

Bear Necessities

With News from Congleton Town Council & Community Groups

Winter 2022



Congleton and the Platinum Jubilee

PLANS are being put in place for events across the UK and Commonwealth to celebrate 70 years of Queen Elizabeth II being on the throne. There is an extended Bank Holiday weekend from Thursday 2nd to Sunday 5th June. If you would like to get involved or have ideas to make this time more special in Congleton, the Town Council is keen to hear from you. Neighbourhoods are being encouraged to hold street parties and details about how to organise a street party, along with details of possible grants available can be found at www.congleton-tc.gov.uk. You can contact the Town Council on info@congleton-tc.gov.uk

Elizabeth Statue for Congleton

PLANS TO UNVEIL a life-size statue of Elizabeth Wolstenholme Elmy, a nationally recognised campaigner for women's, children and human rights, are on track for Tuesday 8th March, say the trustees of Elizabeth's Group. The statue will be unveiled in the pedestrian area on International Women's Day and follows four years of campaigning and fund raising by the volunteer Elizabeth's Group. The UK's most senior judge until her retirement last year, Lady Hale of Richmond, has agreed to unveil the statue to the remarkable Elizabeth, who lived in Congleton for most of her adult life and whose actions led to so many laws being changed to remove centuries of discrimination. The award-winning sculptor, Hazel Reeves, who made the statue will also be present. Plans for the day include a Victorian parade through the town starting at the top of Lawton Street to the statue, stalls and entertainment. The event is expected to last from 11am – 3pm with the unveiling at 2pm. For more details and information about how you can get involved see www.elizabethelmy.com



Congleton Unplugged Weekend

THERE'S AN OPPORTUNITY for people from across Congleton to get together and blow away the winter blues at Congleton Unplugged - a great weekend with 45 free gigs at 20 venues on March 4th to 6th. You can also buy tickets at the Congleton Information Centre in the Town Hall, Stonehammer Music and via a link at the Jazz and Blues website for ticketed gigs on:

- Wednesday 2nd - John Lindley Presents Dylan Thomas, Congleton Library
- Thursday 3rd - John Dhali (+ special guests), Congleton Town Hall
- Saturday 12th - Bring on The Swing, Congleton Cricket Club
- Thursday 10th - Poems and Pints, upstairs at the Beartown Tap (Free entry)

Tickets purchased on the door will be subject to a £2 surcharge.

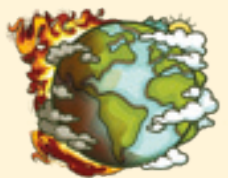
Unplugged is mainly acoustic based music,

with something for everyone, Pop, Indie, Celtic, Zydeco, Americana, Jazz and Blues all held in great Congleton venues.

The event is organised by Congleton Live; an amazing group of local people who share a passion for music and Congleton! Congleton Live is grateful to its sponsors: AD Profile, Beartown Brewery, Congleton Town Council, EZE Talk, Hammond McNulty, Franklyn Financial Management, SAS Daniels and Stephenson Browne and to all the venues that host activities during the festival weekends. More details at: www.congletonjazzandblues.co.uk



TRY the new online sustainable learning course created by Congleton Town Council and Congleton Partnership. Ideas and information about how to reduce your environmental impact through the food you eat, energy you use, products you purchase and ways you travel. Join the learning at learn.congleton-tc.gov.uk



Bear Necessities is produced by Congleton Town Council. The next newsletter will be delivered around **23rd April**. All contributions should be sent by **4th April** 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



Suzie Akers Smith (I)



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.



First Floor Town Centre Grants

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL has approved £10,000 worth of grants to help spruce up spaces above shops and businesses in Congleton town centre. Landlords and business owners will be able to apply for up to £1,000 of match funding from the Town Council for works to improve the physical appearance to

the first-floor exterior. This is part of a drive from the Town Council to improve the attractiveness of the centre. It is expected that the scheme will be launched at the beginning of February, once the criteria has been approved by the Finance and Policy Committee. Details will be available at info@congleton-tc.gov.uk

Stay Warm This Winter

CONCERNED about energy bills? You may be entitled to free advice via the Local Energy Advice Partnership (LEAP) Scheme, a free Energy and Money Saving Service, for our area. It offers eligible residents - owner occupiers, private rented and social housing tenants - free advice and support to help them to save money and keep their homes warmer.

Via telephone interview, the LEAP Advisor can access funding for homeowners to replace broken boilers or towards first time central heating as well as other energy efficiency improvements. They can help check your energy bills, review how energy efficient your home is, give energy saving tips and devices. A free telephone advice service is also available to help with benefits, debt management and other money problems. Residents may qualify for the LEAP Service if one of the following apply - have a low income, receive tax credits or housing or disability related benefits or have a long-term illness or disability. Residents interested in arranging a LEAP Advisor call should **0800 060 7567** or visit www.applyforleap.org.uk



Speed Management – Have your Say!

