

Bear Necessities

With News from Congleton Town Council & Community Groups
Autumn 2019



Warming Up for Christmas in Congleton!

Christmas is coming more than a month early to Congleton, with the town lights switch-on taking place on Saturday November 23rd. Organisers have made some changes this year to give the crowd more space to enjoy the event. Come and enjoy a wide range of entertainers on the stage, browse the community, craft and food stalls in the street and in the Town Hall, plus children's rides, Santa's Grotto, Winter Fest area run by Beartown Brewery and Christmas treats.

The fun starts at 12 noon and continues until 6pm. The traditional lantern parade will leave Lawton Street at 5pm, ready to be near the Christmas tree for the Big Switch-On at 5.30pm followed by a farewell to Father

Christmas. Look out for the Christmas leaflet with the full line up for the day!

If you can spare a couple of hours to help steward at the event we would love to hear from you! Please get in contact by emailing info@congleton-tc.gov.uk or tel 01260 270350, ext 3.

For more details about Christmas in Congleton, see: www.congleton-tc.gov.uk
For more news on Christmas, see page 6.



Help Congleton Go Green!

Congleton Town Council has declared a Climate Change Emergency and pledged to reduce its carbon footprint. Now Congleton Green, a collaborative group made up of a wide range of interested people and organisations, is reaching out to make changes across Congleton. Find out some easy ways that you can play your part at a Green Fayre being held in the Town Hall on Saturday 26th October from 10am - 4pm. Free entrance.

No-one has the answer, but together we all

need to be part of the solution. The Town Hall will be filled with interesting groups, businesses and organisations that are keen to help you become more environmentally friendly and play your part in saving the planet. There will also be talks and demonstrations and a chance to make a pledge on what action you will take and what the actions the town should take!

For more information on what you can do, see Congleton Green ideas on page 3.

Remembrance Parade



Congleton's Annual Remembrance Parade, organised by the Congleton branch of The Royal British Legion with support from the Town Council, will take place on Sunday 10th November. You can support the parade as it marches from Booth Street taking in West Street, Antrobus Street, Mill Street, the pedestrian area, Market Square and Bank Street before reaching the Cenotaph in Lawton Street. After the two minutes silence at 11am, dignitaries and associations will be called up to lay wreaths before attending a church service at St Peter's Church followed by refreshments at the Town Hall.

There will be a free Remembrance concert in the Town Hall on Friday 8th November from 7.30pm - 9pm, with many young choirs and a WW2 75-year theme. Donations from the concert will go towards the Royal British Legion poppy appeal.



Bear Necessities is produced by Congleton Town Council. The next newsletter will be delivered around 20th January. All contributions should be sent by 16th December to:

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

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

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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 2023 are:



Duncan Amies (I)



David Brown (C)



Robert Douglas (LD)



George Hayes (C)



Sally Ann Holland, Mayor (C)



Rob Moreton (I)



Denis Murphy, Deputy Mayor (LD)



Mark Rogan (I)



James Smith (LD)



Kay Wesley (WEP)

← East Ward Councillors

West Ward Councillors →



Suzie Akers Smith (I)



Dawn Allen (C)



Martin Amies (I)



Russell Chadwick (I)



Paul Duffy (LD)



Suzy Firkin (LD)



Margaret Gartside (LD)



Robert Hemsley (LD)



Amanda Martin (C)



Jean Parry (C)

C = Conservative; LD = Liberal Democrat; I = Independent; WEP = Womens Equality Party.

Congleton Businesses Welcome Dementia Customers

There are now 18 Congleton businesses that have been awarded Dementia Friendly stickers by the Congleton Dementia Friendly steering group in recognition of their efforts to make staff and their environment more dementia friendly. Across the town more than 800 people have attended the free awareness sessions and gained their dementia friends badge. Now the group has set a new target of 1000 local people and 25 businesses. To arrange a free awareness session, or to find out about public awareness sessions contact the dementia group via the Town Council on 01260 270350 ext 7 or pick up the new autumn activities leaflet.

