

Bear Necessities

With News from Congleton Town Council & Community Groups

Spring 2019

Are You Ready To Vote?



Congleton residents will have the opportunity to vote for Town Councillors and Cheshire East Councillors on Thursday 2nd May. Everyone over the age of 18 who is registered to vote will have the opportunity to elect up to 10 Town Councillors and three Cheshire East Councillors to serve in their area until 2023. You must be registered by the 12th April in order to vote. You can register at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote

Polling cards will be sent through the post around the 26th March. Voters who are

away or may have difficulty getting to a polling station can opt for a postal vote or proxy vote. Polling Stations will be open on the day from 7am - 10pm. Postal votes must be applied for by the 15th April and Proxy vote application (where someone votes on your behalf) by the 24th April. More information from Cheshire East Council tel: 0300 123 5016.

The summer edition of Bear Necessities will carry news of all 20 Town Councillors and six Cheshire East Ward Councillors elected to serve Congleton. Details will also be available on www.congleton-tc.gov.uk

A Cenotaph - Fitting for Congleton

Congleton Cenotaph should be one that Congleton can be proud of by the end of the year. A plan to renovate the area and importantly add the 250 missing names to the 240 currently listed at the site has taken a huge step forward recently thanks to a financial underwrite by Congleton Town Council worth up to £90,000. Visions for upgrading the Cenotaph started in December 2013, when a group of interested local people formed a WW1 education and awareness group. This work has continued and come under the umbrella of the Congleton Partnership.

Applications for National and Regional funding have not been successful, but the project was seen as too important locally to

let it fail. As well as including more than double the amount of names, the new-look site will offer a more user friendly place for local people to pay their respects.

See www.congletonpartnership.co.uk for suggestions of how you can help.



Taste Buds Tingling for Food & Drink Festival!

This year's annual, popular free Festival will be on Sunday 9th June from 10.30am -4.30pm with over 100 stalls throughout the Town centre offering top quality artisan foods and drinks and a mouth-watering range of global street food pop-ups. Arts, crafts and makers stalls can be found in the Mill Street's Festival Fringe and the Town Hall will once again be hosting What's Cooking? - an all-day programme of demonstrations, workshops and Kids Kitchen activities. The Tasty Traveller Passports will be available for adventurous kids to sample foods from around the world as well as local produce and to choose their favourite stall.

The Festival is a great forum for local green initiatives including the local Sustainability Group selling their apple juice, cider and now cider vinegar. The Cycling Campaign local allotment groups and National charities will also attend. Great live music, magic and street theatre will be keeping the party going with a swing. New this year 'Food for Thought' photographic competition - 1st prize £100. Details on our website www.foodanddrinkfestival.net

The Festival is organised by Congleton Community Projects and a dedicated team of volunteers. To get involved email: jo@congletoncommunityprojects.org

Bear Necessities is produced by Congleton Town Council. The next newsletter will be delivered around 25th June. All contributions should be sent by 4th June to:

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

Tel 01260 270350 or email jm@congletontowncouncil.co.uk

Know Your Councillor

CONGLETON is divided into two wards, East and West. As a rough guide East Ward covers Buglawton, Bromley Farm and Mossley. West Ward covers the Town Centre, West Heath, Lower Heath and Newcastle Road. Each ward is represented by 10 Councillors.

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



Larry Barker (C)



Charles Booth (C)



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)



To be filled following
elections in May 2019



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

A Year To Tri!

There's still time to get your entries in for this year's Annual Town Mayor's Triathlon which takes place in Congleton Leisure Centre and in Congleton Park on **Sunday 28th April**. A Go-Tri for youngsters starts at 1.30pm. This is free to enter for 8-14 year olds, and applications can be accepted up until the 5th April or until full if earlier. The adult Sprint Triathlon event follows the Go-Tri and is a great opportunity for anyone aged 15+ to challenge themselves. Entries can be individual or as part of the team and involve a 500m swim, 10Km cycle and 5km run or jog. Entries cost £20 if solo or £15 as part of a team to cover the costs of timing chips, medals and food. Adult entrants are encouraged to gain some sponsorship, with funds raised going to the Town Mayor's charities.

It's probably one of the most relaxed and fun Triathlon's around! Last year the average age of those taking part was 50. Training for the Triathlon takes place every Sunday at 1.30pm at Congleton Leisure Centre. Local people are encouraged to come and support on the day.