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL is consulting on how they manage speed across the borough. This consultation needs resident feedback. If you feel that the traffic speed on roads where you live, work or travel is wrong please complete the consultation before the 31st January. If the questions do not allow you to answer how you would like to, send an email to smsconsult@cheshireeasthighways.org and your response will be added. The survey can be found at <https://surveys.cheshireeast.gov.uk/s/JSOZZE>

Fight for a Household Waste and Recycle Centre (HWRC)

COUNCILLORS on Congleton Town Council are continuing to exert pressure on Cheshire East Council (CEC) to consider a new HWRC for Congleton. At a Council meeting before Christmas CEC agreed

that its Environment and Communities Committee would review and consider options for a new household waste, recycle and repair centre for Congleton and report back by June 2022.

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Congleton welcomes its own Local Policing Unit

SINCE NOVEMBER Congleton has enjoyed its own Local Policing Unit with more officers based in Congleton rather than being part of the wider Macclesfield Local Policing Unit. The Police Station in Market Square is open for the public Monday to Friday 9am – 5pm. Crime figures for Congleton East and Congleton West can be viewed at www.cheshire.police.uk. PCSOs hold regular surgeries in locations around the town. Details of the surgeries can be found [@POLICECONGLETON](https://www.facebook.com/POLICECONGLETON) on Facebook.

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Changes to Congleton Partnership!

CATHY DEAN has taken on the role of Congleton Partnership Officer, following the retirement of Mike Smith after 13 years. Cathy has always lived in Congleton and has a great passion for improving her hometown. Cathy will work closely with the new Partnership Chair, Peter Aston. Peter took on the role from Glen Williams who stepped down to lead other projects. Glen is now the Vice-Chair. Peter and Cathy are continuing the excellent work of their predecessors while looking to develop the Partnership to create a kinder community. Kinder to each other

and kinder to the environment. See www.congletonpartnership.org



Buddy and Befriending Scheme

EVERYONE can experience feelings of loneliness, but it's important to understand when it's becoming more than just a bad day. If you would benefit from having a buddy for a weekly friendly chat, or if you are prepared to become a buddy, Changing Lives Together would love to hear from you! The scheme aims to reduce loneliness and isolation amongst the over 50s across Congleton and is being supported by the Congleton Partnership. You can contact them on **01260 606066** or email: befriending@changing-lives-together.org.uk.

Health and Wellbeing Fayre 2022

Congleton Health and Wellbeing Fayre is set to return on Tuesday 29th March and will be held in Congleton Town Hall from 10am until 1pm. Drop in, have a chat or pick up information about many of the groups, organisations and services that are based in Congleton and exist to help you. Look out for updates on www.congletonpartnership.co.uk and Facebook [@congletonpartnership](https://www.facebook.com/congletonpartnership). To take part contact cathy.dean@congleton-tc.gov.uk

Dementia Swap Shop Service

DEMENTIA FRIENDLY CONGLETON has launched a free Swap Shop service for Congleton residents living with dementia. The exchange service is located within Congleton Library, Market Street. A variety of games and activities mainly sourced from the Alzheimer's Society, are available for loan or can be swapped for games and activities in good condition. For further information see: www.congleton-tc.gov.uk/dementia-friendly-congleton

Congleton Repair Café

CONGLETON'S first Repair Café will 'pop up' at The Old Saw Mill, Back River Street on Saturday 29th January from 10am-2pm. With the help of volunteers who know how to fix things, the Repair Café aims to help combat the throwaway society and reduce waste. It hopes to become a monthly event. Volunteer 'fixers' will help teach others how to repair everyday household items. Users will be limited to one item per person and it must be possible to carry the item to the first floor. The volunteer fixers aim to repair clothes, small electrical items, bicycles and furniture. They will not be able to tackle TVs, laptops or phones!



NEWS IN BRIEF...

SALT BINS

Cheshire East Council provides salt bins in residential areas where the gradient is steeper than 10% and on roads recently removed from the gritting route. You can ask Cheshire East to re-stock, replace or fix a damaged bin via the 'Report it Online' button at www.cheshireeast.gov.uk search Gritting and Snow

COMMUNITY TAX

Congleton Town Council community tax will rise by £1.88 (2.07%) per year for a Band D property – or 3.6p per week from April 2022. Efforts were made to keep the increase as low as possible whilst still supporting events and improvements for 2022/23.