Congratulations to the following groups, organisations and businesses for the work they have carried out to

become more Dementia Friendly: Bear Grills, Butters John Bee, Chris Hamriding Estate Agents, Congleton Library, Congleton Lions, Congleton Museum, Congleton Vets, Co-op Funeral Care, Gather, Innovations, Lawton House Surgery, Musical Moments, New Life Church, Old Saw Mill, The Castle Inn, Three Way Travel, Top Nosh and Wild and Wild.



Congleton Market

Congleton Retail Market is open every Tuesday and Saturday and is based on the lower level of the Bridestones Centre, near Morrisons car park. There is also a car boot sale on a Sunday. The Market consists of an indoor market area and an outdoor area with a mixture of regular stalls, car boot stalls and some guest stalls. For many years the market was run by a private company called City Markets, who rented the space from Cheshire East Council. City Markets

ended the contract in November 2018 and the market returned to Cheshire East Council. Many people have signed a petition asking Congleton Town Council to run the market. Cheshire East has supplied details of costs and the market traders have nominated four people to represent them. These traders will be meeting with officers and councillors to explore alternative ways to run the market, and the costs and benefits to the public of making changes.

Town Council Grants

Congleton Town Council provides thousands of pounds of grant aid and sponsorship to Congleton groups and organisations every year. To apply for a grant you need to complete the application form found on the Town Council website www.congleton-tc.gov.uk/your-council/grants A decision on your application will be made by Councillors at the next available Finance and Policy Committee.

To be eligible for a grant or sponsorship you need to be either:

- A Congleton-based charity
- An organisation serving the needs of Congleton citizens
- Citizens requiring a grant to put on an event or project for the benefit of a wider group in Congleton
- Congleton-based club or association serving a specific section of the community.

For an application form and more details about how to apply for a Town Council or other grants, see www.congleton-tc.gov.uk

Work on Cenotaph Delayed

Work on the Congleton Cenotaph in Lawton Street, which will enhance the area and include 14 new plaques containing the 238 missing names as well as the 351 names currently included at the site, has been put back until April 2020. It is now planned to have the opening ceremony for the new-look site in September 2020. There is still time for companies, organisations and individuals to

become 'Friends of the Cenotaph' by making a financial donation to the appeal to build the new memorial. Those who donate and wish to be named will be included on a 'friends board' on the site.

To donate contact Mike Smith at Congleton Partnership on 01260 270350 ext 7 or email mike.smith@congleton-tc.gov.uk or call into the Tourist Information Centre.

CONGLETON Green



Congleton Green is an umbrella project which brings together the climate-related organisations and groups in Congleton. The project is fully supported by Congleton Town Council and Congleton Partnership.

To launch Congleton Green, there will be a Green Fayre held in the Town Hall on the 26th October, which will showcase all the great things that are happening in our town in the name of climate change and environmental challenges we face. It's the start of a public conversation about what more we can do. The event is open from 10am - 4pm and free to enter.

Top Tips...

Quit wasting energy - turn lights off when you leave the room, don't leave appliances on stand-by, switch them off and save energy!

See the Light energy saving bulbs are more expensive to buy, but save energy and can last upto 10 times longer. Fitting just one compact fluorescent bulb can save £3 to £6 per year.

Turning it down turning your heating down by one degree centigrade could save £75 per year, or even more!

Plastic Free Congleton

Plastic Free Congleton is a new group which has been set up to reduce the use of avoidable single-use plastic in our town. Plastic is everywhere! But when it lands on our streets, it can then enter our rivers and waterways and then onto our beaches and oceans. To help prevent this plastic pollution, one of the focuses of the group will be to perform and organise community litter picks along our beautiful River Dane and Macclesfield Canal.

