

Bear Necessities

With News from Congleton Town Council & Community Groups

Autumn 2021

Climate Festival and Green Fayre

CLIMATE CHANGE is one of the greatest threats to our planet. World leaders are meeting in Glasgow next month to make life saving commitments to reducing the damage that humans are causing to the planet. In Congleton there will be a week long Climate Festival from the 23rd - 31st October which will include a Green Fayre on Saturday 30th October in

the Town Centre from 10am - 4pm.

To celebrate Congleton's Climate Festival 2021, a series of events will take place throughout October, these include:

Allotment Open Days • creation of renewable energy talks • tours on sustainability • People and Wildlife • getting closer to nature •

bread making demonstrations • 'Foraging' walk

• Plastic free drop in sessions • Electric vehicles – Facts, Myths &

Real World Experience • Q & A Session with Eco-Youth Climate Campaigner • Plant Swap • Eco-household refilling service • Tree

care events. For more information, on all these activities, locations and more, please visit www.congleton-tc.gov.uk/climate-festival-green-fayre or scan the QR code.

Note that some activities require booking in advance.



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 14th November.

You can support the parade as it marches from West Street car park, along West Street to Swan Bank, though the pedestrian area, High Street, 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. Around 15 Members of the Prinses Irene Brigade are expected to attend on the year that marks 80 years since the regiment was formed in Congleton.

You are welcome to attend and are asked to be mindful of the COVID conditions at the time.



Celebrating Christmas in Congleton!

CONGLETON CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

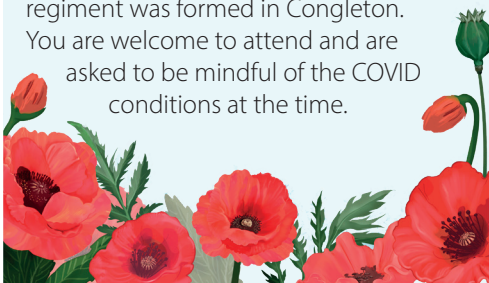
switch on is due to take place on Friday 26th November in the town centre. Conscious of how popular the switch on usually is, the team has toned down the event for this year – but is keeping core elements including the lantern parade, santa in the sleigh, the big switch on and Christmas music. The Council will be working with local cafés, bars and pubs on a food offer and will have space for a limited number of local charity stalls.

The fun starts at 4pm and continues until 7pm. The traditional lantern parade will leave Lawton Street at 6pm, ready to be near the Christmas tree for the Big Switch-On at 6.30pm followed a good-bye to Father Christmas.

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.

Bear Necessities is produced by Congleton Town Council. The next newsletter will be delivered around **25th January**. All contributions should be sent by **6th January** 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 (C)



Rob Moreton (I)



Denis Murphy, 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 Deputy Mayor (LD)



Robert Hemsley (LD)



Amanda Martin (C)



Jean Parry (C)

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



Volunteering in Congleton

VOLUNTEERS who went the extra mile to help others through the coronavirus pandemic were honoured for their 'selfless dedication' at a council-hosted awards ceremony held at Congleton Cricket Club. More than 70 people were nominated by residents as part of a Covid Civic Award scheme. The stories accompanying their nomination were so heart-warming that the panel agreed to host a party to thank all nominees—whilst also recognising that many others

had also contributed to helping the community through what was, and continues to be, a tough time. Volunteers are still needed to support local people in many ways. The Town Council is working with Cheshire East by assisting with the co-ordination of volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering in Congleton, please contact info@congleton-tc.gov.uk or register on the Ami platform via www.cheshireeastvolunteers.co.uk

Congleton's Social Supermarket

The Green Tree House Charity from Biddulph has opened a branch of its popular social supermarket in Congleton. Thanks to a generous offer of a free room at 54 Lawton Street, from Congleton's LOL Foundation, the social supermarket was able to open on the 1st October. The charity offers local people the opportunity to access quality food at a cheap price: 10 items for £4.50, 20 items for £9 or 30 items for £13.50. You do not need to be referred to the charity, you can just turn up. The store is open on a Wednesday and Friday from 10am – 2pm and is staffed by volunteers. Congleton Town Council granted £2,000 to the charity to help with the additional costs of food for the first few weeks. Find out more by popping in and meeting the friendly team.



Christmas Toy Appeal

Congleton Town Council is working with the NSPCC, Congleton Chronicle, Plus Dane Housing and Boot's Barn Road to co-ordinate a toy appeal for Congleton. Last year people of Congleton were

incredibly generous and donated around 600 toys, which helped many children in Congleton to have a better Christmas. This year many local families

are likely to be in just as much need and so if you can please give a toy or donate funds to the NSPCC Childline again this year. We are looking for new toys and gifts to suit all ages from babies to teens. Family workers, social workers, teachers and those working in the community help to identify those who would most appreciate help at Christmas. Toys can be donated at Boots Barn Road or Congleton Town Hall from the 15th November until the 15th December. Please do not wrap the presents.