PCSO Surgeries

Local people have the opportunity to meet with their local PCSOs at drop in surgeries held across the town. At the surgeries the PCSOs will remain in one place for at least an hour and welcome people to come and talk to them about any issues which they think the Police should know about, or to ask any questions. Congleton's three town PCSOs are Jessica Shore, Christopher Munro and Georgia Creed.

- PCSO Jessica Shore covers the Town Centre, Lower Heath, West Heath and holds surgeries at New Life Church Café, Stock at the Pavilion, Tesco's Barn Road and the Old Saw Mill.
- PCSOs Christopher Munro and Georgia Creed cover Bromley Farm, Mossley,

Timbersbrook and Buglawton and hold surgeries at Parnell Square Hub, and McColls in St John's Road.

- As part of the same team, there are three rural PCSOs; PCSO Matthew Steele holds surgeries at Glebe Farm and PCSOs Julia Short and David Bell at Marton Golf Club.



Times and dates of surgeries vary due to shift patterns. For the most up-to-date times, see www.cheshire.police.uk/local-policing/macclesfield/macclesfield-events

Mayor Making and Civic Parade

Congleton's Mayor-Making ceremony will take place as part of the Annual Town Council meeting on **Thursday 23rd May at 7pm in the Town Hall**. This meeting is open to all. The Town Mayor is chosen by fellow councillors and must be a serving councillor. The Mayor becomes the chairman of the Council for the year, raises funds for their chosen charities and is also the Civic figurehead for the Town

Council. To book the Town Mayor for your event, contact Linda Minshull at the Town Council on 01260 270350, ext 4, or lm@congletontowncouncil.co.uk One of the first engagements is the Civic Parade and Service, which takes place on **Sunday 2nd June**. The Parade will meet behind the Town Hall at 2.30pm ready to set off at 3pm local groups are encouraged to join in.



Neighbourhood Plan Update

The Examiner came back with a first round of questions on Congleton's detailed draft Neighbourhood Plan, mainly around housing and green-space issues. A

detailed response was sent in February and the team is waiting to learn of the next stages. See www.mycongleton.org for a look at all the documents.

Easter TREATS

Congleton Town Council is planning some EGG-celent fun and games in the town centre on **Tuesday 9th April** from 10.30am - 1.30pm to mark the start of the school Easter-holidays. Don't miss out of joining in the Dino-Disco adneture challenge at 11.30 and 12.45! The day will also see the launch of an Easter 'hop around the shops' cards to gain stamps and earn a chocolate treat from the Tourist Information Centre. Put the date in your diary and come into town to see what all the fun is about! The Hop around the Shops will continue until Easter Saturday and copies of the card can be collected from the Tourist Information Centre or participating shops.



RECLAIM THE PAVEMENTS

The Town Council frequently receives complaints about inconsiderate use of the pavements, including over-grown hedges, parking, dog mess, bins, rubbish and cyclists. The Town Council has to work with other agencies on these matters.

- **Hedges:** Hedges that are part of the highway are cut by Cheshire East or Streetscape. Hedges on private land, even when they creep onto the pavement, are usually the responsibility of the owner or landlord. If they are obstructing the pavement Cheshire East can request that they are cut back or, if necessary, order the work and recharge to the property.
- **Parking on the Pavement:** Where this is causing an obstruction, is on double yellow lines or blocking a dropped pavement the Police can issue a fine.

- **Dog Mess:** Dog walkers are encouraged to pick up after their pets. Street Wardens do cover the Congleton area and will issue Fixed Penalty Notices. You can report problem areas to the Wardens on telephone 0300 123 5021.
- **Bins:** Congleton Town Council empties around 170 public bins and carries out regular litter picks. Street Wardens can issue Fixed Penalty Notices for dropping litter and there are large fines for fly-tipping. Commercial and household waste cannot be placed in the public bins and, if suspected, action will be taken against the offender.
- **Cyclists:** Cyclists have no rights to cycle on pavements. However, very few riders are issued with penalty notices - If you collide with a pedestrian, you could be prosecuted for careless cycling.

Blooming Again for 2019!

Congleton has a blooming brilliant reputation for being a solid GOLD In Bloom Town and the best large town in the North West - It's a reputation that we want to keep! The In Bloom competitions are about community involvement and environmental responsibility as well as horticultural excellence, and this year even more emphasis is being placed on community involvement.

You can help by:

- joining in local area tidies - These usually take place on the first Saturday of the month from 10 - 12 noon. See Congleton in Bloom on Facebook for dates, times and locations.
- helping out with the Canal Adoption Group on the 4th Thursday of the month, 10am - 2pm, meeting at The Queen's Head. Tel 07742 450068.

