

Bear Necessities

With News from Congleton Town Council & Community Groups
Summer 2019

CONGLETON Pride

Congleton Pride will bring colour and pride into the town centre on Saturday 20th July from 10am - 4pm. Congleton pride is about celebrating equality, diversity and inclusion across the LGBTQ+ community.

The event which will have live music, charitable and information stalls, as well as Market stalls will provide a safe hub for the LGBTQ+ and wider community while also hoping to show pride in Congleton as a town.

With live entertainment from acts like Chris Tavener, The Trigger Hounds, Andy Hofton plus many more, including the headliner from BBC 1's All Together Now - Divina De Campo, it promises to be a special and memorable day for all. In addition to the town being alive with pride during the day,

the festivities will continue into the late night with bars, pubs and clubs in Congleton holding their own pride night - all the acts and venues will be listed in the programme and on social media.

Whatever your sexual orientation, gender identity, age, ability, race or religion feel free to celebrate pride and show your colours for the first ever Congleton Pride.

For more information on Pride or to volunteer to help on the day, contact congletonpride@gmail.com



Know Where Your Nearest DEFIB Is!

A new 24/7 defibrillator is to be located in the red telephone box in Padgbury Lane. This new defib has been installed thanks to Congleton Town Council, Congleton Partnership and Congleton Lions. It is one of 29 defibrillators located in Congleton - see www.congleton-tc.gov.uk for full details.

A defibrillator is a device that gives a high energy electric shock to the heart of someone who is in cardiac arrest. It is an essential part of trying to save the life of someone in cardiac arrest. Cardiac arrests can happen to anyone at any time. If you come across someone having a cardiac arrest: Call 999. Start CPR, ask someone to bring a defibrillator (by ringing 999, you can find out your nearest defib and get the access code if located in an outside box), turn on the defibrillator and follow its instructions. Anyone can use a defibrillator and it will only instruct you to deliver a shock if it detects that it is needed. For every minute it takes to find and deliver a defibrillator, the chances of the person surviving reduces by 10%.



CONGLETON JAZZ & BLUES FESTIVAL

celebrates its 10th anniversary over the August Bank Holiday weekend – Friday 23rd-Sunday 25th August 2019. Once again, Congleton will come alive with the sound of music in a free festival celebrating all genres of music from cool jazz to blues rock and everything in between. On Friday 23rd August, in association with Blue Funk Rhythm and Blues Club, the European Blues Challenge winner Kyla Brox Band will be playing a ticketed gig in the Town Hall. On Saturday 24th and Sunday 25th there will be more than 60 free entry gigs in 18 venues across the Town Centre, plus a special community stage in the Bath House Physic Garden on the Saturday. The event will start with the traditional umbrella parade leaving the Community Garden at 1.15pm.

Congleton Jazz and Blues Festival is a community-based event, it is an independent not-for-profit organisation run by volunteers to benefit Congleton town centre.

See www.congletonjazzandblues.co.uk for more information, including the programme highlights, or search Congleton Jazz and Blues on Facebook.



Artwork by AD Profile.

Bear Necessities is produced by Congleton Town Council. The next newsletter will be delivered around 18th October. All contributions should be sent by 18th September to:

Jackie MacArthur, Congleton Town Hall, High Street, Congleton, CW12 1BN.

Tel: 01260 270350 or email: jackie.macarthur@congleton-tc.gov.uk

All change at the TOWN COUNCIL...TURN TO CENTRE PAGES!

Cenotaph Improvements



After years in the planning, work is about to commence on Congleton's new-look Cenotaph, allowing for the addition of almost 250 names to be recorded at the site. Funds for the £170,000 project have largely been met through local trusts and a large Town Council underwrite. Now local people have

an opportunity to be part of the project. Donating £5 to the project will cover the costs of two letters being carved into the new stone and help ensure that Congleton's fallen heroes will always be remembered. Local people can donate to the project via the Tourist Information Centre, there will also be

an opportunity to record your donation and any comments you wish to make in a Congleton Cenotaph Support Book.

Plans are underway for an official opening of the improved site on Sunday 3rd November. On Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd there will also be an exhibition in the Town Hall.

