

Bear Necessities

With News from Congleton Town Council & Community Groups

Spring 2021

KEEP CONGLETON CLEAN!

DON'T be a litter lout! With the easing of lockdown and the weather improving it has been shocking to see the state which some people have left some of Congleton's most beautiful areas. Popular nature sites have seen bins overflowing, litter and broken glass strewn across the area and the land left scorched from BBQs and fires.



Congleton Streetscape team and concerned members of the public have made heroic efforts at clearing up the sites – but they should never have been left that way. Please play your part in keeping Congleton clean by following the Countryside Code for the rest of summer:

- Take your litter home (or bag and leave by a bin)
- Leave no trace of your visit
- Take care with BBQs and do not light fires
- Always keep dogs under control and in sight
- Dog poo – bag it and bin it – any public waste bin will do
- Care for nature – do not cause damage or disturbance



New Era for Congleton Information Centre

THE newly named Congleton Information Centre is now managed by Congleton Town Council. In a mutually beneficial agreement, the four members of staff who were previously employed by Cheshire East Council have transferred to the Town Council.

The Congleton Information Centre will continue to help residents and visitors make the most of their time in Congleton. The team will sell tickets for local events and theatres, promote places to stay and things to do, sell a limited amount of local produce and literature as well as promote the wider area. The team

will also become the reception for the Town Council and Town Hall and first point of contact for general calls and enquiries. There are also exciting plans to improve the online offer, recognising that not all information needs can be met during the traditional shop opening hours.

Congleton Information Centre can be contacted on 01260 270350 ext. 1. The previous direct dial number will also continue to be used as it is published on lots of literature. Opening hours are Monday - Friday 9am - 4.30pm and Saturday 10am - 2pm.

Historic day as Congleton Link Road Opens

IT HAS TAKEN just over two years and £90m to build, but the Congleton Link Road, named the Wolstenholme Elmy Way after Congleton's famous pioneering educationalist and Suffragist, is now open for motorists. The road was opened on Monday 19th April, following a weekend where members of the public enjoyed running, walking and cycling along the 5.5km stretch of traffic-free bypass. The opening was marked by a small COVID-19 secure ribbon-cutting ceremony followed by a Beartown Road Cruise featuring 100 classic cars.

It is anticipated that around half of the 13,000 vehicles using Clayton Bypass each day will now use the new road, making it easier for local people to get in and around Congleton. The new road joins the A534 Sandbach Road to the west and the A536 Macclesfield Road to the north. There are exits off the new road onto the Sandbach, Holmes Chapel, Manchester and Macclesfield roads as well onto Back Lane and Barn Road/Viking Way.



Bear Necessities is produced by Congleton Town Council. The next newsletter will be delivered around **19th July**. All contributions should be sent by **6th July** 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



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.

Who Are Your COVID-19 HEROES?

WHO ARE YOUR local heroes through the COVID-19 Pandemic? Congleton Town Council is launching a Congleton Civic Pride Award and wants to thank and recognise those who have gone above and beyond to make life better for others during the COVID-19 pandemic.

We are looking for your nominations for:

- Congleton's Young Person (under 18) of the Year
- Congleton's Volunteer of the Year
- Congleton's Community Group of the Pandemic
- Congleton's COVID-19 Heroic Business

You can find out details about how to nominate someone at www.congleton-tc.gov.uk or see local press for details.

Congleton In Bloom 2021

CONGLETON will be back in RHS In Bloom competitions this summer. The Congleton in Bloom team will be entering both the national Britain in Bloom and the regional North West in Bloom competitions. The North West competition will be kept the same, with a judge taken on a tour of the town, the Britain In Bloom competition will be judged via an electronic portfolio. Both competitions are focussed on community involvement and environmental responsibility as well as horticultural excellence.

Although through the pandemic the community involvement has reduced due to restrictions and social distancing, many people have still helped to keep the town tidy and the regular 'Town Tidies' are set to return soon. Keep an eye out on the Congleton In Bloom Facebook page for the latest information. Help to keep Congleton looking its best by reporting any 'Grot Spots' to: info@congleton-tc.gov.uk



CONGLETON GETS BEHIND ITS LOCAL BUSINESSES

AS LOCKDOWN RESTRICTIONS start to ease across the UK, April sees the long-awaited re-opening of businesses to the High Streets. Congleton Town Centre has been cleansed and decorated with festoon lighting and bunting to add some colour and cheer to welcome back the shopkeepers and customers to the town.

Many businesses have adapted their working systems to cater for customers and to ensure safety, you can continue to help play your part by:

- Wearing a face covering when indoors
- Queuing considerably in and outside of the shop
- Regularly sanitising or washing hands

- Paying by card where possible
- Being respectful to staff and other customers

Local businesses have asked the town council to pass on their thanks to everyone who has continued to support them through this difficult year and look forward to seeing customers back through their doors. Research has shown that for every £1 spent locally, 63p stays within the local community.