Businesses, schools and community groups are invited to become 'Plastic Free Champions'. Going plastic free is not easy, but it can be easy to reduce our plastic use. Simple things can reduce the amount of plastic you use such as carrying:

- Reusable bags
- Reusable coffee cup
- Refillable water bottle
- Cutlery set

If you would like to get involved as a volunteer, or to find out how your community centre, place of worship or school could reduce their single-use plastic, please get in touch with the group via its Facebook page @CongletonFreePlastic or you can contact Heather Seddon, heather.seddon2@btinternet.com the Community Lead for the group.

More info about the scheme can be found at 'Surfers Against Sewage' organisation on www.sas.org.uk

Becoming Carbon Neutral

Cheshire East Council and Congleton Town Council have set themselves the challenge of becoming carbon neutral by 2025. Could you set yourselves the same challenge?

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has said that to do this we need to:

- buy less meat, milk, cheese and butter
- eat more locally sourced seasonal food - and throw less of it away
- drive electric cars, walk or cycle short distances, and take trains and buses instead of planes, where possible
- use video conferencing instead of business travel
- use a washing line instead of a tumble dryer
- insulate homes; demand low carbon in every consumer product
- plant trees.

Congleton Sustainability Group has run Sustainable Living in Congleton (SLIC) courses for the past few years.



Congleton Town Council has declared a Climate Change Emergency!

- Pledge to make Congleton Town Council carbon neutral by 2025
- In all discussions, debates and decision-making procedures ensure that the climate impact is thoroughly considered and recorded.
- Report back on actions and plans within three months

NHS Congleton War Memorial Hospital

Managing the joint concerns of financial pressures and increasing demands for health services is a massive challenge. In Cheshire East, the agencies involved in the delivery of health services are working together on a soon-to-be published Five-Year Plan. As an area with a growing population, Congleton Town Council is keen to see as many health services as possible delivered as locally as possible. Here we look at Congleton War Memorial Hospital in Canal Road.



Congleton War Memorial Hospital was opened in 1924 following fundraising by local people as a memorial to those who died in the First World War. East Cheshire NHS Trust provides a range of services from Congleton War Memorial Hospital, including:

- Aston Ward 28 bed intermediate care ward
- Blood test clinics (Monday - Friday 8.30am - 11.15am)
- Consultant-led outpatient services
- District nursing
- GP Out-of-Hours appointments
- The Minor Injuries Unit
- Outpatient therapy services including a physiotherapy gym
- Audiology
- Midwives
- Podiatry
- Paediatric Speech and Language Therapy
- Epilepsy
- Sexual Health Clinic
- Leg Ulcer Clinic

Details of clinics vary. Please contact the hospital on 01260 294800.

For a copy of the draft Cheshire East Five Year Health Plan, see:

<http://healthwatchcheshireeast.org.uk>

Minor Injuries Unit Opening Hours

The Minor Injuries Unit is open **Monday to Friday - 9am to 5pm** with a break for lunch from 1pm to 1.30pm. The unit has been closed on weekends and bank holidays for the past three years. The Minor Injuries Unit is a great resource where local people can be treated for minor injuries such as minor burns, cuts, splinters and sprains.

The unit can be subject to temporary closures at short notice due to staff redeployment to Macclesfield hospital, so it is worth checking for closures before visiting - see the Minor Injuries Unit page at www.eastcheshire.nhs.uk

The Aston Unit

The Aston Unit provides 28 beds for patients requiring intermediate care. This type of care is for people who no longer need the acute care and can therefore continue their recovery in a homely and relaxed environment.

This can be an important step on the pathway home or to longer term care. Intermediate care on the Aston Unit is available to anyone registered with a GP practice in the NHS Eastern Cheshire Clinical Commissioning Group area. Around a quarter of patients on the unit are registered with a Congleton GP.

The Physiotherapy Gym at Congleton

The Physiotherapy Gym, pictured above, features equipment to support the rehabilitation of patients with a range of musculoskeletal conditions. Rehabilitation classes for conditions such as knee joint replacement, hip joint replacement and ligament repair surgery take place in this gym area, along with individual sessions depending on the patient's goals. Referrals are through your GP.