Town Hall Rooms Available for You to Hire



You may have been to Congleton Town Hall for a wedding, a party, a public meeting, exhibition, concert, charity fayre or boxing match. But increasingly people are booking this fabulous building for funerals, training sessions, board meetings and even ghost hunts! There are three rooms available for hire.

- The glorious Grand Hall, takes up to 300 for a concert or 150 for a dinner-dance.

- The beautiful Bridestones Suite, ideal for training sessions, meetings and events for 40 - 70 people.
- The soon-to-be renovated Spencer Suite, popular for interviews, meetings and training sessions for 10 people or less.

Hire costs start at just £15 per hour. Our in-house catering and event team will cater for any refreshments you require, from teas and coffees to a full sit-down banquet! See www.congleton-tc.gov.uk to find out more or call the office on 01260 270350 to arrange a viewing. The building can be available daily from 7am to 2am.

Improved Play Areas for More Activities

Three of Congleton's 13 play areas have become even more fun places to hang out with improved play-equipment added to make them great places to go this summer. The Quinta Play area, off Ullswater Road, now has nine new pieces of outdoor gym equipment. West Street Play area has been opened-up to make it less hidden as well as having new play equipment added. A new roundabout, slide, climbing trail and football goal has been added to the play area behind Park Lane, accessed via Townsend Road or Thames Drive.

In addition, the town's Paddling Pool will remain open daily from 10am - 6pm until Sunday 8th September (weather dependent). On hot days a 300 people limit will be added, which once reached will lead to a one-in-one-out policy.

Dementia Buddy Scheme

Are you worried about a loved one with Dementia wandering off on their own? The Good Deeds Trust have set up the Dementia Buddy Guardian Angel devices to help support families and carers looking after someone living with Dementia. Look out for these devices on anyone looking distressed, they are yellow and blue with the Guardian Angel logo, typically worn as a wristband, pin badge, zip tag or keyring. Once identified these can be scanned by a smartphone (operating with NFC technology) and the person's first name and emergency contact will be displayed, enabling you to contact their carer.

Congleton Partnership are working with

Congleton Lions and The Good Deeds Trust to bring the Dementia Buddy Guardian Angel devices to Congleton. Funding from Congleton Lions means that the first device ordered will come free for people with a CW12 postcode. For more information, see www.dementiabuddy.co.uk or contact Mike Smith on 01260 270350, ext. 7, or email mike.smith@congleton-tc.gov.uk



The pin badge.



Enjoy The Fun of a Town Centre Play Day

On Tuesday August 6th Congleton Community Projects is inviting you to join in a Play Day in the Pedestrian area from 10am-2pm. The day is part of the National Play Day, a celebration of children's right to play and highlighting the importance of play and fun in children's lives.

Activities will include lots of large outdoor games, the opportunity to have your bike checked by the Bike Doctor, and a chance to power a bike to make a smoothie! Jo-Anne Bayley School of Dance will be offering fitness dance classes, while the Electric Picture House will organise general arts and crafts activities. For the very young there will be activities from Kid's Planet, yoga for tots in Wild and Wild and a soft play area from Go Bananas.

Come and join in the fun!

LIVE BETTER in Congleton

Congleton Partnership are working with local organisations to bring a Congleton Community Wellbeing Fayre to Congleton Town Hall on Tuesday 1st October. The Grand Hall will be filled with more than 60 exhibitors from 10am-1pm, showcasing what they do

and how they could help you. Please put the date in your diary and come along to gain some advice, have a cake and a cuppa and see what your community has to offer you. Free event and open to all. For more details, visit: www.congletonpartnership.co.uk

Congleton In Bloom...



Keeping the Gold Standard!

Congleton has been a leading light for In Bloom in the North West for many years, maintaining Gold Status since 2011 and gaining Golds in the National Finals three times in the past six years! Now it's time to show the judges what's great about Congleton in 2019!

The North West in Bloom judges will visit Congleton twice this year. Once, on the 9th July, to the seven *It's Your Neighbourhoods* and again, on Thursday 25th July, to judge the town.