A list of the local shops and businesses offering local shopping and delivery options can be found at www.congleton-tc.gov.uk/corona-virus Updates to this page should be sent to martha.hayes@congleton-tc.gov.uk



Look After Your Physical and Mental Health

IT'S RECOGNISED that it's important to take care of yourself to get the most from life. Your physical and mental health is important. The Mental Health Foundation advises 10 top tips to help people:

- Talk about your feelings
- Eat well
- Keep active
- Drink sensibly
- Keep in touch
- Ask for help
- Take a break

- Do something that you are good at
- Accept who you are
- Care for others.



Last year NHS Cheshire and Wirral set up a 24/7 mental health helpline to support people with urgent and immediate mental health needs **0800 145 6485**. For less urgent support there are a number of local services, groups and organisations that may be able to help you. More details at www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/livewell

Congleton needs a Household Waste Site

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

remains united in the belief that the growing town of Congleton must have its own Household Waste and Recycling Site. The current popular site, that deals with around 2,783 tonnes per year, will close in September 2021 when Cheshire East Council's lease on the site comes to an end. The nearest Cheshire East Household Waste Sites will then be Macclesfield or Alsager. Cheshire East spent £50,000 on consultants to look at other potential locations for a site for Congleton, but these locations have not been revealed. The Town Council is disputing claims that it would cost about £4 million to replace the site, as other councils are building sites for around £2 million. A Cheshire East Council committee paper which recommended not replacing the Congleton site was

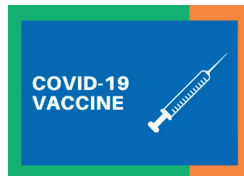


pulled for administrative reasons from April's cabinet meeting and is due to be discussed in May. A petition to Save Our Recycling centre is still open and can be found at www.change.org/p/cheshire-east-council-save-our-congleton-recycling-centre. The Town Council remains committed to doing all it can to get a new site for Congleton.

Vaccinations Continue

NHS STAFF and volunteers at the Congleton Town Hall vaccination centre have worked hard over the past three months to vaccinate over 15,000 local people. The focus remains on ensuring that everyone who is eligible is offered a first vaccine and that those who are due a second vaccine receive it within 12 weeks of their first dose. The GP practices are

busy arranging second dose recalls. Invites will be sent by post, text or phone call. People aged 45 or over can now book their COVID-19 vaccine, the quickest way to arrange an appointment is online using the National Booking Service: www.nhs.uk or by calling 119.



Dementia Friends Gift Pack Project

THE DEMENTIA FRIENDLY Congleton group is working with Congleton Police on a project to distribute gift packs to people living in Congleton who are affected by dementia. This project is possible thanks to funding from Plus Dane Housing, Congleton Rotary, Congleton Town Trust and Congleton Lions and £1000 match funding from the Police Commissioner.

Contact is being made by local GP surgeries inviting patients with dementia, or their carers or family members, to contact Diane Ritherdon, Group Chair, if

they would like to receive a pack. The pack will consist of games and activities, many sourced from the Alzheimer's Society also an activity leaflet as provided by Age UK. All are designed to stimulate memories of earlier times. If someone you know, who lives at home in Congleton, has not received an invitation by the end of April, please contact Diane 07770 724932. The group is hoping to establish a lending/exchange scheme for activities and games and looks forward to re-starting face to face activities.

Get Involved Booklet

THE NEW 2021 'Get Involved' booklet created by Congleton Community Projects is now ready for you to pick up! The booklet contains details of local voluntary, charitable and non-profit groups with a summary of their purpose, activities and contact details for you to find out more. With over 120 entries in this edition, it really shows the active community that Congleton has to offer. The booklet aims to inspire to recruit more volunteers to 'Get Involved' in their local community. It also includes some key support services for Congleton provided by Cheshire East. For more information about Congleton Community Projects, see: www.congletoncommunityprojects.org



NEWS IN BRIEF...

FOOD & DRINK FESTIVAL 2022

Organisers at Congleton Community Projects are disappointed that due to the on-going pandemic this year's Food & Drink Festival will not go ahead. Despite the easing of lockdown, CCP is not convinced of the safety of bringing 25,000 people into the town centre. CCP plan to bring the festival back in 2022 on Sunday 12th June.

GREEN DOCTOR CONSULTATIONS

Homeowners and people living in private rented accommodation can call on free support from the Groundwork Green Doctor scheme to advise on saving money and reducing carbon use. The Green Doctor will help you identify causes of heat loss, tackle damp and mould, support to switch energy provider and provide useful tips for energy saving. To book an appointment call 0330 1740 863 or email greendocor.clm@groundwork.org.uk

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Following more work updating Congleton's Neighbourhood Plan to reflect the latest national planning guidance and local changes, it is hoped that consultation on the Neighbourhood Plan can take place in June 2021, with a referendum early in 2022.

