

Bear Necessities

With News from Congleton Town Council & Community Groups
Summer 2020



Congleton – The Little Town with a BIG Heart

Congleton Town Council would like to thank everyone who went out of their way to help neighbours, friends, family and strangers during lock down and beyond. It was really heartening to see how the town pulled together and was really deserving of the strapline 'little town with the big heart'.

In particular we would like to thank

- 'The Hubbers' who set up an additional food hub, initially from the Town Hall and then from The Vale Club and delivered over 8,200 food parcels and snack packs over 3 months
- The Sewing Bees, who made scrubs, masks and wash bags for hospital staff and carers
- The schools who made Perspex visors for key workers
- The volunteers that staffed the Congleton Community COVID-19 Information line
- The local businesses who donated goods,

services or gave financial support to the community efforts

- The hundreds of people who volunteered their time to give friendly telephone calls, pick up prescriptions or essential food shopping, walk dogs and other tasks through the NHS, Cheshire East Council's People Helping People or more locally with Congleton's Neighbours helping Neighbours. The offers to help outstripped the requests for help, but it was amazing to know that there was a potential army of helpers ready.
- The thousands of people who have altered their own behaviour to help keep others safe and who are supporting local businesses where they can.

As we enter month six, many of the initiatives set up to help each other have been wound down as they were no longer needed. If a local lockdown was ever needed, many have volunteered to help again.

Congleton Cenotaph Update

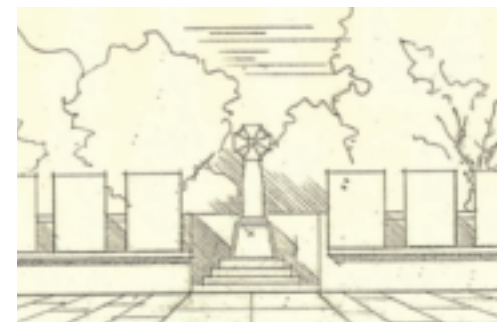


Works to improve the Congleton's Cenotaph in Lawton Street started on June 8th this year. The works are being carried out by Midland Masonry and are due to be completed by the end of September. The newly designed Cenotaph area will include the 239 missing names of local men and women who lost their lives through serving their country, as well as the 351 names previously on the plaques at the site.

This project has been led by the Congleton Partnership. Initial plans for the improvements were discussed in 2013 and it has taken a number of years to agree the site and raise the funds. Although many national funders were approached, it is local organisations that have made this possible. We would like to thank local trusts, organisations, businesses and members of the public for their important contributions. The project was finally made possible by Congleton Town Council agreeing to underwrite the project by up to £100,000.

The large dedication planned for the opening of the site will be postponed until next year.

For further information on this project, see: www.congletonpartnership.co.uk



Pupils Encouraged to Walk and Cycle to School

The most used buses in Congleton are the school buses to the senior schools. When schools return in the Autumn the social distancing rules will almost certainly still be in place and if traffic chaos around the schools is to be avoided it will be important that more young people feel safe to walk and cycle to school. Walking and cycling is also better for personal health and the environment.

Eaton Bank Academy and Congleton High School are working with Congleton Town

Council and Cheshire East Council's cycling and walking champion, Cllr Suzie Akers Smith to explore temporary measures that will create an environment of safety for cyclists and walkers to our senior schools. It is hoped that Congleton can grasp this window of opportunity to get some temporary and, if well supported, permanent changes in place to support the desire for more safe routes to school. If you have suggestions please contact info@congleton-tc.gov.uk.

Bear Necessities is produced by Congleton Town Council.

The next newsletter will be delivered around 19th October. All contributions should be sent by 30th September to Jackie MacArthur at Congleton Town Hall, High St., Congleton, CW12 1BN; or Tel 01260 270350; or email jackie.macarthur@congleton-tc.gov.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 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.

Apply For a Grant From CTC

If you are a Congleton based charity or not for profit organisation that needs additional funds to benefit local people, you may be eligible for a Congleton Town Council grant. Every year the Town Council donates approximately £61,000 to local groups and organisations. A proportion of this is granted annually to local groups such as Congleton Community Projects, Citizens Advice Bureau, Royal British Legion, Congleton Museum and charitable use of the Town Hall.

