional bowling green open to the public.

Park Clean-Ups- in conjunction with IYN Friends of Congleton Park, organised by Tidy Town Champion. Congleton is generally litter free and so the Town Tidies now see volunteers cleaning equipment such as street furniture/ railings etc and helping to plant and weed- with the odd litter pickers at the sessions.

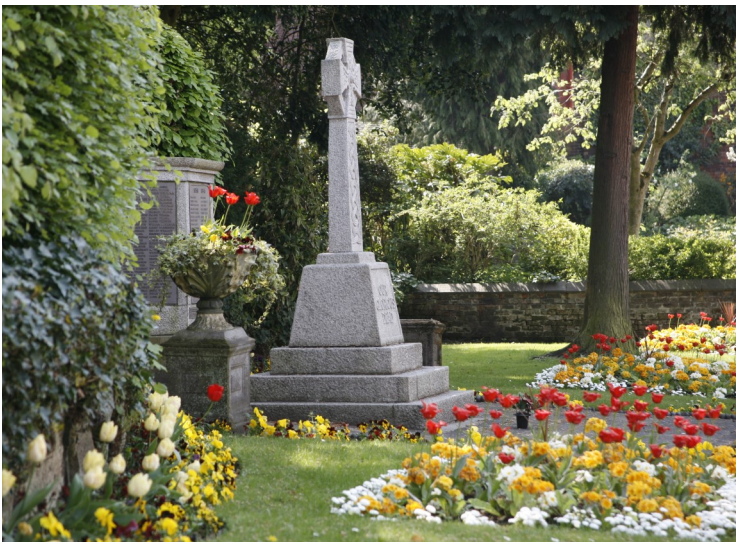
IYN Friends of Congleton Park are developing plans to install three new interpretation boards in the park. The Friends of Congleton Park team is also currently producing a new park information leaflet.

Congleton Town Entry Signs- small areas planted by the Streetscape Team

All roundabouts now have new CIB metal signs, to showcase Congleton being a GOLD standard town

New town maps have been installed at car parks in spring 2017

Cycle Routes– New paths and routes have been added from the Town Centre to the Railway Station



COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Congleton has over 150 local groups and organisations and a full programme of events throughout the year. Creating a sense of place and an atmosphere of inclusion is important for the town. The In Bloom group relies on the experience, expertise and manpower of a wide range of groups and individuals all working towards a common aim of making the town a great place to live, work and visit. The In Bloom team and partners have generated well over 4,000 hours of volunteer work on In Bloom related activities. This year, Congleton In Bloom were the runners up in the East Cheshire Chamber of Commerce “Contribution to the Community” award.

Development & Continuity

Congleton In Bloom and Food4Free provide opportunities for the public to understand choosing, planting, growing and looking after plants and areas, to create greater community pride. The group regularly asks the public to report Grot Spots and areas for improvement and actively seeks more volunteers to turn plans into action.

A 2018 grot spot that has been improved is an entrance into the park area on West Road, this was dug out by the Fire Cadets from Congleton Fire Station and will be replanted during July. This project is to honour the Suffragette movement and local Congleton Suffragette— Elizabeth Wolstenholme Elmy.

Recruitment is carried out through Community Newsletters, Town Centre activity days, Facebook, Twitter, workshops, school visits and word of mouth. Certificates are awarded at an Annual Thank-You event in the Town Hall. Friends of Congleton Park hold separate celebration events.

The number of local authority employees working on the public realm has decreased over the past four years making it even more important to plan wisely, invest in proper equipment and work with partners where possible. The town now has nine IYN all of which have their own volunteers determined to improve their areas each year.



Bath House & Physic Garden- A volunteer group was formed to renovate the old garden and Bath House. The team of 12 meet weekly for a two hour slot to improve the area. Lots of hard landscaping in Winter 2016 and Spring 2017 took place as well as new planting, funded by the £10,000 awarded through the Tesco “Bags of Help” scheme. The IYN hosts open days and tours, as well as now being a venue for the annual Hidden Places arts performances.

Congleton Park Allotments– Previously an Aviary, the park allotment was introduced in 2013 after a suggestion by the In Bloom judges. The allotment is planted by the Streetscape team, signposted and enjoyed by the public.

Congleton Food4Free- A dedicated group of volunteers began the Congleton Food4Free initiative back in 2012 with blueberry bushes, since then the garden at Capitol Walk has been transformed with edible and bee-friendly planting, autumnal perennials were planted to provide all year round colour.