Congleton is proud of just how many people get involved with the town's In Bloom efforts. From tiny tots at pre-schools through to youth groups, businesses, University of the Third Age and even residents in our many care homes. You are never too young or too old to love planting and caring for your town!

Flowers, Photos & Produce on Show in the Town Hall

This year's annual Congleton and District Horticultural Show will take place in the Town Hall on Saturday 7th September. It's a great opportunity to show and view the best flowers, photos, vegetables, cakes, jams and pickles in town! To enter an item into the show simply pick up a form from the Tourist Information Centre and make sure that your entry form is in by September 4th. The show is open to the public from 10.30am - 3.15pm and admission is just 50p for adults and FREE for accompanying children.



The In Bloom team have been delighted with the number of people turning up for regular town tidies on the first Saturday of the month. These have taken place since March. There are more town tidies on:

- Saturday 6th July, 10 - 12 noon, meeting at New Life Church car park
- Saturday 13th July, with Friends of Congleton Park. Meeting at the park, 10am-1pm
- Wednesday 24th July, meeting at the Community Garden in Lawton Street.

In Bloom has been concentrating efforts on improving areas around the town and in particular:

- Moody Street Garden
- Congleton Community Garden
- Planting at Margaret's Place
- West Street play area entrance
- Capitol Walk Food for Free Garden
- Extending West Street Rose Garden
- Increasing planting in the town centre.



Congleton's Streetscape Services

Congleton Town Council employs a small team of 13 grounds staff to deliver the street cleansing and grounds maintenance duties on public open spaces across the town. Congleton is the only town to have these services devolved from Cheshire East. This team is responsible for litter picking and emptying around 170 public litter bins, many on a daily basis. They also take responsibility grass cutting in specific areas (other areas are covered by Cheshire East Highways, various housing organisations or private contractors), planting and maintaining the park, roundabouts, cenotaph, troughs and baskets and other civic spaces plus checking the town's 13 play areas. Most of the works carried out by the team is on a regular rota with targets to meet. The Town Council tries to maintain some flexibility so that the team can respond to incidents or issues that require urgent attention due to a safety concern. The Town Council's Streetscape team is not responsible for maintaining or improving hedges, shrubs or trees on private land or for removing fly-tipping from private land. See www.congleton-tc.gov.uk for more detail.



Congleton Mayor

Cllr Sally Ann Holland was elected by the councillors to be Congleton's Town Mayor until May 2020. The Mayor will be supported by her husband Dave Holland as Consort and Congleton West Ranger member Eloise Williams as her Cadet. Cllr Denis Murphy was elected as the Deputy Mayor with Joan Myatt as consort. This year, the Mayor will predominately raise funds for Visyon, supporting the emotional needs of young people and the League of Friends for Congleton and Macclesfield, which supports Congleton and Macclesfield hospitals.

To invite the Mayor for a visit or event, please contact the Civic Administration Officer, Linda Minshull, on 01260 270350, ext 4 or email: info@congleton-tc.gov.uk



Town Mayor, Cllr Sally Ann Holland, with husband, Dave Holland, as Consort and Eloise Williams, as her Cadet.

Cheshire East Councillors Representing You

Congleton has six ward councillors elected to represent you on Cheshire East Council. They are...

EAST WARD: Cllr David Brown, Cllr Rob Moreton, Cllr Denis Murphy.

WEST WARD: Cllr Suzie Akers Smith, Cllr George Hayes, Cllr Sally Ann Holland.

HOW TO CONTACT...

Councillors contacts can be found at www.congleton-tc.gov.uk/meet-the-councillors

To email a councillor, insert 'cllr' and then the councillors 'first name', followed by a full stop, then insert their 'surname'.

For example:
cllsallyann.holland@congleton-tc.gov.uk

CODE:

(C) = Conservative

(I) = Independent

(LD) = Liberal Democrat

(WEP) = Women's Equality Party

Meet Your Congleton 2019-

EAST WARD

Largely covers Buglawton, Bromley Farm, Mossley and Timbersbrook.



Cllr. Duncan Amies

(I)

Duncan is a purchasing professional, who has worked in the automotive manufacturing industry for over 23 years. He is a keen mountain biker who has recently discovered running. He is interested in all areas that contribute to making Congleton a great place to live.



