

Bear Necessities

With News from Congleton Town Council & Community Groups

COVID-19 SPECIAL EDITION – April 2020



Congleton Community Working Together in COVID-19 Crisis

There is no need to feel alone in Congleton. That's the message from the community groups, churches, Congleton Town Council and others who are working together to help residents in Congleton during the COVID-19 pandemic.

A COVID-19 Community Leads group, set up ahead of the lock-down in March. It is made up of representatives from the Town Council, Congleton Partnership, Bromley Farm Community Centre, Old Saw Mill, Ruby's Fund, St Johns Parish Church, New Life Church, Plus Dane, Cheshire East Council, Chappell Centre, U3A, Congleton Community Projects, Visyon, Congleton Police, Cheshire Voluntary Service and Age UK. The group is in regular contact. New

initiatives include a Congleton Community Information telephone line, an additional food hub, a Congleton community COVID-19 Facebook site and close working with Cheshire East Council with its People Helping People initiative.

Congleton Town Mayor Councillor Sally Ann Holland said: "Congleton really is the little town with the big heart. The support that neighbours are giving neighbours and the willingness to help others has been heart-warming. There is a long way to go and a lot of work will be needed to support individuals, groups and businesses in the months to come, but as a community I am sure we will continue to work together"

More information can be seen inside Bear Necessities and at www.congleton-tc.gov.uk



Bank Holiday Friday 8th May marks the 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE) day 'a shared moment of celebration'. Due to the current pandemic and social distancing the majority of VE Day celebrations have been cancelled or postponed.

Congleton is keen to mark this anniversary and on Friday 8th May there will be messages across social media where Town Crier Paul Bates will recite a 'Cry for Peace' and Town Mayor Cllr Sally Ann Holland will read a short poem. It is hoped that thousands will join the Nation's Toast to the Heroes at 3pm.

In the lead up to the event, the Town Council plans to add resources to the website to download 'festival packs' to decorate the house/ front window.

Send pictures to social media using [#congletoncelebratesVE20](https://twitter.com/congletoncelebratesVE20) and we will add a gallery of pictures to the website.

See our website, www.congleton-tc.gov.uk for further details.

Financial Help Available

Universal Credit Hotline

0800 328 5644

Government Business Support

0300 456 3565 (9am-6pm)

Additional information at:

www.congleton-tc.gov.uk/corona-virus/financial-help

Congleton COVID-19 Information Line
Daily 11am – 7pm ☎ **01260 541 815**

Latest local and national updates:
www.congleton-tc.gov.uk



The little town with a big heart!



PROTECT THE NHS

♥ save lives

Congleton Town Council has published this **COVID-19 Special Edition** of Bear Necessities as we are aware that many residents do not have access to social media or the Chronicle newspaper and may not be aware of the local support that is available.

The next edition is likely to be in July.

Contact:

jackie.macarthur@congleton-tc.gov.uk
or tel 01260 270350, ext 3.

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.

Coronavirus COVID-19 Up



Congleton Community Information Line...

A new telephone information line has been set up for Congleton, especially aimed at those who are not able to access online information. The new phone line - 01260 541 815 - is staffed from 11am – 7pm, seven days a week. This is a very local service and our aim is to put you in contact with the group, organisation or individual who can help you - whether it is a friendly chat, someone to shop or a query about a local issue. The phone line works closely with Cheshire East's People Helping People Scheme and is very much about Congleton helping Congleton people.