Old Saw Mill Secret Garden– In April 2016 this was a derelict area and rescued for the Old Saw Mill’s open day in May 2016. A group of volunteers have worked tirelessly to renovate the area. The garden was designed based loosely on Jekka McVikka’s Apothecary garden at Chelsea.

Vale Allotments– Bought by Congleton Green Spaces Trust and supported by a campaign lead by Congleton Sustainability Group, the allotments are in the process of being returned as the town allotments.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Every November and May, children from the local primary schools are invited to the town's Polytunnels to learn about gardening and plant the 30 school tubs used to decorate the Town Centre.

The 5 & 20 Gardens— The Back2Back Gardens celebrates its 5th anniversary. In the past 5 years the polytunnel complex has housed Congleton's young people's garden exhibition. Pre-schools, Primary Schools, Brownies, Beavers, Cubs and other youth groups design and create gardens and displays. The theme is 5 & 20 due to 5 years of the Back2Back Gardens and 20 years of Congleton In Bloom. The polytunnel that the gardens are in this year was completely re-sheeted in May funded by the Tesco Bags of Help grant.

Congleton Rotary Club Project— Planting trees and 10,000 crocus' with the help of 120 children from Saint Mary's Primary School, planting 5000 in the verge near their school. The remainder of the plants were planted at the town entrance signs and in the park.

Community Orchard- Congleton now has five Community Orchards; Astbury Mere Country Park, New Life Church, Fairground Car Park, Hillary Avenue Allotments and Tesco. The new Tesco Orchard plans to incorporate blue flowers designed into a forget-me-not shape to fit with a town-wide scheme of helping Congleton to become a Dementia Friendly Town.

Easter Treats Day Event— Members of the Congleton In Bloom team attended the event and set up a stall to plant up sunflower seeds with the young people that attended the event.

Congleton Carnival- 2018 is return of the Carnival year, this year the theme is Superheroes and Villains. The Congleton In Bloom team will be entering a float to promote the group, to show what we do and how it benefits the town, to recruit new volunteers and also to bring some flower power to the event. Linking in with the theme, the main character for the CIB float will be Poison Ivy- although we have chosen a villain, we can show that weeds can be tackled!

Love Your Park Week- 13th-22nd July- A national scheme that Congleton is supporting. During the week there will be booklets available for young bloomers to collect and explore Congleton Park, answering questions along the way.

Heritage Trail- In September, Congleton joins in with a new heritage event- CHAF: Congleton Heritage and Antiques Festival, in conjunction with this, Congleton Town Council are designing a heritage trail of spots around the town to visit. The details of the trail will be in a booklet with a pavement art sticker at each of the destinations, with a QR code on each to link to the CTC website for more details of the heritage of the site. This will run throughout the summer until the end of September.



IN BLOOM FOR ALL THE AGES

Bradwell Court- Proposed in January 2018 the gardens needed a makeover. In Bloom team members met with Home Manager & activities lady to work out what could be done. From there a programme of garden sessions were decided. Friends & relatives to be invited to help, also Bromley Farm Youth Group. May & June 2018: planters repainted, beds weeded and dug over, path to greenhouse laid, new compost, donated plants all planted, with residents helping along the way. Now a riot of colour for residents to enjoy whenever they are outside in their garden.



NEW AND IMPROVED

Where and What	Key Facts
Buglawton In Bloom	New team with new ideas. The group has been concentrating on the area outside the Church House in Buglawton. There has been sustainable planting and a wildflower area added with a bug hotel.
Flower Festival at St. Peter's Church	Commissioned by Congleton In Bloom to celebrate 20 years of In Bloom— funded by the William Dean Trust, a flower festival in the church, supported by nine local churches and a horticultural group.
Crocus Planting	Congleton Rotary have planted over 10,000 crocus' in Congleton with the help from local school children from Saint Mary's Primary School to support the Purple4Polio Scheme.
Sustainable Planting in Congleton Park	Joint partnership with Friends of Congleton Park— new planting schemes have been added along the river bank, a new art sculpture was also added in memory of Margaret Williamson MBE DL—who founded Congleton in Bloom in 1998.
Old Saw Mill- Secret Garden	Designed and planted by volunteers, who continue to plant and maintain the Secret Garden, which is admired by many.
Mountbatten Way	In 2016 phase 1 of greening Mountbatten Way was completed. January/ February 2017 saw the completion of works for phase 2, with 12 trees added as well as seven new and 16 replaced planters on Mountbatten Way. Phase 3 has now been completed adding 5 new trees and planters at the opposite end— transforming the carriageway. Sponsored by Congleton Partnership.
IYN Astbury Mere Country Park and Café	New café building with 10 large garden planters, planted by school children, containing sensory plants and herbs.
Canal & Railway Adoption Group	March 2017 saw the start of a new monthly working group to improve the canal and railway paths areas— they meet on the 4th Thursday of the month and have been making great progress and steady improvements. Bromley Farm Youth Club have refurbished two bins which have now been installed on the paths.
Back to Back Gardens	Many youth groups created the bug gardens in 2017. The 2018 theme is 5 & 20 to celebrate the anniversaries of the Back to Back Gardens and the In Bloom team.
West Road	Old shrubbery dug out by fire cadets and fire fighters from the local fire station, being replanted with green white and violet planting to commemorate the local Suffragette and to celebrate 100 years since women gained the right to vote.
Garden Trails in Congleton	16 gardens opened over 2 weekends in June by U3A and Congleton Choral Society— hundreds of delighted visitors.