Cllr. David Brown

(C)

David has been a Town Councillor since 1999. He used to work for ICL. He has been Town Mayor three times and has chaired the successful In Bloom team for many years. He is determined to win Britain in Bloom. He has completed 3 Congleton Triathlons and hopes to do a 4th!



Cllr. Robert Douglas

(LD)

Robert is a chartered accountant who for 22 years was a director of a multi-million-pound business. Robert enjoys holidaying with his family, including three grandchildren, and visiting historical sites.



Cllr. George Hayes

(C)

George was a former youth councillor who was first elected onto the council in 2011. In 2013 he was briefly the youngest Mayor in the UK! He is a big supporter of Congleton schools and encouraging young people. He is the Chair of Governors at Buglawton & Havannah Primary Schools.



Cllr. Sally Ann Holland

(C)

Sally has been a Town Councillor since 2003 and was Town Mayor in 2012/13. Before having children, she was a cabin director for a major airline. Sally is particularly interested in supporting Congleton youth and deterring anti-social behaviour.



Cllr. Rob Moreton

(I)

Congleton born and bred, Rob has been a local postman for 32 years and is proud to be the Chair of the Congleton Pool League. He also enjoys organising charity events for local causes.



Cllr. Denis Murphy

(LD)

A familiar face around Congleton thanks to his work with numerous organisations including St Mary's Parish Church, Credit Union, Talking Newspaper, League of Friends and SSFA. Denis has been Mayor of the town twice and a Town Burgess. He served in the armed forces for 24 years.



Cllr. Mark Rogan

(I)

Mark is an engineer who's lived around South Cheshire most of his life. As a keen mountain biker and a passionate photographer, he is committed to promoting a safe, healthy and environmentally friendly town.



Cllr. James Smith

(LD)

James has lived in Congleton for all his life. He works in project management and is passionate about bees, D.I.Y, and sailing. James is particularly concerned about the issues of car parking near schools and air quality.



Cllr. Kay Wesley

(WEP)

Kay has lived in Congleton for more than 30 years and runs a local digital business serving multinational healthcare organisations. Kay has been a School Governor, a Beaver Scout Leader and supports Congleton Amateur Youth Theatre. She has a daughter and 4 sons and is passionate about diversity and inclusion.

n Town Councillors

-2023

WEST WARD

Largely covering the Town Centre, West Heath, Lower Heath and Newcastle Road.



Cllr. Suzie Akers Smith

(I)

Suzie has been a Town Councillor since 2015 and is a former Town Mayor. She is passionate about getting more people, more active, more often and is the Cycling and Walking Champion for Cheshire East. She runs her own business and has three sons.



Cllr. Dawn Allen

(C)

Dawn has been a Town Councillor since 2008. She is actively involved in various groups which help people with a wide range of physical and mental health issues and supporting well-being for all. Dawn is also involved with Congleton Museum.



Cllr. Martin Amies

(I)

Martin is an engineer who has worked with businesses around the Congleton area for the past 32 years. He has recently played a pivotal role in setting up a local mountain bike club to facilitate cycle access to Bosley Cloud and other local areas. Martin wants to be involved in making Congleton an even more fantastic place than it already is!



Cllr. Russell Chadwick

(I)

Russell worked in Congleton within the IT industry for 20 years, including Diageo plc. He was instrumental in creating a software solution to help law enforcement track internet criminals across the globe. Latterly working for the EU, with a focus on global crime detection.



Cllr. Paul Duffy

(LD)

Paul has worked for 20 years in Supply Chain Management for a variety of companies. Paul enjoys holidaying with his family, playing in bands, performing with drama groups and supporting local sports teams.



Cllr. Suzy Firkin

(LD)

Suzy is a chartered engineer who has worked as a freelance management consultant for over 20 years. She has a grown-up daughter and loves hill walking and exploring the countryside. Her areas of interest include protecting services for the most vulnerable and the environment.



Cllr. Margaret Gartside

(LD)

Margaret is a retired special-needs teacher and scientist with an interest in education, health and well-being, and young people. She is committed to work to improve our environment and support green projects around Congleton.