...Call 01260 541815

Storehouse New Life Church

Congleton's regular food bank, the Storehouse, based at New Life Church has seen a rapid growth in demand. In normal times the Storehouse gives out around 20 food parcels a week. Currently it is 10- 20 parcels a day! Parcels can be for single people, couples or families. People can be referred to the Storehouse via several organisations including social services, home start, the police, health visitors, Plus Dane and the Town Council. The storehouse

is open from Monday – Friday from 10am – 3pm. Food and financial donations are being accepted and the store is grateful to all donors for their support. Donations of food can be taken to New Life Church during opening hours and financial donations can be made by bank transfer – call the office on 01260 297 961 for details. Donors who are tax payers can gift aid support by sending a short email to mail@nlchurch.org.uk

Stay Safe at Home

Do you feel unsafe in your home because of someone's behaviour? Help is available. Victims of domestic abuse can still leave their homes and refuges will remain open. Abuse can come in many forms: physical, mental, sexual and psychological. You need to remember: You are not to blame. You are not alone. You can get help. You are already a survivor. You can get your life back. You cannot change the person who is hurting you, but you can take steps to make you and your children safer.

Phone: 0300 123 5101.

Email: cedap@cheshireeast.gov.uk

www.openthedoorcheshire.org.uk

Additional Food Hub

An additional food hub, which has been operating through the Town Hall, is now running from the Vale Club on Canal Street. The hub was housed in the Town Hall from the 23rd March, when local volunteer Shaun Radcliffe asked for help.

Fronted by Shaun and a team of nine volunteers, this additional hub distributes much appreciated snack packs to those in need plus delivers other donated goods and emergency provisions until more permanent solutions can be found. The packs are collated in the morning and distributed by the volunteers in the afternoon. The group has been distributing around 80 packages per week.

HOW YOU CAN GIVE...

Donations for current and future COVID-19 projects can be made in the following way via Congleton Town Council. Should there be any surpluses at the end of the pandemic funds will be ring fenced for either COVID-19 recovery projects or for community benefit.

1. Bank Transfer to Royal Bank of Scotland;
SORT CODE: 16-17-12;
ACCOUNT NUMBER: 11411170, quoting 'COVID-19'
2. Arranging for the Town Council to collect a cheque or cash – Tel 01260 270350, ext. 1
3. PayPal may be available shortly.
See www.congleton-tc.gov.uk for more info.

MEDICAL SUPPORT

The Health Services are under intense pressure. **DO NOT** attempt to see a doctor if you have COVID-19 symptom – high temperature, new persistent cough. Stay at home for 7 days. If you do not recover or if your symptoms get worse follow the advice of the NHS 111 website.

Doctors

Doctors will carry out phone consultations and see patients when necessary. All three doctors' surgeries in Congleton are still open and have been contacting their patients about regular injections.

Although all the news is filled with COVID-19, regular medical conditions, ailments, accidents and medical emergencies are still occurring.

Surgeries and hospitals are doing their best to separate COVID-19 and other patients and it is important to still seek medical help in a medical emergency.

Dentists

These are currently not open for consultations. Emergency dental procedures may be

possible for very heavy bleeding, severe tooth pain, a tooth that has been knocked out or a swelling which makes it difficult to breathe. In the first instance ring your normal dentist. If an emergency and you have signs of COVID-19 call NHS 111.

Pharmacies

Congleton is lucky to be served by 10 pharmacies. Details of their opening hours can be found at www.congleton-tc.gov.uk. Many pharmacies have arrangements for delivering prescriptions and for those who are self-isolating there are volunteers available to help collect your prescriptions. If you need help with collecting prescriptions, please call the Congleton Community COVID line on 01260 541 815.

ACT LIKE EVERYONE HAS IT. WASH YOUR HANDS! KEEP YOUR DISTANCE!

Mental Health

Whilst a big focus has been placed on physical health, mental health is also very important. Health professionals advise to try and keep to routines. To get up, get dressed, have regular mealtimes, to try something new or creative, and to talk to friends, family or volunteers about how you are feeling. Feelings of stress, boredom, anxiety and uncertainty are normal.

For those suffering from more serious mental health concerns, the Cheshire and Wirral Health Trust has opened a new 24-hour, seven day a week Urgent Support Line staffed by professional mental health workers.

Tel 0300 303 3972. Also see NHS Every Mind Matters website.