There is also approximately £15,000 available

for community grants which can be applied for through a simple grant application process. The Town Council would welcome more applications for these grants. The average grant is around £250 and applications are discussed at the Council's Finance and Policy Committee, held six times a year. Grant application forms and guidance on making an application can be downloaded by searching grants at www.congleton-tc.gov.uk or applied for at info@congleton-tc.gov.uk or tel 01260 270350, ext 1.

Supporting YOUR Mental Health



Your mental and physical health is important. If you are feeling anxious, depressed, worried or sad reach out and talk about it. If it is not appropriate to speak to friends or family, there are many on-line or telephone support groups. In Congleton you may wish to try groups such as VISYON supporting young people, MENTELL supporting men, CHESHIRE EAST AGE UK supporting older people, CROSSROADS CARE supporting carers of all ages.

SWaNS (Supporting Well-being and Nurturing Strength) Community Interest Company has received a grant from the Cheshire Community Foundation to run free support sessions online or via the phone for local people feeling anxious or stressed due to the Coronavirus pandemic. To make contact, email swans-cic@outlook.com or phone Clare 07805 793243 or Kirsty 07411 654031.

There are also national helplines such as **SAMARITANS 116 123**, **Saneline 0300 304 7000** or the new **Cheshire and Warrington Mental Health 24-hour line 0300 303 3972**.

Congleton Town Council aims to work with others to create a professionally staffed, mental health safe space for adults in Congleton.

If you are interested in helping with this ambition contact:

info@congleton-tc.gov.uk



During lock down there was a reduction in burglaries. As lock down eases, crime is expected to rise. To help prevent this, it is hoped that some of the great community spirit shown by neighbours during COVID-19 can be morphed into neighbours looking out for each other via local Neighbourhood Watch Schemes. Sergeant Paul Brunton, from the Congleton Beat team said: "Congleton has seven registered Neighbourhood Watch areas, and we would be delighted to see more. Life's safer when you know your neighbours. With more people looking out for unusual behaviour on your streets, burglaries can be prevented."

Neighbourhood watches can take many forms. It may work as a Whatsapp group, a zoom group or physical meetings. Schemes can be self-declared or verified by the Police. You can find out if there is a Neighbourhood Watch near you by checking cheshire.ourwatch.org.uk For information about setting up a group, see www.ourwatch.org.uk

Details about crime in your area can be found at www.police.uk Members of the Congleton Town Council Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group would be happy to help advise on setting up a group – contact info@congleton-tc.gov.uk

Town Mayor

For the first time since Mrs A Gosling in 1992-94, the Mayor of Congleton has stayed the same for a second year! Councillors agreed that, due to all the uncertainty and the fact that Civic engagements are largely not possible due to COVID-19, it made sense to keep the posts the same. Cllr Sally Ann Holland will remain as Town Mayor with Dave Holland as Consort, Eloise Williams from Congleton West Rangers as the Mayor's Cadet and Rev. Andrew Lindley as the Mayor's Chaplain. Cllr Denis Murphy will also remain as Deputy Town Mayor, with Joan Myatt as his Consort.

Cllr Holland will continue to raise funds for various Congleton-based charities, focussing on Visyon and the League of Friends for Congleton and Macclesfield Hospital. See: www.congleton-tc.gov.uk for more information or tel: 01260 270350, opt 4.

This Autumn...

KEEP IT

LOCAL



2020 has been an unprecedented year for town centre shops. Pre-COVID-19, many shops of all sizes across the country were struggling, with many customers shopping online, rising costs and dwindling footfall. COVID-19 brought all but essential retail to a stand-still, with many shops forced to close to the public.

Now the doors are open again and businesses in Congleton have worked hard to make their shops and premises safe places to welcome you.

You can help play your part by keeping yourself and others safe by:

- Wearing your mask when in shops
- Queuing considerably and observing any limits on the door
- Maintaining your social distance – and following any one-way systems in place.
- Following the necessary hygiene measures and washing or sanitising your hands regularly

- Paying by card where possible
- Not going out if you or anyone in your household has or suspects that they have COVID-19
- Cancelling any reservations or appointment with businesses as soon as you know that you can't make it.

The good news for towns like Congleton is that nationally smaller towns appear to be recovering and attracting people back into town quicker than the larger towns, shopping centres and cities. Money spent with local businesses is more likely to stay in the local economy, benefiting us all.

COULD THE BEARS BE RETURNING?