Cllr. Robert Hemsley

(LD)

Robert lives in Lower Heath with his wife and young family, Robert works for Royal Mail and is a Union Rep for the Communications Workers Union. In his spare time Robert enjoys spending as much time as possible outdoors walking, cycling and on caravan and camping holidays.



Cllr. Amanda Martin

(C)

Amanda is a retired software engineer. She has been a Town Councillor for eight years and has a special interest in planning applications and in growing flowers around the town.



Cllr. Jean Parry

(C)

A Town Councillor for 8 years. Aims - to preserve Back Lane Village Green as an open green space for all. Jean is the Financial Director for a local business and her interests are her family, soft tennis and swimming.

Committees

All 20 Councillors sit on Full Council, Planning and Strategy Working Group meetings. The following Councillors sit on these committees:

FINANCE & POLICY:

- Cllr. Robert Douglas - CHAIR
- Cllr. Russell Chadwick - VICE CHAIR
- Cllr. Duncan Amies
- Cllr. David Brown
- Cllr. Paul Duffy
- Cllr. George Hayes
- Cllr. Jean Parry
- Cllr. Rob Moreton
- Cllr. Mark Rogan
- Cllr. James Smith

COMMUNITY, ENVIRONMENT & SERVICES:

- Cllr. Kay Wesley - CHAIR
- Cllr. Dawn Allen - VICE CHAIR
- Cllr. Martin Amies
- Cllr. Paul Duffy
- Cllr. Suzy Firkin
- Cllr. Margaret Gartside
- Cllr. Amanda Martin
- Cllr. Jean Parry
- Cllr. Denis Murphy
- Cllr. Mark Rogan

TOWN HALL & ASSETS:

- Cllr. George Hayes - CHAIR
- Cllr. Suzy Firkin - VICE CHAIR
- Cllr. Suzie Akers Smith
- Cllr. Dawn Allen
- Cllr. Duncan Amies
- Cllr. David Brown
- Cllr. Robert Douglas
- Cllr. Robert Hemsley
- Cllr. Rob Moreton
- Cllr. Denis Murphy

PERSONNEL:

- Cllr. David Brown - CHAIR
- Cllr. Margaret Gartside - VICE CHAIR
- Cllr. Suzie Akers Smith
- Cllr. Dawn Allen
- Cllr. Martin Amies
- Cllr. Russell Chadwick
- Cllr. Robert Hemsley
- Cllr. Amanda Martin
- Cllr. James Smith
- Cllr. Kay Wesley

The Mayor is the Chair and the Dep. Mayor is the Vice Chair of the council meetings.

The Chair of Planning is Cllr. Paul Duffy with Vice Chair Cllr. Amanda Martin.

Congleton Link Road

GRAHAM

A536 Congleton Link Road Scheme

The route for the new link road will run to the north of Congleton, just south of Eaton. It will link the A534 Sandbach Road, near its junction with Sandy Lane, to the A536 Macclesfield Road, near its junction with Moss Lane, and provide a new crossing at the river Dane. It will also create road connections to both the Congleton Business Park and Radnor Park Trading Estate.

Work began on-site in January 2019, since then work is taking place across the scheme including:

- Site clearance
- Fence Erection
- Road improvements along Back Lane
- Archaeological work
- Earth works
- Piling works (Giantswood Lane Overbridge)
- Diversion of existing drains and services
- Ecology works

The process of monitoring, capturing and relocating the newts to six newly created ecological ponds and habitats is now complete. There has been a noticeable change to the landscape along the route of the project. To mitigate the impact, 16km of hedgerows will be planted, 33 hectares of new grassland, 10 hectares of woodland and shrubs including more than 380 new trees.

The Congleton Link Road scheme is on programme and will be complete late 2020.

Marlfields Primary School Allotment Project

At GRAHAM we aspire to be different and leave a mark on the local community that stands the test of time. One of our recent community engagements has been to help create an allotment at Marlfields Primary School, Congleton. Thane, a pupil at the school helped to design the allotment and GRAHAM are constructing it as per the school's drawings. The school children and local community will maintain and develop the allotment for years to come.