Community Governance Review

CHESHIRE EAST is consulting on a Community Governance Review which is looking at representation on town and parish councils. In Congleton it recommended that the Town Council area is expanded as far as the link road and becomes five wards instead of two with each ward containing four or five councillors. This will move some homes currently in the parishes into the town. Local people have until the 28th November to give their views. <https://surveys.cheshireeast.gov.uk/s/CGReview2>

TREES FOR CONGLETON

LATE 2019, Congleton Town Council declared a climate emergency. In response, members of Congleton Sustainability Group (CSG), part of Congleton Partnership, put forward the ambitious idea of planting 30,000 trees over five years. A Tree Group was formed made up of experienced volunteers. Sites, mostly on Cheshire East land, were identified and plans drawn up and approved with the council. The group, with the help of volunteers, has planted more than 3,000 trees, plus hedges and shrubs on approx. 20 sites, despite COVID-19 restrictions in 2020-21. Many individuals have also planted trees in their

own gardens.

This summer, the group has checked the planted sites. Essential maintenance tasks (weeding, pruning, mulching) will be carried out in September and October. Volunteers are needed for the third planting season from November to March. To get involved see the Facebook page – 'Trees for Congleton', contact treesforcongleton@gmail.com or meet the team at the Green Fayre on 30th October.

Tree Preservation Orders

As well as planting new trees, the Town Council is keen to see the current trees protected. Trees which are covered by a Tree Preservation Order, or which are over a certain size and in a conservation area are not allowed to be cut down or pruned without permission from Cheshire East Council. By searching Tree Preservation Orders in Cheshire East, you can see which trees are already protected. You can also apply to protect a tree, group of trees or woodland which makes a significant contribution locally.



Thank you from Congleton in Bloom

THE TOWN has received many compliments about how fabulous Congleton looked this summer – and are now awaiting the results from the judges! The North West in Bloom judges will come to the Congleton Thank You and Awards night and reveal how Congleton performed in the North West Competition. They will also present awards to the town's 'It's Your Neighbourhood' groups. These include Buglawton in Bloom, Bromley Farm, The Bath House and Physic Garden, Congleton Park, Hilary Avenue Allotment, and Heath View Care Home. The In Bloom



team offers sincere thanks to all the individuals, groups, organisations, businesses and trusts that supported the initiative. If you would like to get involved with In Bloom in 2022 as a Neighbourhood or part of the town group, contact: info@congleton-tc.gov.uk

NEWS IN BRIEF...

REDUCING YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT

Find out more about what actions you can take to live more sustainably in Congleton by completing a **free** e-learning course produced by the Town Council and Congleton Partnership designed especially for Congleton. Learn at your own speed and in your own time.

See learn.congleton-tc.gov.uk

POST OFFICE

A new Post Office counter is due to open in WH Smiths in the Town Centre late October. This will complement the vital work carried out by High Town and West Heath Post Offices and is a welcome addition for Congleton.

ZERO TOLERANCE TO DRUGS

Congleton Pub Watch has reiterated its zero tolerance to illegal drugs and will ban customers suspected of taking, possessing or supplying illegal drugs. The pubs are working with the police and drug detection dogs will be used in town for random checks.

PARTNERSHIP CHANGE

Peter Aston, the long-standing Chair of Congleton Sustainability Group, has been elected Chair of the Congleton Partnership. Glen Williams was voted as deputy. Find out more about the Congleton Partnership at: www.congletonpartnership.org.uk

SOCIAL PRESCRIBING

Congleton's doctors' surgeries are being supported by a social prescriber, acting as a link person to look at health and wellbeing. The prescribers connect people to community groups and statutory services for practical and emotional support.

GUY FAWKES COMPETITION

Congleton Rotary is holding a Guy Fawkes competition for all in CW12 to raise funds for local charities. Photographs of the Guys will be taken in late October and the winner announced shortly afterwards. First prize will receive £50! For the entry form and rules, see: www.congletonrotary.co.uk. A separate competition will be held for nursery and junior schools, and the winning school entry will top the town's bonfire in the park on 6 November.

Town Council grants available for 2021-22

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL supports local groups and organisations with financial grants. There is around £11,000 remaining in the budget for this financial year. All applicants need to do is complete an application form. The project or activity must benefit residents of Congleton. Application forms can be downloaded from www.congleton-tc.gov.uk/your-council/grants or you can request an application form and pack from info@congleton-tc.gov.uk. Grants will be debated, and decisions made at the Town Council's Finance and Policy Committees, due to be held on the 25th November 2021, 27th January 2022 and 24th March 2022. Application forms need to be received 10 days in advance.