In 2011, Congleton celebrated Bearmania. 65 five-foot bears could be found located around Congleton creating a trail and representing a wide range of businesses and organisations. Thousands came to see the bears and take pictures. Funds raised through Bearmania sponsored a Moon Bear to be rescued from a bile farm. Bosley bear is still happy in his Animal Asia sanctuary and the town receives updates on his progress.

As we approach the 10th anniversary of Bearmania there is a desire amongst many of the traders in town for Congleton Beartown to have another display of bears for 2021. This time it may be possible to offer one foot, three foot and five-foot bears for sale.

Would you like to see the Bears come back to Congleton? Would you be interested in purchasing a bear? If so, then contact info@congleton-tc.gov.uk



Help for Local Businesses

Congleton Town Council has set up a working group to focus on the needs of our town's businesses to help ensure that the right support is made available. The Town Council is committed to listening to businesses and is working with a Business Advisory Group made up of Accountants, Solicitors, Estate Management and Business Advisors to provide some initial free advice to business owners within Congleton. The Business Advisory Group will provide one-to-one support, to understand the significant and singular challenges our business community is facing from COVID-19.

If you would like to access this advice, please contact Martha Hayes on 01260 270350, ext 3 or email Martha.Hayes@congleton-tc.gov.uk



Throughout August a number of eateries in and around Congleton are taking part in the Government "Eat Out to Help Out" discount scheme. This runs from 3rd August, every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. This is a 50% discount offer on food and non-alcoholic drinks when you eat in at the participating venues (maximum of £10 discount per diner). You do not need a voucher to use this scheme and you can use it at the same time as other offers and discounts. There is no minimum spend, but the discount cannot be used on alcoholic drinks or service charges.

Check out www.gov.uk/guidance/get-a-discount-with-the-eat-out-to-help-out-scheme and search your postcode for the eateries taking part close to you!

At the time of going to print the following Congleton Eateries were registered:

Bear Grills Cafe, Costa Coffee, DV8, McDonalds, Reubens 46, Rumba, Spice Sector Ltd, Subway, The Castle Inn, The Chappell Centre (Mossley), The Egerton Arms Country Inn, Tea Rooms at Congleton Golf Club, KingfishR Indian, Kings Arms, The Old Saw Mill, The Plough Inn, The Queens Head, Coffee Shop at Congleton Garden Centre, Waggon & Horses, Wild & Wild and Ye Olde White Lion.



THERE'S MORE TO CONGLETON

than nail bars, coffee shops, card shops, hair salons and charity shops (although we have some great examples of these too!) Here is your 2020 listing of Congleton Town Centre shops and businesses per shopping street split into -

- RETAIL
- HEALTH & BEAUTY
- FOOD & DRINK
- FINANCIAL, LEGAL & COMMERCIAL SERVICES

1 WEST STREET

Congleton Carpet
Egerton Brooks Butchers
Grace Brown Interiors
Lloyds Pharmacy
Spar
Visions of Earth

Butterfly Beauty Salon
Congleton Dental Centre
Fusion Hair Design
Haven Hair & Nails
John's Barbers
Luke's Barber Shop
Narngjam Therapy Centre
L. Thompson Optometrists
Skinoveve

Arrabia Cocktail bar
Beartown Spice Takeaway
Clock House
Farmers Arms
Quigleys
Casa Picola
Top Nosh
V Bar
Q&J Chinese
ZaZa Turkish (opening soon)

Timothy A Brown Estate Agents

2 MILL STREET

Able World
Couverture Bindings
E-Cig Congleton
Factory Bed Shop
Fonpart
Handy Cabin
Herbcures
Lan Tailoring
Menditz Repair Shop
Paddock Motorcycles
Richardsons Bike and Car dealership
RJ & J Moore Greengrocers
Shambala
T&S Electrical

The Edge Hairdressers

Piano & Sports Bar
Four Friends
The Bulls Head

Arkhi Architects
Goodwin Construction
M Cook Bookmakers

3 LITTLE STREET

The Flower Gallery
The Little Shop Interiors
DV8

4 ANTROBUS STREET

Isabel's Fashion House
Tyrz

Aveda Crown Hair
Beauty Secrets
Broome Chiropody
Congleton Personal Stylists
Franklins Barber Shop
Just So Beauty
LUX Beauty
Roger Howard Hair