Key Facts:

- 9,000 outpatient attendances at the War Memorial Hospital each year
- 54% of patients attending are from the Congleton area
- 100% of patients would recommend the Aston Unit

If Cheshire East was a Village of 100 People, it would have...

- 16 people with high blood pressure
- 3 adults with cancer
- 5 people with diabetes
- 21 adults who exercise less than 30 minutes per week
- 1 person dependent on alcohol
- 4 people with Coronary Heart Disease
- 48 adults overweight or obese
- 1 person with dementia.

Mental Health



Earlier in October, we recognised World Mental Health Day. Cheshire East Council has just produced an All Ages Mental Health Strategy 2019-2022. Visyon has been supporting people's emotional health and well-being for 25 years in Congleton. All good reasons to focus on Mental Health. Thank you to the staff at Visyon for supplying much of the information for this page.

Mental Health Matters

One in four adults are believed to experience a mental health condition each year, making it very likely that everyone knows someone who would benefit from support with their mental health. Like physical illness, mental illness can affect anyone. And just like a physical illness it is important to seek support particularly if you:

- *feel sad and worthless*
- *have lost interest in things that you once enjoyed*
- *have feelings of worry and panic.*

Your General Practitioner (GP) is usually the best place to start. They will be able to provide you with different options of support which may include talking therapies and/or medication. Maintaining good mental health is invaluable to having a feeling of overall wellbeing.

If you suspect a friend, work colleague or family member is suffering, one way you can support them is simply by listening, not interrupting, just letting them talk and responding in a non-judgmental way. Repeating back what someone says to you can also encourage them to keep talking because they will feel that you're genuinely interested in what they have to say.

Visyon is keen for everyone to take a collective responsibility for mental health and build more resilient communities that are better equipped to support each other. This includes workplaces taking better care of employee's wellbeing, schools taking better care of student's wellbeing and everyone becoming more educated about mental health.

Visyon is taking steps to encourage this by;

- *working with parents and families through Parent Empower Hour and Family Support sessions*
- *working in schools to inform teachers how to better support their students*
- *offering Community Ambassador sessions to train members of the community.*

Years of VISYON

2019 sees Visyon mark 25 years of working with children and young people promoting positive mental health and emotional wellbeing. Visyon started as a small charity based in West Street and run by a few skilled volunteers, two of the original founders are still with the organisation. It is now a major provider of services across Cheshire East and North Staffordshire, but maintains its headquarters at Fellowship House, next to the paddling pool in Congleton.

A quarter of a century of support by many

volunteers, young and not so young, has helped to grow and sustain Visyon's work. The journey has not always been smooth as funding was (and still can be) hard to obtain with many funders looking for new projects. Major grants have helped and the charity is thankful to all the local people who have supported it during the first 25 years.

Find out more about Visyon, how you can support someone and how you can support the charity at www.visyon.org.uk



Your Experience of Getting Help

Congleton Town Council's Health and Well Being Working Group is currently conducting some research into access to mental health services in the area and what

people's experiences and expectations are.

If you are prepared to help please contact info@congleton-tc.gov.uk

If Cheshire East was a Village of 100 People...

- 14 Adults would have a common mental health disorder, eg. depression/anxiety
- 2 adults would have a severe mental health disorder, eg. Bipolar
- 1 adult would have an eating disorder
- 3 children/young people would have a mental health issue.

SEARCH ONLINE FOR A COPY OF CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL'S ALL AGES MENTAL HEALTH STRATEGY 2019-2022



CHRISTMAS



As Christmas approaches, there's lots to get involved with in Congleton. Here's just a few of the Christmas gems that you can get involved with...