NEW AND IMPROVED



BLOOMING IN SPRING



BUSINESSES IN BLOOM

As well as the support from the businesses in and around Congleton, buying the Hanging Baskets and contributing to sponsoring In Bloom, there are also businesses that enter the competition with their own In Bloom efforts.

The businesses are: Alexandra Court Hotel & Astbury Mere Care Home. Both were awarded Gold Standard last year and have been inspired to maintain and improve their In Bloom credentials.

ALEXANDRA COURT HOTEL

Further work in the rear gardens, and dramatic change to the front, where the old conifer hedge has been completely removed by the owners Mark & Andy.



ASTBURY MERE CARE HOME

The care home is entering their own Porthaven Garden Challenge competition again, they have won this for the last two years. They have planted up a boat and built a lighthouse, removed more old shrubs and planted what elderly residents have asked for. School children visit each term to work in the garden.



IT'S YOUR NEIGHBOURHOODS

Congleton has nine It's Your Neighbourhoods, the Neighbourhoods you will see on the tour are:

Astbury Mere



Congleton Bath House & Physic Garden



NLC- Jubilee Club



Congleton Park



Neighbourhoods not on the tour, but working hard for North West In Bloom judging are:

Heath View Care Home



Buglawton in Bloom



BIB- The new team are working very hard on their area, especially outside the Church House. The group celebrates their 15th year of entering the In Bloom competitions

Heathview- Stunning gardens, designed and planted over the years by elderly residents

HAA- Celebrate their 10th anniversary, which they will hold open days for. A new Community Orchard has been planted here.

OSM- A community hub ran by volunteers, with an impressive secret garden around the back

Hillary Avenue Allotments



Old Saw Mill- Secret Garden



Bromley Farm In Bloom



RECYCLING FIGURES

Congleton Household Waste & Recycling– Tonnage 17/18

<u>Category</u>	<u>17/18 Tonnage (t)</u>
Amenity Waste to Landfill	778.57
Green Waste	530.02
Card	119.89
Chipboard or Mixed Wood/ Chipboard	281.03
Glass	10.95
Paper	52.02
Plastic Bottles	3.87
Wood	209.41
Textiles	47.61
Small WEEE (SDA)	105.26
Large WEEE (LDA)	44.96
Total Tonnage	3,145.37
Total Recycled	2,307.19
Total Reused	54.47
Diverted from Landfill	75.2



Junior Recycling Officers at Saint Mary's

One of our 16 eco schools, just awarded 5th green flag from eco-schools, Junior Recycling Officers in top 8 schools in Cheshire East . These JROs are passionate about recycling, no litter, improving school grounds, gardening in school and out in the community.