21 Fish & Chips
Kingfishr Indian Cuisine
New Ruby
Old Saw Mill (Back River Street-off Antrobus Street)
Typhoon Thai

AC Motors
Larvin & Clegg Funeral Care

5 MARKET STREET

CT Mobiles
Morrisons
North West Air Ambulance

Proper Barbers
Olivia's Nails

Bear Grills

Bus Station
Congleton Library
Public Toilets
Taxi Rank

6 VICTORIA STREET

Argos
Dorothy Perkins
M&Co
Specsavers

7 PEDESTRIAN AREA

B&M Bargains
Ballooning Marvellous
Birch Jewellers
Boots Opticians
Boots Chemist
Browns Jewellers
Cancer Research UK
Card Factory
Carl Christopher Jewellers
Congleton Mobiles
Delia Metcalfe Ladies Clothes and Shoes
Glamorous of Congleton
Holland & Barrett
Hollins & Hollinshead Jewellers
House to Home
Huff & Puff
Max Spielmann
Mr Simms Olde Sweet Shoppe
Peacocks
Serenity Designs
Superdrug
Sweet Pea Florists
Vision Express
WH Smith
WOW Portraits & Newsagents

Body & Mind MOT 65

Francesco
The Barbers Shop
The Congleton Hearing Centre
The Gallery

Bojangles
Chatwins
Costa Coffee
Crema Deli
Greggs
Wild & Wild
High Ground Café and Bar

Butters John Bee
Coral- Bookmaker
Hays Travel
Leek United
Nationwide
TUI Travel Agents



know your town, love your town

KEEP IT

LOCAL



8 HIGH STREET

Stonehammer Music
Bare Health
Davenports Menswear
E-Cigoloution
Empire Menswear
Oxfam
Town Hall Studios
Visitor Information Centre
YMCA

Claritys
DCN Nails & Beauty
Next Level Tattoo
No 1. Hairdressers & Health
Kitchen
Rogers Barbers
Stephanie's Hair
The Hair Lounge

Cotton Club Café
Gather of Cheshire
Hotspot Takeaway
Shakeeze Milkshakes
Sizzlers Takeaway
The Olde Kings Arms
Turkish Delight Takeaway
Valleys Fast Food
Ye Olde White Lion

Barclays
Chris Hamriding Estate Agents
Congleton Chronicle
Hammond & McNulty
Accountants
HSBC Bank
Mortgage Corner
National Westminster
Reeds Rains Estate Agents
Tax Assist Accountant
TSB Bank
Whittaker and Biggs

9 MOODY STREET

Aptitude Personal Training
Moody Terrace
Dental Practice
Three Shires Independent
Funeral Services
Wright & Moreton Vets

10 LAWTON STREET

7th Heaven Bridal
Browns Furniture Shop
Compusat
Congleton Bazaar
Fireplace Centre
Hospital League of Friends
Smiths Bait & Tackle
Stringing and Framing
Willow & Vintage Gifts

8th Planet Beauty
A.G Salon
Cheshire Colonics
Congleton Osteopathic Practice
Dollface Makeup Studio
Norris Health
Mr Wendles
Salon 29
Sugar Plum Hair Salon
Wendy's Pet Salon

Cheeky Chicken
Chopstix
Congleton Tandoori
Congleton Oatcakes
Congleton Kitchen
Pappa King
Portobello Pizzeria
Prince of Wales
Purple Pakora
Reubens 46
Sweet Chillies
Young Pretender

Citizen Advice Bureau
Internet Travel Shop

11 SWAN BANK

David James Menswear
Swan Bank Beauty
Swan Bank Mini Market
Congleton Shoe Repair

Classico Barbers
Halo Hair
Princess Nails
Rootz

Barley Hops
Cygnet Club
Lion & Swan
Rumba
The Counting House
(Wetherspoons)

CS Lawrence & Co
Malbon Townsend
Three Way Travel

12 PARK STREET

S&S Photography
Swan Brides

13 PARK LANE WILLOW, PARK & MOOR STREETS

Cheshire Design Studio
Evet Television Ltd
MAC Tool Hire
Select Convenience
Victoria Mill Antiques
& Collectables
Victoria Beds

Billy's Barbers
Cockoo Folk
Headcase Studios &
Birdhouse Hair Salon
Park Street Tattoo
Town House Hair Salon
Well Pharmacy

Auntie Gill's Pies
& Sandwiches
Beartown Tap
Green Island Chippy

Bostock Tours
Bellboy Print &
Ballroom Shoes

TOWN MAP



FOR AN INTERACTIVE COPY OF THIS MAP SEE
WWW.CONGLETON-TC.GOV.UK

Help With CVs and Training

Springboard Training, based in the Riverside building off Mountbatten Way, provide community education classes in Congleton. Getting involved in learning is a great way to meet new people and learn new skills. It has also proven to bring positive outcomes for mental health and wellbeing.