Thane, pictured here, has been working closely with GRAHAM staff to see the plans come to fruition. Works will continue over the coming weeks.

Sandie Isherwood Head Teacher at Marlfields Primary School said: 'The school has held the Eco Green Flag award since 2006, a leading school for others in the town to follow. This year, our pupils had plans to create a school

and community allotment and worked with Patti Pinto's support to create an impressive design. When prices for the allotment were requested, it was obvious it was going to be a long-term project.

We approached Dan Cawthra at GRAHAM, the contractors undertaking the Congleton Link Road, and we have been in total awe of the support they have given the school.

We are well on our way to creating a fantastic resource at the school which will give our pupils and families opportunities to become ecologically aware of how we can sustain the important eco-human balance needed for the future. As our pupils have said, we will not only have a new road from GRAHAM to support our town, but also our fantastic new allotment.'

Thane and the allotments he helped to design.



School Engagement

On Tuesday 30th April, Patsy Murphy and Dan Cawthra from the GRAHAM team were at Black Firs Primary School to talk to the pupils about road safety and the dangers of construction vehicles. GRAHAM's first and foremost priority is safety, with the upcoming summer school holidays we are asking for children and parents to take extra care, especially around the GRAHAM sites and be mindful of the increased number of HGV's and plant equipment on the roads.

If you would like GRAHAM to visit your school, contact Patsy:

- patsy.murphy@graham.co.uk
- 07392 105 765



Keep up-to-Date

Keep up to date with the latest news on the Congleton Link Road at:

www.graham.co.uk/congleton-link-road

Dan Cawthra
Stakeholder & Communications Officer
daniel.cawthra@graham.co.uk
07384 797 138

Another Chance to Have Your Say on the Congleton Neighbourhood Plan



#MyCongleton
Neighbourhood Plan

Congleton Neighbourhood Plan group has agreed to put the Draft Congleton Neighbourhood Plan through more consultation to ensure that the policies contained within it are what local people want and can be enforced in the future. The previous draft edition of the Neighbourhood Plan was consulted on when National Planning Policy Frameworks relied on the 2012 guidance. This was strengthened in 2018, but Congleton's plan couldn't take advantage of the more stringent policies, particularly on sustainable development, as draft plan had to adhere to the policies that

existed at the time. In addition, questions raised by the Examiner when considering the plan, meant some sections needed further clarification.

The intention is to carry out a six week 'Regulation 14' consultation over the summer. This will be followed by a Regulation 15 consultation. The newly consulted plan will then be considered by an Examiner, before going to a referendum. The focus is towards protecting what is special about Congleton. More information, including the evidence base, see www.mycongleton.co.uk

LEARN FOR FREE IN CONGLETON

Learn to cook in Congleton with Springboard. It's fun, free and available to anyone over 19! The classes provide opportunities to develop skills for both work and leisure and you can learn to make delicious, affordable food in minutes!

Over the past three months, Springboard has launched two new cookery courses in Congleton with tremendous success,

Cooking Curry and Learn to Bake. One learner commented "I've just finished the 'Cooking Curry from Scratch'... a fun course that has given me the confidence to start cooking again after many years." Congleton Learning Partnership is now taking names for their September classes. To find out more call 01260 290 682, email adele@clpcic.co.uk or visit [facebook@CongletonLearningCentre](https://www.facebook.com/CongletonLearningCentre).



Launch of Elizabeth Fund

Elizabeth's Group, a charity founded to celebrate the achievements of Elizabeth Wolstenholme Elmy, is a year old. Elizabeth was a nationally noted suffragist and activist who lived in Congleton for over 50 years. She was a remarkable woman who played an important role in many of the country's social and political reforms of the late 19th and early 20th centuries and to whom we still owe much today. Yet she has been largely forgotten locally.

Elizabeth's Group has set out to change that. The Heritage Lottery along with the Margaret Williamson fund has provided money to set up an archive of Elizabeth's important

work both locally and on the internet. The Group is also raising funds for a statue of Elizabeth to link Congleton into a Suffragette Heritage trail and attract visitors to the town. For further details, see [@elizabethsgroup](https://www.facebook.com/elizabethsgroup) on facebook or contact Susan Munro on 07534 510841.