TOWN COUNCIL GRANTS

There are still funds available in the Town Council grants budget. Local groups and organisations need to apply via the Finance and Policy Committee. Last chance to apply for this financial year is 24th March – applications must be with the council by Tuesday 15th March.

CONGLETON CLIMATE ACTION GROUP

This new group is open to residents who wish to improve our environment and boost biodiversity. The group welcomes anyone that has environmental issues that they wish to raise. It meets on the 2nd Monday of the month online and the 4th Tuesday of the month at the United Reformed Church. Contact cw12climateaction@gmail.com or see 'Congleton Climate Action Group' on Facebook.

TOY APPEAL AND TREE OF LIGHT

Thanks to the kindness of local people more than 500 new toys were donated to the NSPCC/Chronicle Toy Appeal which were distributed to 200 local children where families needed the most help this year. The Tree of Light raised £740 for Rotary charitable causes.

MAYOR'S BALL

Tickets are available for this grand Civic Event being held on the 11th March in the Town Hall. Priced £27.50. Contact info@congleton-tc.gov.uk

Trees for Congleton Updates and Invite!

THE CONGLETON TREE

GROUP has made great progress. Following the award of a Community Hedge Fund grant from the Tree Council, 28 volunteers with an age range of 7 to 75 have given almost 200 hours since late October to plant trees, new hedgerows and a new community orchard. The group

has also been mulching and weeding at sites planted over the past two years.

Other volunteers have been busy at the Dane Valley Community Energy site at Havannah, planting oak (donated saplings), alder, hazel, rowan, holly and grey willow, plus hawthorn, blackthorn, elder and crab apple.

The group has plans to plant at several more sites up until the end of March. There will be some new orchards, hedges and tree whips to be planted and more volunteers are welcome and needed! Look out for dates and places on the 'TreesforCongleton' Facebook page and the Town Council and Partnership websites.



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Dates for Your Diary

FEBRUARY 2022

2	Comedy, Lion & Swan
4	NHS Blood Donations, Town Hall
5	Welsh Wrestling, Town Hall
12	Elias String Quartet & Robert Plane, Clonter Opera
15	Cheshire East Track & Trace, Town Hall
20	KEMS Orchestra Concert, Town Hall

MARCH 2022

4-6	Congleton Unplugged, Various
6	EPW Wrestling, Town Hall
8	Elizabeth Statue Unveiling, Bridge Street
17-19	Comeback Cabaret – Trinity Operatic Society, Daneside Theatre
18	NHS Blood Donations, Town Hall
26	Congleton Youth Orchestra, Town Hall
29	Health & Wellbeing Fayre, Town Hall
29-2Apr	Chicago, Centre Stage Youth Theatre, Daneside Theatre

APRIL 2022

2	Congleton Choral Society, Town Hall
5	NHS Blood Donations, Town Hall
10	Beating The Bounds Walk
22	NHS Blood Donations, Town Hall
30	Soul Train, Daneside Theatre

What's on: Weekly

Company Corner

Congleton Cricket Club	Every Monday
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Stitch & Chat

Trinity Methodist Church	Every Monday
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'Bros' Men Support Group

The Old Saw Mill	Every Monday
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Jubilee Club

New Life Church	Every Tuesday
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Knit & Natter

The Old Saw Mill	Every Tuesday
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Mugs & Games

St Johns Community Centre	Every Tues & Thurs
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My Cheshire Without Abuse

The Old Saw Mill	Drop in every Thurs
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Sequence Tea Dance

Congleton Cricket Club	Every Friday
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Luncheon Club

St. Johns Community Centre	Every Friday
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What's on: Monthly & Bi-Monthly

Traditional Games

Bear Grills Café	Every 1st & 3rd Thu
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Domestic Abuse Peer Support Group

The Old Saw Mill	Every 1st Wed
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Let's Chat

Congleton Library	Every 1st Fri
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Forget Me Not Group

New Life Church	Every 2nd & 4th Fri
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Crafty Natter

Congleton Library	Every 2nd & 4th Wed
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Keen Cooks

Congleton Library	Every 2nd Tue
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Tea & Church

St Johns Community Ctr	Every 2nd Wed
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Congleton's Swimathon goes to Biddulph for 2022

WITH Congleton swimming pool closed for rebuilding, Rotary-Congleton will be holding its popular Swimathon event at Biddulph Valley Leisure Centre on Friday 4th to Sunday 6th March. Teams of up to six people swim for 55 minutes and the numbers of lengths are recorded. Teams raise sponsorship which is split between their own nominated charity and Rotary's charities. Teams need to book

online at: www.congletonrotary.co.uk or phone **07715 733967**. All ages and abilities welcome.