Lantern Making Workshops

The tradition of Christmas Lanterns is alive and strong in Congleton with generations of families joining in this fun activity! This year's lantern making workshops will be held in the New Electric Picture House, in Spindle Mill, Spindle Street, near the Beartown Brewery. Join in any time between 10.30am and 3.30pm on Saturdays 2nd, 9th and 16th November. All equipment is provided and experienced makers are on hand to offer advice and help. A £1.50 donation towards the light would be appreciated. Carry your lantern on Saturday 23rd November as part of the grand procession at the lights switch-on and again at the Tree of Light switch on. For information tel. 01260 270908 or email jo@congletoncommunityprojects.org

Tree of Light

Help to make Congleton's first Community Tree of Light a success! Organised by Congleton Rotary, with support from Congleton Town Council and Congleton Partnership, the Tree of Light offers the opportunity to remember a loved one this Christmas time as well as raising funds for East Cheshire Hospice and Congleton Rotary charities.

Stars to go on the tree, which will be located near the cenotaph in Lawton Street, can be purchased for £5 until 2nd December at Congleton Makers Market, Congleton Christmas Lights Switch on, Tourist Information Centre, Funeral Parlours and various shops. You can also add a name to be included in the Book of Remembrance. The tree will be switched on at a short ceremony at 5pm on Saturday 7th December. Meet at the tree or join in the procession from the pedestrian area at 4.40pm.

Visit www.congleton-tc.gov.uk for more information.



East Cheshire Hospice Christmas Tree Collection

You can help this very worthy charity by giving a donation to its volunteers to take away your Christmas tree in the new year. Tree collections will be on the 11th and 12th January. Details of how to register are at www.eastcheshirehospice.org.uk/echtrees or tel 01625 433477.

Community Carol Service

This year's Community Carol Service will be held in Congleton Town Hall rather than St Peter's Church. The service is open to all and takes place on Thursday 19th December, starting at 7pm. This event is expected to be very popular.

Charity Christmas Party

Rob Moreton presents a 70s, 80s and 90s Christmas Party at the Cricket Club on Saturday 30th November. Tickets cost £12 and includes Chilli and Rice. Proceeds to Ruby's Fund, Beartown Boxing, Congleton Rovers and Congleton Cricket Club Juniors. Expected to be a sell out!

Shoe Box Appeal

New Life Church will be collecting donations towards the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal again this year. Boxes can be taken to New Life Church, West Road, Monday-Friday between 9am-5pm. Boxes needed by 17th November. Visit the Samaritans website for gift suggestions and what not to include: www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/what-goes-in-my-shoebox

Food Bank Appeal

On top of the usual food parcels, New Life Church are creating Christmas Food Hampers and are asking for festive food donations, such as Christmas Puddings, Mince Pies etc. cash donations are also welcome.

Congleton Pantomime

Aiming his arrow towards the Daneside Theatre, Robin Hood is coming to Congleton for the annual Congleton Pantomime in January 2020. Enjoy traditional family pantomime fun with Robin Hood, his Merry Men, Maid Marion and the Sheriff of Nottingham, plus many more characters. Join in with all the cheers, jeers and jokes everyone loves from the panto! Performances are from the 11th - 18th January. Tickets cost £8 concession and £9.50 adults, available from the Tourist Information Centre in the Town Hall. Signed performances for those with hearing difficulties take place on Sunday 12th at 1pm and 5.30pm and Wednesday 15th at 7.30pm. For the best view of the signer, please book seat numbers 11 to 20.

Don't Be Lonely this Christmas Day

Congleton's Old Saw Mill is planning to offer a Christmas Day lunch for people who may be on their own this Christmas. If you are interested in nominating a person, sponsoring a space or can offer to help, contact the Old Saw Mill on 01260 277658.

Bear Grills Christmas Cheer

Bear Grills is hosting its annual spectacular free Christmas Cheer event on Wednesday 11th December at 2pm. There are limited spaces for people from our community who may be lonely this Christmas and deserve a special treat. If you wish to nominate someone, or if you are able to donate a prize for the free raffle or wine for the table contact Bear Grills on 01260 400160, message them or call in to the café on Market Street.