- helping to look after a small local area - Litter picking tools provided.

Report any 'grot spots' that you come across to info@congletontowncouncil.co.uk



Groups Benefit from Margaret's Fund

Eight local groups in Congleton have benefited from almost £5,000 of funding from the Margaret Williamson Memorial Fund. Margaret's Fund was set up following her sudden death in 2015. The fund aims to support environmental, educational and cultural projects in Congleton: subjects that Margaret was passionate about. Grants are made available annually from the funds generated by the capital.

More details at www.congletonpartnership.co.uk

The Successful Applicants for 2018:

- Bromley Farm Comm. Development Trust (£500)
- Congleton Pride (£300)
- Elizabeth Group (£1,000)
- Electric Picture House (£500)
- Friends of Congleton Park (£500)
- Macclesfield & Congleton Scout Assn (£600)
- Sol Theatre (£1,050)
- Trinity Amateur Operatic Society (£500)

News In Brief...

EASTER SERVICE

Congleton churches will be coming together for an Easter Service in the Town Centre on **Good Friday, 19th April**. A parade bringing in the cross will form up at Trinity Church in Wagg Street at 11.50am and the service will be held at 'Woolies Wall' opposite B&M in the Town Centre at mid-day. All welcome.

BRADSHAW HOUSE

Thank you to all the residents that took the time to give their views on Bradshaw House. The Town Council submitted a bid for the property and is waiting to hear from Cheshire East Council.

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Congleton residents are encouraged to come and have their say at the Annual Town Meeting, taking place on **Thursday 16th May** in the Town Hall at 7pm. This is not a council meeting but a meeting of residents where you can have your say on matters connected to Congleton. It is hosted by the Town Mayor and is a meeting that towns must hold for their electorate before the 1st June each year. There will be a number of short presentations and a chance to ask those burning questions.

CONGLETON PRIDE

Congleton Pride has now gained its Charitable Status. The group is working hard to put on a fabulous Pride Event in Congleton Town Centre on **Saturday 20th July**. There will be stalls, music and fun in the pedestrian area from 10am - 4pm and acts in many of the pubs in the evening.

TEDDY BEARS' PICNIC

Ruby's Fund will be taking charge of the annual Congleton Teddy Bears Picnic in Congleton Park. The picnic is being planned for **Tuesday 11th June** from 12 noon - 2pm. It's free entry - just bring your picnic and your teddy and join in some fun activities with pre-school children from around the area.

See www.rubysfund.co.uk for more information.

Other dates for your diary...

March

- 18th NHS Blood Service, Town Hall, 1.45-4.15pm, 5.30-7.45pm
- 21st CTC Finance & Policy Committee, Town Hall, 7pm
- 23rd-30th Centre Stage presents "Cats", Daneside Theatre
- 26th Museum Talk, Congleton Museum, 2pm
- 27th Ladies Fashion Show, Wellspring Church, 6.30pm for Marie Curie
- 28th CTC Planning Committee, Town Hall, 7pm
- 30th Congleton Makers Market, Town Centre, 10am
- 30th Congleton Youth Orchestra Concert, Town Hall, 7pm

April

- 4th CTC Council Meeting, Town Hall, 7pm- Followed by Town Hall & Assets Meeting
- 6th Town Tidy, 10am-12 noon
- 6th Congleton Choral Society Spring Concert, Town Hall, 7.30pm
- 7th Museum Walk "Religion in Congleton", Congleton Museum, 2pm
- 8th NHS Blood Service, Town Hall, 1.45-4.15pm, 5.30-7.45pm
- 9th Easter Treats Day, Town Centre, 10.30am
- 9th-22nd Hop Around the Shops Easter Egg Hunt, Town Centre
- 23rd NHS Blood Service, Town Hall, 1.45-4.15pm, 5.30-7.45pm
- 27th The Makers Market, Town Centre, 10am
- 28th Congleton Sprint Triathlon & Go-Tri, Congleton Park from 12pm
- 30th Museum Talk, Congleton Museum, 2pm

May

- 2nd Congleton Town Council & Cheshire East Election Day
- 5th Museum Walk "Mill Walks & Industrial Yarns", Congleton Museum, 2pm
- 10th NHS Blood Service, Town Hall, 1.45-4.15pm, 5.30-7.45pm
- 10th All Stars Cricket, Mossley Cricket Club, 6pm
- 11th Hidden Theatre performances, varied venues & times
- 11th Beartown Amateur Boxing, Town Hall, 7pm
- 12th Congleton Park, 11am
- 16th Annual Town Meeting, Town Hall, 7pm
- 16th-18th Congleton Amateur Youth Theatre present "Fantastic Mr Fox", Daneside Theatre
- 18th Paranormal Night- Supernatural Diaries (ticketed event), Town Hall, 8pm
- 23rd Annual Council Meeting & Mayor Making, Town Hall, 7pm
- 25th Congleton Paddling Pool Opens
- 25th The Makers Market, Town Centre, 10am
- 28th Museum Talk, Congleton Museum, 2pm