This term there are a few changes to the usual programmes. The Cooking from Scratch courses have temporarily moved online and are delivered through Zoom. The Drop-in Work and Digital Hubs at the Congleton Learning Centre are now by appointment only. In the Work Hub sessions, Careers Advisors can review or help create a CV, help with searches for jobs or training. At the Digital Hub staff can help with anything from online security to retracing your family history and the all-important skill of using video calling to stay in touch.

The accredited courses will start in September. Qualifications available will include; the ECDL, Functional Skills Maths and English and Level 2 Information, advice and guidance.

For more information or to book a session, visit www.springboard.me.uk or email beth@springboard.me.uk or call 01260 290682 or 07588 724 932.



Renewed Energy for a Neighbourhood Plan

There is renewed energy and enthusiasm for getting the much worked on Congleton Neighbourhood Plan through to referendum. If approved, the Neighbourhood Plan would become an official planning document that must be considered when assessing planning applications. This is seen as the best hope that we have for protecting and enhancing land use in Congleton and having a say in the town's development.

The Congleton Neighbourhood Plan almost reached referendum when Cheshire East Council sent it for independent Examination in 2019. At this stage the plan was criticised by both the Examiner and Cheshire East and various suggestions were made to reword and introduce new policies. The criticisms were largely around Congleton being over ambitious on the protection of open spaces.

Since the meeting with the Examiner further work has taken place on redrafting sections of the plan, gathering more evidence and incorporating references to recently published national and local policies. The Town Council has also commissioned a Landscape Character Study to respond to some of the points raised by the Examiner.

This work will be included in a modified plan which the Town Council and Neighbourhood Plan group plan to consult on this autumn. This will form the statutory six-week Regulation 14 consultation period, which needs to be redone to make sure that the wider community is happy with the amended plan.

Comments made at this stage will be used to revise and/or amend the plan. It will then be sent to Cheshire East Council under Regulation 15 for further consultation (6 weeks) and an examination and referendum. This process is likely to take until Spring 2021. Full details can be seen at www.congleton-tc.gov.uk

Get a Flu Jab!

More people are being encouraged to get a flu jab to help protect the NHS this winter. The three Congleton doctors' surgeries are rising to the challenge of vaccinating more people.

Readsmoor Surgery has booked the Town Hall and will be inviting their registered patients who are over 65 to attend a booked appointment on the 28th and 29th September. Other sessions will be held on 5th and 19th October – the practice will send you an invite to make an appointment on these dates.

Meadowside patients will be sent texts or letters in September inviting them to book into a clinic at the surgery.

Lawton House Surgery are asking patients who are eligible for a flu jab to contact them from the 17th August to book an appointment for September onwards. Priority will be given to over 65s and those with an underlying health condition. **Year 7s** will be vaccinated at schools. Please do not ignore the invitations and get vaccinated, if possible.

Congleton's Wildflower Verges for 2021

The Town Council's plans to reduce grass cutting along the sides of certain roads to help preserve wildflowers and the wildlife, has been delayed until 2021 as it was difficult to set up the new scheme during COVID-19.

Under the new scheme the Town Council will reduce grass cutting from once a fortnight to once a year to allow for wildflower strips. The annual cut will prevent aggressive plant species from dominating the areas and will

allow for the growth, flowering and seeding of wildflowers, which is great for bees and other pollinating insects.

The location for these wildlife strips are:

- Mountbatten Way from Soapy Joes to MAC Tool Hire
- Clayton Bypass
- Newcastle Rd from Padbury Lane junction heading into town

- Sandbach Road Service Road
- Holmes Chapel Road Service Road

There are also plans to introduce meadow strips in larger green open spaces. This is all part of the Town Council's actions towards improving sustainability and reducing our environmental footprint.