KEEP IT LOCAL this Christmas

Did you know that Congleton has more than 90 retail shops, 85 service businesses and 50 places to eat and drink in the town centre that are looking forward to helping you find great gifts, get ready and pampered and celebrate Christmas this year. Research has shown that for every £1 spent locally 63p stays in the local community. This year why not try to shop local, drink local, buy local, enjoy local and support your local community.

Three FREE Parking Days this Christmas

To make it easier for you to stay longer and enjoy Congleton this Christmas, Congleton will use three of its four 'free' parking days on:

- **Saturday 23rd November Christmas Lights Switch on**
- **Saturday 14th December**
- **Saturday 21st December**

On these days local people can park for free AFTER 10am in Princess Street Car Park, Back Street Car Park (one behind Lawton Street) and Fairground Car Park. Note that Fairground Car Park still has a three hour upper limit for parking. Back Park Street Car Park is free 3pm every day.

Meet Congleton Beat Team



Congleton has a new Beat Sergeant. In September Sgt Paul Brunton took over from Sergeant Keith Graham. Paul has come from Greater Manchester Police and believes that his background in community policing helped him to beat off stiff competition for the role.

Congleton Police Team is made up of PC Helen Weeks, PC Helen Hood, PC Emma Burns, PC Katie Ritchie, PC Iain Bell and PC Garry Charnock. Congleton also benefits from Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs). The PCSOs are often seen out and about and hold a variety of surgeries in their localities. The Town Council sponsors one of the PCSOs, the rest are sponsored by Cheshire East Council.

- **PCSO Chris Munro** - Congleton East
- **PCSO David Bell** - Congleton West/Town Centre
- **PCSO Georgia Creed** - Congleton East

- **PCSO Julia Short** - Gawsworth
- **PCSO Matthew Steele** - Odd Rode
- **PCSO Joe Benson** - Chelford & Plumley

A great deal of evidence and materials are needed to put together a case for searches or warrants, and the information provided by people living and working in Congleton is vital to help create a full intelligence picture for the Police.

You can provide information in many ways, including:

- anonymously, by calling Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111
- online at www.crimestoppers-uk.org
- 101 (costs 15p per call)
- You can find a surgery or get in touch with your local officer at Cheshire.police.uk.

Messages can also be left for any of the officers at Congleton Police Station in Market Square. The Police Station is staffed Monday - Friday from 9am - 5pm and there is a 24 hour contact phone on the outside of the building.

Congleton Speedwatch Volunteers Needed

Congleton PCSOs work alongside local volunteers to bring Speedwatch to areas in Congleton. Training is given and speedwatch volunteers use equipment to monitor speeds in agreed areas. Details of those breaking the speed limits are passed

to the Police who can issue warning letters, and fixed penalty notices or training to persistent offenders. If you are interested in helping and finding out more contact david.bell2@cheshire.pnn.police.uk

Neighbourhood Plan Update

The Neighbourhood Plan Group is addressing the points raised by both the Examiner and Cheshire East Council in response to the Regulation 15 version of the Congleton Draft Neighbourhood Plan. It has set about updating the evidence base utilising the most up to date information available which has been published by Cheshire East Council in support of the

consultation draft of the Sites Allocation Development Plan Document. The group is working closely with both Congleton Town and Cheshire East Councils and hope to report back early in the New Year.



Women Like Us

Elizabeth's Group has launched a campaign called Women Like Us, to celebrate today's women by creating a mosaic of their faces. Why not nominate a woman you know? All you have to do is visit the website www.WomenLikeElizabeth.com and upload the name of a woman you want to celebrate together with a photo of her, then make a donation to the charity. You can submit your mum, daughter, friend,

grandma, colleague or anyone else. You can also nominate multiple women if you like! The mosaic will be on public view in Congleton and the money raised will go towards a statue to commemorate the life and work of Elizabeth Wolstenholme Elmy, who lived in Congleton and worked all her life for equality and women's rights.