June

- 1st Jenni Lee Performing Arts Foundation present "Wychcraft", Daneside Theatre,
- 2nd Congleton Mayor Civic Parade & Service
- 2nd Museum Walk, Congleton Museum, 2pm
- 5th NHS Blood Service, Town Hall, 1.45-4.15pm, 5.30-7.45pm
- 7th Portable Antiques Finds Liaison Day, Congleton Museum, 10.30am
- 7th-8th Beartown Patchwork & Quilters Exhibition, Town Hall
- 9th Congleton Food and Drink Festival, Congleton Town Centre, 10.30am
- 9th Cry Baby & the Hootchi Cootchi Band, Congleton Park, 4.30pm
- 11th-15th Congleton Players present "Arsenic & Old Lace", Daneside Theatre
- 16th Congleton Brass on the Grass, Congleton Park, 1.30pm
- 18th NHS Blood Service, Town Hall, 1.45-4.15pm, 5.30-7.45pm
- 23rd Audley Silver Band, Congleton Park, 2.30pm
- 25th Museum Talk, Congleton Museum, 2pm
- 26th NHS Blood Service, Town Hall, 1.45-4.15pm, 5.30-7.45pm
- 29th The Makers Market, Town Centre, 10am

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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A Summer of Music

The park will be alive with the sound of music this summer, thanks to a wide range of free concerts being organised by Friends of Congleton Park. The season starts with Cry Baby and the Hootchi Cootchi Band on Sunday 9th June (Food and Drink Festival day) from 4.30pm - 6.30pm. Brass on the Grass takes place on Sunday 16th June from 1.30-5.30pm with a variety of bands showcasing local talent. Audley Silver Band will play from 2.30pm - 4.30pm on Sunday 23rd June. Sunday 7th July it's the turn of the Lions Youth Band. Rode Hall Silver Band will



play on the bandstand on Sunday 28th July. The sounds continue through August and September.

A full list of summer concerts can be seen at www.friendsofcongletonpark.co.uk

History, Herbs & Horticulture in Congleton!



One of Congleton's hidden treasures has an Open Day on Saturday 18th May. The early 19th century Bath House and Physic Garden, (off Cole Hill Bank behind the cenotaph), will welcome visitors and potential volunteers to the site from 10am to 4pm. Informative tours will be available throughout the day.

Guided walks of the beautiful Physic Garden with an expert medical herbalist offer an opportunity to find out about the traditional and current uses of its wide range of plants.

There will be an opportunity to buy plants and find out about volunteering. Admission is free. More information at www.congletonbpt.wordpress.com

Paddling Pool

Congleton's much loved Paddling Pool, in Park Road, is getting ready to re-open for the summer season. The plan is to open the children's pool on the Saturday 25th May, in time for the summer half-term holiday. The town's paddling pool will then remain open, weather permitting, from 10am - 6pm daily until early September.

Residents are reminded that the paddling pool is a facility for children aged 11 and under. All children must be supervised by a responsible adult and alcohol, smoking/vaping, dogs and cycling are not permitted inside the pool area. If we have another hot summer, for safety



reasons, numbers in the pool area will need to be limited to 300, with a one-in one-out entry policy introduced once the maximum number is reached. If driving to the Paddling Pool please use near-by town centre car parks.

HIDDEN THEATRE - 11th May

The Electric Picture House and Congleton Community Projects are organising the Hidden Places Theatre Day on May 11th at their new home in Spindle Mill. The day begins at 1.30pm with a Hidden Talents performance of a show written and produced by young people (under 12) in a series of workshops held at Spindle Mill. Workshops will be held in the Easter holidays, 17th, 18th, 19th April 11am-3pm then Saturdays 27th April and 4th May 11-

1pm, plus after school 9th May 4pm-6pm. Workshops are free but booking is essential.

On the same day several theatre pieces from local students will be performed in selected hidden places within the town and the day finishes with a ticketed professional performance by Out of Chaos called 'Unmythable' -at 7.30pm in Spindle Mill. Contact 01260 270908 for more details and to book workshops or purchase tickets for Unmythable.