Staying Social at Home

Congleton has a wealth of fantastic clubs and organisations, many of which are being very creative about ways to stay socially but not physically connected. Whatever your passion, if you can get online the chances are you can connect with others who enjoy the similar

activities. There's theatre, keep-fit, choirs, yoga, art projects, educational programmes, pub quizzes, even karaoke.

You can find out more at the Hobbies pages on www.congleton-tc.gov.uk

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- | | |
|--|---|
| ■ Cheshire East People Helping People
0300 123 5034 | ■ NHS Cheshire & Wirral Mental Health Line
0300 303 3972 |
| ■ Congleton Community COVID-19 Information Line
01260 541 815 | ■ Dementia COVID-19 Support Line
0333 150 3456 |
| ■ Congleton Storehouse (New Life Church)
01260 297961 | ■ Visyon (Young people's mental wellbeing)
01260 290000 |
| ■ Cheshire East Domestic Abuse Hub
0300 123 5101 | ■ Citizens Advice Bureau
0300 123 3353 |
| ■ Cheshire East Age UK
01625 612958 (book a call) | ■ Samaritans (FREE 24/7)
116 123 |

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

Where possible, Town Council staff are getting on with business for Congleton. The Streetscape team is continuing to carry out their duties adapting working practices to allow for social distancing from colleagues and the public. The Town Hall team are in the Town Hall assisting with the food hub and blood donor sessions. Office-based members of staff are working from home with full access to the phones and files. Normal committees have been suspended. Tel 01260 270350, email info@congleton-tc.gov.uk

MAYOR MAKING

This was planned for the 21st May and will now be postponed along with the Mayor's Civic Service in June. Councillors have agreed that a public event will be held when it is safe to do so and in the meantime Councillor Sally Ann Holland will continue as Town Mayor.

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

This public meeting, which was due to be held on the 30th April, has also been postponed due to the Coronavirus pandemic. There will be a public meeting held in the Town Hall later in the year.

POLICE STATION

For those who cannot get online or ring 101, Congleton Police Station front office is open for an hour a day. 10am–11am on Mon, Wed, Fri and Sun and 3pm–4pm on Tues, Thurs and Sat.

CONGLETON LINK ROAD

In-line with government advice to the construction industry, GRAHAM, the contractor on the Congleton Link Road has significantly reduced the amount of work taking place on the project. One aspect of work which has been able to continue in a safe environment is the earthworks. GRAHAM continues to assess the situation, in the hope of reintroducing work on the project in a staged approach, ensuring the safety of its employees and supply chain.

For more information on the project visit www.graham.co.uk/congleton-link-road

WESTERN POWER

Works to reinforce the electrical power supply through Congleton have been put on hold. Western Power was due to add a new cable from Bromley Road to Astbury Marsh to help provide power for all the new building around Congleton. This work has been delayed due to the need for staff to work in close proximity and it is hoped that it can be rescheduled for later in the year.

CENOTAPH

The renovation of Congleton Cenotaph, due to start on the 21st April, has also needed to pause until the construction company is able to start clearing and building the new site. This is a 13 week build project. The plan is to have it ready for the 13th September.



NHS will be running its regular Blood-donating sessions in the Town Hall on Friday 15th May, Friday 29th May, Monday 15th June, Friday 10th July and Tuesday 14th July. This will be via booked appointments only, with no walk-ins. Those booked to donate are asked to be on time, but not arrive too early to avoid having to wait. Up-to-date info at www.blood.co.uk

Supporting Local Shops & Businesses

Many Congleton shops and businesses are closed following Government orders for all but essential shops to shut to reduce the spread of the Coronavirus. An exception was made for food retailers, pharmacies, hardware shops, corner shops, petrol stations, banks, newsagents, laundrettes and pet shops. Food places and take away establishments can remain open for collection and delivery only. A list of the local shops and businesses offering local shopping and delivery options can be seen at www.congleton-tc.gov.uk/corona-virus/

Updates to this page should be sent to martha.hayes@congleton-tc.gov.uk



Paddling Pool Maybe A Miss In 2020

It is not clear whether the paddling pool will be able to open in 2020. The Congleton attraction is a magnet for young families on hot summer days and has become so popular that a 300-person limit was added. At the end of the 2019 season problems with the floor of the pool were identified and these were due to be repaired in April 2020.