SUSTAINABLE LIVING COURSE IN CONGLETON

Look out for the launch of an online Sustainable Living in Congleton course which is due to be launched in May. The free course is designed to help residents find out more about how to reduce their carbon footprint and play their part in helping to reduce climate change.

GREEN FAYRE IN OCTOBER

Congleton Sustainability Group has started to organise a Green Fayre for Congleton on Friday 29th and the morning of Saturday 30th October. If any local groups are interested in being part of the Fayre on either day, please contact mike.smith@congleton-tc.gov.uk

DOMESTIC ABUSE CLINICS

An estimated 250 Congleton families are affected by domestic abuse every year. Weekly domestic abuse advice clinics are now held at the Old Saw Mill in the town run by My Cheshire Without Abuse – for more information call 0300 123 5101 at any time or see www.mycwa.org.uk. White Ribbon Congleton has set up a private Facebook page, everyone is encouraged to join, especially men to support this important work to eradicate violence and abuse in Congleton.

MAYOR MAKING

Congleton Town Council will be electing a new Mayor on Thursday 6th May. The meeting will start at 7pm and will be held via Zoom. See www.congleton-tc.gov.uk for details.



Recycling the hard to recycle

RESIDENTS can now recycle even more products by using Congleton's Terracycle drop-off points. There are currently 11 drop off sites across Congleton accepting items including medicine blister packs, food wrappers, dental care products and personal care items. The drop off points only accept certain items and brands and have set criteria to avoid receiving lots of non-acceptable items.

You can see details at Discover Congleton/Climate Emergency page at: www.congleton-tc.gov.uk. The Plastic Free Congleton group is hoping to develop more drop-off points. If your home or business could help, please contact: heather.seddon2@btinternet.com

Celebrating 750 years

2022 IS SHAPING UP to be a big year for the UK and extra special for Congleton! In addition to the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June and the Commonwealth Games being held in Birmingham in August, Congleton will be celebrating its 750th anniversary of gaining its Town Charter. There are plans for dressing the town using heraldic flags and the Henry De Lacy colours of purple and gold. Many groups and organisations are starting to work on new events or discussing ways to add a medieval or historic twist to an existing event. Branding is currently being developed which can be used by groups, organisations or businesses putting on an event for Congleton 750. Find out more at www.congleton-tc.gov.uk



WITH NO SWIMATHON this year, Congleton Rotary wants local people to get on their bikes instead. Bikeathon will take place from Friday 25th to Monday 28th June. Anyone can take part, in teams or individually. You will need to register on the Rotary website to ride road cycles – or even exercise bikes – and get sponsorship to raise money and support local good causes. Bikeathon is not a race or a rally and you ride at any time over the weekend and set your own targets. Full details can be found at www.congletonrotary-bikeathon.co.uk

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Certificate number CBP006772.



100 Important Items for Congleton

TO CELEBRATE the 750th anniversary of the granting of Congleton's first Charter in 1272, Congleton Museum is intending to produce a new history book, based around 100 objects which have a particular resonance with aspects of the town's history. The museum has already received several suggestions as to what might be included and are keen to hear what you think is important.

An example might be this arm band (pictured above) bearing the town badge of the lion

standing on the barrel which would have been worn by Corporation officers authorised as they collected the tolls and rents on market days. This reflects the importance the markets and fairs, initiated by the 1272 Charter, played in the commercial growth of the town.

Please send your suggestions to Congleton100@congletonmuseum.co.uk or phone 01260 276360, or post ideas through the museum's letterbox on Market Square.



PRIDE set to return to the Town Centre!

CONGLETON PRIDE is proud to announce that it will host its second Congleton Pride Day in the Town Centre on Saturday 21st August. Plans are already underway, in line with government guidelines to put on a fabulous event for everyone in Congleton.

Congleton Pride's aim is to create a safe environment regardless of age, disability, gender identity, race, religion and sexual orientation – and it is hoped that the change of date, from July to August, will allow all to

be able to attend, including those classed as vulnerable following any relaxing on COVID restrictions.

This exciting news means 'Pride will come back into Congleton' says Chair Ronan Clayton, with promises that the team are working to create an event full of stalls, entertainment, food & drink, plus much more to be announced. For more information you can find Congleton Pride through all social media platforms & online at www.congletonpride.co.uk

Congleton Park Band Concerts

SUMMER 2021 sees the return of the ever-popular band concerts in Congleton Park. The Friends of Congleton Park team has co-ordinated a range of free concerts for bands to showcase their local talent.

The Summer programme includes:

- Lions Youth Brass Band on 11th July
- Roberts Bakery Brass Band on 18th July
- The Encores on 1st August
- Rode Hall Silver Band on 8th August
- Congleton Lions Duck Race on 5th September.

The concerts and events take place from the Bandstand on Sunday afternoons between 2.30-4.30pm. For more information, see: www.friendsofcongletonpark.co.uk or email: secretary@friendsofcongletonpark.co.uk.