New Exhibit at Congleton Museum

A new Roman Hoard of 1,500 coins is now on display at Congleton Museum. The successful partnership between Museum of Liverpool and Congleton Museum which brought both the Knutsford and Malpas Hoards to Congleton has again been successful in ensuring that this new hoard found at Poole near Nantwich will remain in the area. Discovered in April 2016, this

hoard provides a further insight into the distribution of accumulated wealth during the Roman occupation of Cheshire. This exciting new acquisition has been made possible through the Heritage Lottery Funded (HLF), 'Hoard of Cheshire' project. The museum can be found behind the Town Hall and is open Tuesday - Sunday. Entry by donation.



News in Brief

DUCK RACE

Congleton Lions will be running their annual Duck Race in Congleton Park on Sunday 8th September. Ducks can be purchased in advance from the Tourist Information Centre. Races start at 2pm.

WEDDING FAYRE

Congleton Town Hall will be hosting a Wedding and Party Fayre on Sunday 22nd September from 1pm - 4pm. It is the ideal time to explore the beautiful Town Hall building and to meet a number of local wedding suppliers. FREE entry!

TOWN CRIER

Oyez! Oyez! Congleton's Town Crier Douglas Parker MBE has retired from the role after 33 years of serving the town. Thank you so much for all the support you have given Congleton and announcements made!

ENROL WITH U3A

Congleton U3A's registration day takes place on Tuesday 20th August at Congleton High School. If you're fully or semi-retired you can sign up for groups covering interests from music to sport and languages to poetry, and almost everything in between. To find out more, just come to the school between 10am and 12 noon or email Anne Gubbins at vicechair@congletonu3a.org.uk

YOUTH COUNCIL

If you are aged between 11 and 20 and are interested in getting young people's voices heard, you should consider joining the Congleton Youth Council. For more information see [@congletonyc](https://www.instagram.com/congletonyc) on Instagram or contact Linda Minshall at Congleton Town Council on 01260 270350 ext 4

SUMMER SUNDAY PARK CONCERTS

Congleton's Bandstand is the venue for a number of free Sunday afternoon concerts in the Park this summer. Friends of Congleton Park oversee the events and put out a limited number of chairs. The Concerts are from 2.30 - 4.30pm. Still to enjoy are:

- 7th July - Lions Youth Brass Band
- 14th July - Barnton Silver Band
- 21st July - Friday Night Band
- 28th July - Rode Hall Brass Band
- 4th August - The Encores
- 11th August - Pastry Shoes
- 18th August - Poynton RBL Band

For more information see:

www.friendsofcongletonpark.co.uk



Other dates for your diary...

July

- Until 27th: New Artists Exhibition, Electric Picture House
- 4th CTC Finance & Policy Committee, Town Hall, 7pm
- 7th Museum Walk, Congleton Museum, 2pm
- 8th Dance to Health, St. John's Community Centre, 12pm
- 11th CTC Council Meeting, Town Hall, 7pm
- 12th-13th: Louise Carter School of Dance Performance, Daneside Theatre, 7.30pm
- 13th Friends of Congleton Park Clean-Up, Congleton Park, starts 10am
- 13th Congleton Youth Orchestra Concert, Town Hall, 7pm
- 14th "Rocketman", Daneside Theatre, 7pm
- 18th CTC Planning Committee, Town Hall, 7pm
- 18th-20th: Trinity Amateur Operatic Society present "100 Years of Musical Theatre", Daneside Theatre, 7.30pm
- 20th Congleton Pride Event, Town Centre
- 20th Congleton Choral Society Concert, Town Hall, 7pm
- 21st West Coast Eagles, Daneside Theatre
- 25th North West in Bloom Judging Day
- 25th CTC Town Hall & Assets Committee, Town Hall, 7pm
- 27th The Makers Market, Town Centre, 10am
- 29th NHS Blood Service, Town Hall, 1.45-4.15pm and 5.30-7.45pm