Standing up Against Violence

LOOK OUT for Congleton Town Council and White Ribbon ambassadors in town on Saturday 27th November. The Town Council is a white ribbon accredited organisation, meaning it is actively working to reduce male violence in all its forms against women. As part of this campaign the Town Council has been supportive of My Cheshire Without Abuse setting up weekly domestic abuse clinics in the Old Saw Mill every Wednesday. In its first year this clinic has seen 161 referrals, supported 62 victims (57 female and 5 male) of which 23 were assessed to be at high risk of death or serious harm. To access the clinics, contact **0300 123 5101** 24 hours a day or text **07771 941 464**. There will be someone to help you.



Heraldic Flag Making for 2022

IN PREPARATION for 2022 and the town's 750th Charter year celebrations, Congleton Community Projects and local artists are hosting 10 Heraldic Flags workshops across Congleton. At the workshops there is a chance to find out more about the history of Congleton, discuss the 750 charter year plans, see the artists at work creating flags and children can design their own mini shield.

The 80 flags made at the workshops will be used to decorate the town centre in 2022. The project has been funded by a successful Heritage Lottery grant plus support from Congleton Inclosure Trust, Congleton Town Trust and Congleton Town Council who will arrange for the flags to be displayed.

Workshops take place on a Saturday from 10am - 3pm and visitors can drop in at any time. There are workshops planned

for 16th October at Bromley Farm Community Centre on Edinburgh Road, 23rd and 30th October at St John's Community Centre in Buglawton, 6th November and 4th December at the Chappell Centre in Mossley.

For further information

email jo@congletoncommunityprojects.org or visit

www.congleton750.org. If you are interested in volunteering as an artist contact Petra at electricpicturehouse@gmail.com. Look out for full details of 750 events in the next edition!



Congleton Information Centre Promoting Congleton

DROP INTO Congleton Information Centre on Monday - Friday from 9am - 4.30pm or Saturdays from 10.15am - 1.45pm to purchase a range of local gifts, books, tickets and pick up general information on what's going on in Congleton. Look out for some exciting new medieval based gifts, ideal for this Christmas and next year's 750th celebrations. The Information Centre is also the reception for the Town Hall and is now taking bookings for its three very flexible rentable rooms. We have space for 2 - 200 people depending on your needs. See more at www.congleton-tc.gov.uk. Contact the Information Centre on **01260 270350 ext 1**.



Be Part of Pride 2022

CONGLETON PRIDE would like to thank everyone involved, including the townsfolk, for a very positive Pride 2021. Plans are now underway for Pride 2022 on Saturday 23rd July. If you are interested in getting involved, please attend the Pride AGM on Wednesday 24th November at United Reform Church at 7pm and hear all our exciting news. Also, follow our 'Congleton Pride' Facebook page for regular updates.

Rotary Bonfire Returns

CONGLETON ROTARY CLUB is back with a bang to light up the skies and raise funds for good causes at its annual Bonfire and Firework display in Congleton Park on Saturday 6th November. Wristbands can be purchased in advance from the Congleton Information Centre inside the Town Hall or on the night. Purchase your

tickets beforehand to save £2 per ticket, under 5s go free.

There will be a torchlight procession leading to the bonfire being lit at 6pm, children's display 6.30pm with the main display at 7.30pm. Fairground rides, stalls and refreshments available. For the latest details www.congletonrotary.co.uk



Congleton Rotary Tree of Light

BUY A STAR in memory of a loved one and have it displayed at the Christmas tree in the Lawton Street Community Garden by the new Cenotaph. Provided by Rotary-Congleton, the tree will be illuminated by fairy lights and surrounded by stars. The tree will be lit on Saturday 4th December and remain lit until early January. Stars can be purchased for £5 from the Congleton Information Centre or online at www.congletonrotary.co.uk. In the past people have bought stars to remember a loved one who can't be with them this Christmas or to celebrate birth, marriage or special occasion. All proceeds will go to local charities and good causes.



Lantern Making for Christmas

THE LANTERN MAKING workshops will continue this year with an opportunity to make lanterns with Congleton Community Projects on Saturday 13th and 20th November from 11am - 4pm. The workshops will be held in Spindle Mill in Spindle Street (near Beartown Brewery). All equipment is provided, and experienced lantern makers will be on hand to help! Allow at least 2 hours - depending on creativity! Lantern makers are encouraged to show off their lanterns in the procession to bring Santa to town to switch on the Christmas lights on Friday 26th November.