News in Brief

CONGLETON LINK ROAD

Congleton Link Road is on schedule to be completed late in 2020. For the latest information on the development and associated traffic controls, please go to: www.graham.co.uk/congleton-link-road

TRAFFIC MITIGATION MEASURES ON PADBURY LANE

Local people have until the 27th October to have a say on the traffic mitigation measures being proposed for Padbury Lane. Check www.congleton-tc.gov.uk for details

YOUR SAY ON WATERWAYS

The Canal and River Trust are keen to get your views on how we can make the best and encourage greater activity on and around the canals and waterways locally. Please take a few minutes to fill in their survey at www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/ActiveWaterways

WESTLANDS, OFF ASTBURY PLACE

This sheltered housing area is parking for residents and visitors only. People working in town are reminded that they cannot park in this Plus Dane run housing complex.

FLY TIPPING IS ILLEGAL

Everyone is reminded that fly tipping is an illegal activity that can be damaging to the environment, to health and to your pocket. If caught, or if you can be identified via the rubbish left you could face prosecution and a hefty fine.

CONGLETON CHORAL ACADEMY

Are holding a free concert at the United Reform Church, Antrobus Street from 7-8pm on Friday 8th November. If you like what you hear you are welcome to join. The group meets on a Monday from 6pm - 7pm. No auditions and first session free of charge.

Contact Maureen on 07919 211127.

GANG SHOW IN TOWN

'Our Gang' takes place at the Daneside Theatre on Saturday 23rd November at 7.15pm, then nightly from Tuesday 26th to Friday 29th November at 7.15pm, and on Saturday 30th November at 2.15pm and 7.15pm.

It's a variety show produced and performed by members of the Congleton Scouting and Guiding movements and features over 100 young people supported by their leaders.

See tickets@congletongangshow.co.uk for any ticket enquiries or 01260 299264 (evenings only).



Other dates for your diary...

October

- 20th Visyon Pie and Quiz Night, Young Pretender, 6pm
- 24th CTC Planning Meeting, Town Hall, 7pm
- 26th The Makers Market, Town Centre, 10am-4pm
- 27th Social Dance, United Reform Church, 2pm
- 28th Story & Tea for Grown-Ups, Congleton Library, 2.30pm
- 29th Museum Talk "What's New", Congleton Museum, 2pm
- 30th NHS Blood Service, Town Hall, 1.45-4.15pm // 5.30-7.45pm

November

- 1st Beartown Northern Soul & Motown Charity Event, Town Hall, 7pm
- 2nd Sequence Dance, Buglawton Community Centre, 8pm
- 3rd Museum Walk "Co-operation in Congleton", Congleton Museum, 2pm
- 6th Pre-School Craft Club, Congleton Library, 1pm
- 7th CTC Community, Environment & Services Committee, Town Hall, 7pm
- 8th-4th: Jan- Christmas Affordable Art Sale, Electric Picture House, Spindle Mill
- 11th NHS Blood Service, Town Hall, 1.45-4.15pm // 5.30-7.45pm
- 12th South Cheshire Floral Society, Floral Demonstration, Town Hall
- 13th-16th: Congleton Amateur Youth Theatre "The Wizard of Oz", Daneside Theatre
- 14th CTC Town Hall & Assets Committee, Town Hall, 7pm
- 21st CTC Finance & Policy Committee, Town Hall, 7pm
- 24th "Downton Abbey", Daneside Theatre, 2pm & 7pm
- 25th Story & Tea for Grown-Ups, Congleton Library, 2.30pm
- 28th NHS Blood Service, Town Hall, 1.45-4.15pm // 5.30-7.45pm
- 28th CTC Planning Committee, Town Hall, 7pm
- 30th Congleton Youth Orchestra Concert, Town Hall, 7pm
- 30th The Makers Market, Town Centre, 10am-4pm