August

- 1st CTC Community, Environment & Services Committee, Town Hall, 7pm
- 2nd-14th Sept: Long-Standing Artists' Exhibition, Electric Picture House
- 4th Museum Walk, Congleton Museum, 2pm
- 5th-8th: Kids Art Workshops, Electric Picture House TBC
- 8th CTC Planning Committee, Town Hall, 7pm
- 16th-17th: SOL Theatre present "42nd Street", Daneside Theatre, 7.30pm
- 23rd-25th: Congleton Jazz and Blues Festival
- 31st The Makers Market, Town Centre, 10am

September

- 1st Museum Walk, Congleton Museum, 2pm
- 5th CTC Planning Committee, Town Hall, 7pm
- 6th Portable Antiques Finds Liaison Day, Congleton Museum, 10.30am
- 7th Congleton Horticultural Society Exhibition, Town Hall
- 8th Congleton Lions Annual Duck Race, Congleton Park, 2pm
- 8th Congleton Paddling Pool Closes
- 10th NHS Blood Service, Town Hall, 1.45-4.15pm and 5.30-7.45pm
- 12th CTC Finance & Policy Committee, Town Hall, 7pm
- 13th-22nd: National Heritage Open Days
- 19th CTC Council Meeting, Town Hall, 7pm
- 20th 2nd Nov. What do we do Now, Art Exhibition, Electric Picture House
- 26th CTC Community, Environment & Services Committee, Town Hall, 7pm
- 28th The Makers Market, Town Centre, 10am
- 30th NHS Blood Service, Town Hall, 1.45-4.15pm and 5.30-7.45pm

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

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Entries Open for Congleton Half Marathon



Entries are now open for the 36th Annual Congleton Half Marathon, taking place on Sunday 6th October. The race is part of the NRSSA Race Programme and has a reputation for being a friendly half marathon and a great event for all abilities. Proceeds from this race

will go to Visyon, North West Air Ambulance and Friends for Leisure. It is organised by the Congleton Harriers group.

If you would like more information or to register for the event, then please visit www.congletonhalfmarathon.co.uk

Conquer Fitness Challenges for All

The fittest day of the Summer is back with a bang! On Saturday 10th August there is the chance to join in a range of physical challenges with Conquer Fitness. The day starts with a 'Young Guns' competition where an adult and child (7-12) form a team to battle against the fun 3km course with 8 unique obstacles designed to inspire and challenge kids, and forge family bonds.

The event takes place in Timbersbrook and will act as the warm-up to the Conquer Fitness Cloud Challenge which takes place from 12.30 - 4.30pm. The Conquer Challenge is open to mixed and same sex teams and consists of a 7.5km tough trail, intense mini-

workouts and new rustic challenges. There will be live music and fun activities throughout the day and into the evening. It costs £20 per pair to enter the Young Guns competition and £60 per pair for Conquer Challenge.

The event is designed as a celebration of fitness and the local community are invited to come along and cheer on the athletes as well as watch or join with demonstrations and activities throughout the day. Refreshments will be available, and the day will close with a free entry 'Rock the Cloud' event. For information visit www.conquerfitness.org.uk

"Amazing Day" at Choral Concert

On July 20th Congleton Choral Society is presenting their Summer concert at the Town Hall, with an exciting programme of music by three popular contemporary composers, John Brunning, Bob Chilcott and John Rutter. John Brunning, of Classic FM fame, will be at the concert to introduce his work 'Amazing Day'.

Virtuoso pianist Dominic John and soprano soloist Charlotte Laidlaw will form part of the concert. Christopher Cromar will conduct the evening. Tickets are priced at £15 adult, £12 concession and £2 student, from any CCS member or Congleton Tourist

Information Centre: 01260 271095. More information and online booking at www.congletonchoralsociety.org.uk



Dance to Health

Congleton has two 'Dance for Health' groups – One meets at Congleton United Reformed Church and the other at St John's Community Centre. On Monday 8th July the groups are coming together for a celebration event at St John's Community Centre from 12 noon - 2pm where they will

share and demonstrate what they do. Dance for Health is a falls prevention programme aimed at helping older residents stay active longer and designed to help maintain strength to help prevent or aid recovery from slips, trips and falls. All welcome.