Partnerships Put on Walking Boots

If you enjoy walking, make sure you pick up a free copy of a brilliant new 'South Cheshire Market Towns Trail' (SCMTT) produced by the Five Town Partnership of Alsager, Congleton, Holmes Chapel, Middlewich and Sandbach.

An illustrated map gives directional narrative of the full circular walk which passes through or

near all the town centres. The full trail is around 40 miles, but there are shorter sub-routes. The SCMTT can be started from any of the five towns but the directions narrative on the map starts from Asbury Mere Country Park in Congleton and assumes a clockwise direction to the walk.



The project has been funded by Cheshire East Council's New Home Bonus Fund and the groups have been assisted in developing the routes by local Rambler groups and the U3A. Copies of the map are available from the library and Visitor Information Centre. The route has been marked using SCMTT way markers.

Help Prevent Speeding

Community Speed Watch can be setup by anyone; neighbours, community groups or the Police, but the authority to complete a watch is given by the Police Community Support Officer for the area. There are currently active Speed Watch groups in the Lower Heath, West Heath and many of the surrounding parishes.

Each group will have a co-ordinator who liaises with the Police. Speed Watch groups conduct preventative 'patrols' where a non-enforceable speed gun will capture those speeding. Police will then use the information provided by the volunteers to send a warning letter to the driver.

The Police provide the training and safety advice. Cheshire East and Congleton Town Council provide and maintain the equipment and Cheshire East Highways approve the safe locations to carry out the checks.



If you are interested in getting involved with, or setting up a local Speed Watch group contact PCSO 9841 Julia Short at Julia.Short@cheshire.pnn.police.uk

Trees for Congleton – Making Progress

The ambitious task of planting 30,000 trees in and around Congleton between November 2019 and 2024 is underway. Led by a team of seven, they have already co-ordinated the planting of more than 1400 trees across 12 sites in Congleton. The group estimates that more than 200 volunteers have contributed 300 hours of time to the project!

Each site has been planted with between 5 and 500 trees (approx 15 species), including four new community orchards with 40 fruit trees (Apple, pear, damson, cherry and plum). Funding has come from Congleton Partnership and the William Dean Trust.

Planning is underway for the 2020/21 planting season. The group has identified many sites in Congleton, but need larger sites to plant substantial numbers of trees/hedgerows.

If you know of any potential sites or if you have planted any trees in your own garden since October 2019 please let the team know so they can add to the tree totaliser. You can contact the Tree team via:

treesforcongleton@gmail.com



News In Brief...

MAKERS MARKET

To allow for greater social distancing, the monthly Makers Market will be taking place in the Fairground car park rather than in the pedestrian area. The next two markets will be on Saturday 29th August and Saturday 26th September.

CONGLETON STOREHOUSE

The Storehouse is a free foodbank operated by New Life Church for people in emergency or extreme hardship situations. Referrals can be made into the store via around 50 supporting organisations. During the summer holidays the Storehouse will only be open on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 10am – 1pm. Food and Financial donations are welcome.

For more information see:

www.nlchurch.org.uk/community/the-storehouse

POST OFFICE

With the closure of the Buglawton Post Office the Town Council has received further requests from local people to campaign for a Post Office in the Town Centre. Although highly appreciative of the great work taking place by the staff at Hightown Post Office and the counter at McColls at West Heath, it is felt that Congleton needs a Town Centre Post Office too.

TOWN HALL BOOKINGS

With many bookings in 2020 cancelled due to COVID-19, the calendar for 2021 is already beginning to fill up, especially for weekends!

If you are hoping to host an event in the Town Hall in 2021 please get in contact with office staff as soon as possible. There are three great rooms available – The Grand Hall, the Bridestones and the Spencer Suite.

The building is fully licenced and accessible. There is much greater availability in the week. If your normal meeting room is too small to socially distance consider hiring one of ours! It comes with free wi-fi, screen or flip charts and sanitiser! If your event is not able to go ahead due to COVID-19 or government advice we will return your deposit.

Details of rooms can be seen at:

www.congleton-tc.gov.uk

CONGLETON LEISURE CENTRE

Cheshire East Council plans to re-open the Congleton Leisure Centre from the 1st September and looks forward to welcoming back customers. The much needed improvement works to the site have been paused and will be reviewed in the Autumn.