December

- 1st Social and Dance, United Reform Church, 2pm
- 4th Pre-School Craft Club, Congleton Library, 1pm
- 5th CTC Council Meeting, Town Hall, 7pm
- 5th-7th: Phoenix Theatre Company "A Christmas Carol", Daneside Theatre, 7.30pm
- 14th Silk Brass & Eaton Bank Academy Choir presented by Congleton Rotary, Daneside Theatre, 7.30pm
- 21st The Makers Market, Town Centre, 10am-4pm

January 2020

- 9th CTC Planning Committee, Town Hall, 7pm
- 14th NHS Blood Service, Town Hall, 1.45-4.15pm // 5.30-7.45pm
- 16th CTC Finance & Policy Committee, Town Hall, 7pm

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

Bear Necessities is designed and printed by Fullcolour.com Limited, Roe Street, Congleton, CW12 1PS. Tel: 01260 292300 or Email: info@fullcolour.com

ROTARY BONFIRE & FIREWORK SPECTULAR

Congleton Rotary Club will be lighting up the sky on **Saturday 2nd November** with Congleton's annual bonfire and firework display, taking place in Congleton Park. Gates to the park will open at 5pm, with the torch-lit parade to light the bonfire at 6pm. The firework display for the children will begin at 6.30pm with the main firework display commencing at

7.30pm. In the park there will be stalls, refreshments and children's rides. Tickets are available from the Tourist Information Centre in the Town Hall and at the Makers Market on Saturday 26th October. Tickets cost £6 for adults and £4 for children (under 5s free) if purchased before Saturday November 2nd and £8 for adults and £6 for children on the day.

A TOUCH OF THE MYSTERIOUS EAST COMES TO CONGLETON

The cast of Congleton Musical Theatre's **'The King and I'** are getting ready to wow audiences at Daneside Theatre. A large group of children, some of whom have never been on stage before, are excited to be playing the King's children.

The show is set against the dazzling and exotic backdrop of Siam, now Thailand. The "King and I" tells the moving story of Anna, an American governess, who tries to help the King to come to terms with the modern world, but he is unable to resist the forces of ancient customs. The show is loved for its songs including; I Whistle A Happy Tune, Hello Young Lovers, Getting To Know You, Something Wonderful and Shall We Dance?



The musical is being directed and choreographed by Jill Mason, whilst the musical director is Louise Bours.

"The King and I" runs from **Tuesday 29th October until Saturday 2nd November**. Tickets can be booked online at www.congletonmusicaltheatre.co.uk or via the Tourist Information Centre in Congleton, 01260 271095.

Two Choral Concerts

The Choral Society will be presenting its autumn concert on **November 16th** at the Town Hall, when it will sing Vivaldi's vibrant **Gloria** - a perennial favourite - and Benjamin Britten's cantata **St Nicholas**, along with the **Holberg Suite** for String Orchestra. The Choir will be accompanied by professional musicians.

This will be quickly followed by the Christmas

concert, with carols old and new, some for the choir and some for the audience to sing along with, plus seasonal readings, at the Town Hall on **December 21st**. Tickets for both concerts will be available from any choir member, the TIC or the website, www.congletonchoralsociety.org.uk where you can also see more details.



Seaside Terror Comes to the Electric Picture House

The Electric Picture House's new home in Spindle Street, near the Beartown Brewery, provides a more comfortable, but just as quirky, setting for professional travelling theatre productions. Later this month, on **Saturday 26th**

October, the EPH will host the funny, nostalgic and visually stunning production of Seaside Terror by the acclaimed Odd Doll company. Be prepared for fun frights and ice cream chills as Seaside Terror celebrates the British horror and British holidays of the 1970s. Suitable for 12+. Tickets cost £10 each and are available from the Electric Picture House - tel 01260 270908.