PLANT LIST

Plant Name	No.
African Marigolds Marvel Orange & Yellow	600
Ageratum Champion Blue	1090
Alyssum Clear Crystal Mixed	400
Antrirrhinum Sonnet Mixed	250
Aubtilons	75
Begnoia Non Stop Rose petticoat	400
Begnoia Tuberous Nonstop Citrus Mixed	500
Begonia Apple Blossom	200
Begonia Coral Bi Colour	200
Begonia Heaven Red & Rose	400
Begonia Illumination Golden Picotee	200
Begonia Non Stop Citrus mixed	780
Begonia Non Stop Deep Rose	200
Begonia Non Stop Mocca Pink Shades	200
Begonia Non Stop Pendula Mixed	600
Begonia Non Stop Yellow	200
Begonia Nonstop Mocca Pink Shades	200
Begonia Nonstop Mocca White	500
Begonia Organdy Mixed	200
Begonia Rose Peticoat	400
Begonia Sempeflorens Red & Rose	800
Begonia Sempeflorens White	400
Begonia Semperfloren Devil Pink	600
Begonia Semperfloren Devil White	600
Begonia Semperflorens Devil Delight	1100
Begonia Semperflorens Heaven Mixed	1400
Begonia Semperflorens Devil White Chocolate Leaf	640
Begonia Tuberous Majestic Sunburst & Mocca Mixed	750
Begonias Tuberous Trailing Illumination Mixed	180
Calbrachoa White Rose Vein	200
Calceolaria Sunshine	50
Chlorophytums	50
Cinearis Silver Dust & Cirrus	555
Coleus Crimson, Kong Rose, Lime Delight, Watermelon	40
Figaro Orange Shades & Red Shades	400
Figaro Violet, White & Yellow Shades	600
French Marigold Bonaza Yellow	710
Fuschia Upright Gartenmeister Bonstedt	50
Geranium Palladium Candyfloss Mixed	200
Geranium Apple Blossom	200
Geranium Bullseye Cherry(red), Salmon & Mixed	900
Geranium Horizon Violet	200

Impatiens Divine Blue Pearl & Islander Mixed	550
Impatiens Divine Lavender & Pink	1040
Impatiens Divine Salsa Mixed & Divine White	980
Impatiens Mystic Mixed	400
Lobelia Cambridge Blue & Crystal Palace	390
Lobelia Cardinalis & Queen Victoria	80
Lobelia F1 Fan Mixed	40
Lobelia Mrs Clibran, Rosamond & White Lady	900
Marigold American Marvel Mixed & Bonanza Mixed	1200
Nicotiana Cuba Mixed	200
Pyrethum golden moss	565
Salvia Blue fairy Queen	25
Salvia Deep Blue, Patio Blue & Victoria Blue	399
Salvia Vista Purple & Vista Red	814
Zinnia Zahara Starlight Rose	180
Cordylines Australlis Green & Torbay Dazzler	24
Heliotrope Marino Blue	20
Ornamnetal Millet Purple Majesty	12
Canna Bronze Leaf & Green Leaf	24
TOTAL = 26063	



BLOOMING FACTS

2x Blooming Businesses

Over 10,000 Crocus' planted

Over 4,000 volunteer hours

9x It's Your Neighbourhoods

Less than 5% landfill

78% waste is recycled

Brilliant town,
full of colour!

Great teamwork and a
good service

Very clean town

Noticeable efforts are
made by volunteers and
the In Bloom team



www.congleton-tc.gov.uk
www.friendsofcongletonpark.co.uk
www.astburymerecountrypark.uk
www.porthaven.co.uk/astbury-mere-congleton
www.thealexandracourthotel.com
congletonbpt.wordpress.com



facebook.com/Congleton-In-Bloom-1377417495816332

facebook.com/Congletontowncouncil
facebook.com/OldSawMill



@CongletonTown

THANKS TO...

Adullam Homes Housing Association Limited

Alexandra Court Hotel

Ansa

Astbury Mere Care Home

Astbury Mere Country Park Trust

Bradwell Court Residential Care Home

Bromley Farm Community Trust

Bromley Farm Neighbourhood

Buglawton Community Group

Buglawton In Bloom

Canal & River Trust

Canal & Railway Station Tidy Volunteers

Cheshire East Council

Cheshire East Highways

Congleton Bath House &

Physic Garden Trust

Congleton Businesses

Congleton Community Projects

Congleton Food 4 Free

Congleton Fire Station

Congleton High School- Print Room

Congleton Horticultural Society

Congleton In Bloom Team

Congleton Inclosure Trust

Congleton Partnership

Congleton Young People's Trust

Congleton Rotary Club

Congleton Schools

Congleton Guides

Congleton Streetscape Team

Congleton Sustainability Group

Congleton Town Council

Congleton Town Trust

Congleton West Rangers

DJM Nursery

Eco Learning

Electric Picture House

Four Oaks Nursery

Friendly Faces Nursery

Friends of Congleton Park

Heath View Care Home

Hillary Avenue Allotments

Hilltop Nursery– Kids Planet

Margaret Williamson Memorial Fund

National Grid

New Life Church Jubilee Club

Old Saw Mill- Secret Garden

Plus Dane Housing Group

Redrow Homes

SAS Daniels

Shops and Businesses in Congleton

Saint Mary's Catholic School Gardening Club

St. Peter's Church

Tesco Bags of Help Grant

Tim & Albert- Community Garden Volunteers

The Nursery

U3A

Victoria Beds

William Dean Countryside & Education Trust