The second biennial Heritage & Antiques Festival will be going ahead in September although the format and events will take a different form because of the COVID-19 restrictions. The Festival will consist of an exciting range of over 40 online events, starting on the 12th September and continuing for two weeks. Local auctioneer Adam Partridge will be talking about Northern Art, there will be poetry from John Linley and a feature on the life of our local suffragist and writer Elizabeth Wolstenholme Elmy. Other highlights will include a vintage cinema season, theatre, music, heritage tours and a canal walk. The Festival will close on the 27th with a live event: A Beartown Car Rally from the Fairground car park to Tatton Park.

More details will be available in all local media and via the Festival's soon to be launched website:

www.congletonheritagefestival.com



Annual Apple Appeal

Do you have excess apples? The Old Saw Mill would love to turn them into Congleton's very own apple juice and cider. All you have to do is collect your excess apples - dessert or cooking and leave them at Astbury Mere Visitors Centre (between 9am – 5pm if it is open due to the lockdown} or the Old Saw Mill, Back River Street (currently open Monday-Friday 9am-2pm)

If you are unable to deposit your apples or that you have a number of trees and possibly too many to manage yourselves contact info@theoldsawmill.org and we'll try and help!

CELEBRATING JAZZ&BLUES

Congleton Jazz and Blues (CJAB) festival is not able to go ahead as normal this August Bank Holiday weekend. However the team have been working hard to finish off a documentary that has been in the making for the last three years to remind you of what has been enjoyed in town the previous 10 years of CJAB. The documentary is being produced by film maker Callum Hilditch Crimes and will be available on social media sites over the August Bank Holiday weekend. CJAB have recently re-organised as a

Community Interest Group (CIC) and are now called 'Congleton Live CIC'. The festivals keep their names, Congleton Jazz & Blues and Congleton Unplugged, as the team produces both events.

Checkout the progress on these two projects via the website:

www.congletonjazzandblues.co.uk and the Facebook page @congojazzblues



Museum Looks Forward to Welcoming Visitors

As Bear Necessities went to print Congleton Museum was working hard to get ready to re-open. After a comprehensive risk assessment, the trustees are working on solutions, for this small museum, to enable safe re-opening for staff, volunteers and visitors.

The museum hopes to re-open, three days per week (probably Thursday, Friday and Saturday) for timed appointments. Bookings will be through the website or by telephoning the museum on 01260 276360.

Visitors will be required to wear face coverings, to sanitise their hands when entering the building and to observe social distancing, where appropriate.

The museum will still be free to enter, but donations will be extra welcome bearing in mind the considerable costs of re-opening. Card payments would be preferred in the shop. Keep an eye on the website, social media and local press for updates www.congletonmuseum.co.uk

Your Opportunity to Join Congleton's Biggest Group!

Line dancing, wine tasting and French conversation by Zoom, Pilates by Skype; walkers and gardeners sharing experiences by photographs; newsletters, quizzes and puzzles by email; Congleton U3A members have found many different ways of continuing to learn, laugh and live in lockdown.

It's not guaranteed that all the 100 + interest groups will be fully functioning in the coming year, but there'll certainly be plenty

going on. If you have finished working full-time or raising your family, you can join the U3A (University of the 3rd Age). More than 1400 people are already part of the Congleton group and it really doesn't matter how old you are.

Groups registration day is on Tuesday 18th August and this year's membership fee is only £12.50. To find out more please visit www.congletonu3a.org.uk or leave a message (call or text) on 07761 674247.

"For Your Tomorrow..."

For those that are interested in the stories behind the additional names on the Congleton Cenotaph, look no further than a fascinating new book called 'For Your Tomorrow' by Sheila Dutton. This new book picks up where the John Pullen's book "Remembrance" ends and tells the stories behind 239 of the additional or post WW1 names being added to the Congleton cenotaph.

Stories include those of the man who was killed in an Air Ship disaster in 1921, the WW2 men and women named on the cenotaph plus a further 20 new WW2 heroes. There are details of a local service

man killed in 1952 in Korea, another in Oman in 1958; a Paratrooper who died in 1988 of wounds received during the Falklands War and a young Marine killed in 2007. Also included in the book is the story of a plane crash at Siddington in 1918. An Air crash on the Cloud in 1944 and another Air crash at Bosley at Christmas 1944.

You can purchase/pre-order a copy of this limited edition book from Sheila tel 01260 276646. They will also be available from the Tourist Information Centre from mid-September for £25.