The major repair works will not take place this year. Whether or not the pool will be able to open later in the season will depend on Government advice. If the gates are locked please do not attempt to enter.



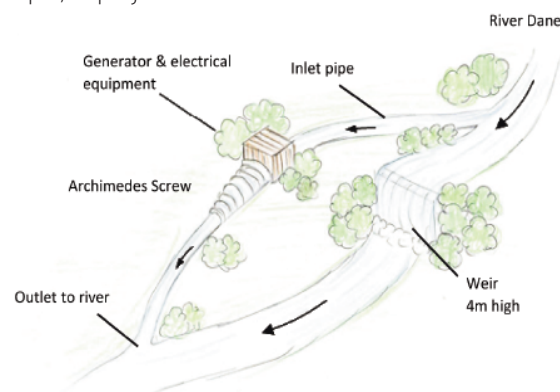
Together We Made It Happen!

Congleton Hydro On Course For Reality

The Share Offer for financing the Congleton Hydro Project at Havannah Weir closed on Friday April 17th and the team is delighted to announce that the targeted amount of £730K was raised! Work on bringing the scheme into practical reality will start at the end of April, although actual site work will depend on any COVID-19 restrictions and the discharging of some planning conditions.

Core to the project is the Archimedes Screw and this will be ordered as soon as possible as it has a delivery lead time of six months. Again, depending on COVID-19 issues (and of course the weather!), it is planned that 'Green Electricity' will be generated by the end of this year. A

future issue of Bear Necessities will give an overview of the scheme together with the opportunities for volunteers to get involved in its operation and maintenance and especially the Education Programme that the project will also deliver.



Britain in Bloom Cancelled But Local Pride Remains

Both the regional and national In Bloom competitions have been cancelled for 2020 while communities socially isolate. It is hoped that the competitions will be able to take place in 2021. Congleton Town Council Streetscape team continues to play its part emptying public bins, street cleansing, looking after Congleton park and carrying out limited grass cutting on public open spaces

maintained by Town Council. The limited number of plants available for 2020 will be prioritised for the park and roundabouts. It is unlikely that the hanging baskets and troughs will be able to happen this year. Volunteers from Congleton In Bloom continue to individually help maintain areas around the town. You can keep up with Congleton in Bloom on Facebook.

Eat And Drink To The Food & Drink Festival!

As it has become increasingly clear that the pandemic is not coming to an end soon, sadly, like most summer events, Congleton Food and Drink Festival 2020 has now been cancelled. The team is working on organising something virtual on what would have been a busy day in town on Sunday 14th June. It might be something as simple as an

opportunity to order online from our regular local producers on that day as a way of supporting them in these challenging times, may be some special activities for kids to do and some online entertainment. Keep updated on www.foodanddrinkfestival.net or Facebook [@congletonfoodfestival](https://www.facebook.com/congletonfoodfestival)

Apple Juice Delivered To Your Door!

The café may be closed, but the Old Saw Mill is busy delivering apple juice from last year's harvest. The team is taking orders by email and offering free delivery to your door in Congleton. Place an order by 5pm on Thursday it will be delivered on Friday. The minimum order is three bottles for £8, with six for £15 and a box of 12 for £25. As



with all COVID-19 delivery schemes, the preference is for card payments over the phone. If you would like to place an order please email info@theoldsawmill.org with details of your order, your address and contact telephone number.

The driver will clean the bottles with a hygienic wipe before placing on your doorstep. Empty bottles will be collected on the Friday round. Please enjoy the offer of lovely apple juice made from Congleton apples – and carry on supporting Congleton's local businesses.