Pride Events 2022

CONGLETON PRIDE members are busy preparing for the flagship Congleton Pride Day on Saturday 23rd July, but there are many other events planned throughout the year. Pride begins with a Valentines Evening on February 12th at the Cheshire Tavern, and a St. Patrick's Day party at the Vale Club on Friday March 18th. The group is also proud to support Congleton's first PrideFest Camping Weekend at Glebe Farm during the Easter Weekend where



a Britain's-Got-Talent style competition will be launched for a performing slot during the day at Congleton Pride. Tickets for the fundraising events are available at www.congletonpride.co.uk, or scan the QR code to see Pride events. Tickets for events sell quickly - buy now to avoid disappointment.

New members for this inclusive group are always welcome. Contact the Facebook group Congleton Pride.



Congleton Choral Society in Fine Voice

CONGLETON CHORAL SOCIETY are back together after a long pandemic interruption, under a new Music Director Tom Newall. Their Christmas concert was

recorded and streamed on YouTube. Their next performance is at the Town Hall, the exhilarating 'Elijah' on 2nd April. www.congletonchoralsociety

Local Activities Leaflet

THE CONGLETON COMMUNITY is finally coming back together with the return of face-to-face activities ranging from coffee mornings, crafts, sing-alongs and lunch clubs. A new publication which provides details of these events is available from the Congleton Information Centre, Congleton library and online at www.congleton-tc.gov.uk/your-council/publications

The activities are open to people living with dementia, their carers and family members and the 'Young at Heart' living in Congleton. The regular activities have been organised to help local people feel part of the community. If you are aware of other activities which should be included in the booklet, please email: info@congleton-tc.gov.uk or Tel: **01260 270350 Ext 3**.



Crafternoon Tea

Congleton Library	Every 3rd Wed
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Story & Tea for Grown Up's

Congleton Library	Every 4th Mon
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Board Games for Mental Health

United Reformed Church	Every Last Sat
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Makers Market

Town Centre	Every Last Sat
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For more information about What's on in Congleton contact the Congleton Information Centre on **01260 270350** or see what's on @ www.congleton-tc.gov.uk

Beating the Bounds of Congleton - Sunday 10 April 2022

We are looking for 750 people to take part in this 10.6 mile walk around the town's settlement boundary. Horses and riders in medieval dress will set off the walk at 10am. It is £1 to enter with all funds raised being donated to the Town Mayor's local charities. Why not use the event as a fund raiser for your own chosen charity? Enter through the Congleton Information Centre or see www.congleton750.org



Platinum Jubilee Celebration - Thursday 2 June 2022, 12 - 5pm

Celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in the surroundings of Congleton's beautiful park.

Bring a picnic and enjoy live music through the decades, entertainment & side stalls.

Behind Closed Doors - Tuesday 5 - Saturday 9 July 2022

A fabulous medieval living history week in Congleton Town Hall designed to introduce children to what life was like in England in 1272. Local primary schools have been invited to the free sessions to find out what's behind the closed doors of Medieval Congleton.

Medieval Festival Day in the Park - Saturday 13 August 2022

Congleton Park will be the place to be on the 13th August. Work is underway on a special free festival day, which will include jaw-dropping jousting action from the twice World Champion **Knights of Nottingham** team, falconry, archery, jesters, magic acts, food and drink and much more to be confirmed. Check the website at www.congleton-tc.gov.uk for details of new acts and make sure that the chance to see jousting in Congleton park is in your diary!

Medieval Banquet - Friday 30 September 2022

Plans are afoot for a fabulous medieval festive banquet in the Town Hall on Friday 30th September. On the day after Michaelmas there will be chance to eat, drink, dance and be merry celebrating the 750 anniversary of the charter. Details and prices to be released via www.congleton750.org Note the date and get your costume ready!

750 Merchandise

Branded pens, pencils and mugs are available to purchase from the Congleton Information Centre. With plans for more medieval inspired keepsakes and souvenirs to be added to the range shortly. We are keen to hear from people who are interested in volunteering and more local groups, organisations, businesses and schools who would like to add an event to the programme.

For further information email: www.congleton-tc.gov.uk or call: 01260 270350.

Keep an eye on the 750 web page for an up to date listing of events and activities www.congleton750.org





Celebrate Congleton's 750 Charter Year

Did you know...

In the early 13th century Congleton belonged to the de Lacy family, in 1272 Henry de Lacy, 3rd Earl of Lincoln granted the town its first charter. The Charter enabled the town to hold fayres and markets, people were allowed to trade without tolls and taxes. It also gave the inhabitants of the town the right to elect a Mayor, and an Ale Taster.

It gave men the right to hold land through the payment of rent rather than by personal service to the Lord of the Manor. The charter was presented to the then small community on the banks of the river Dane allowing the rights and dignities of a medieval township. Over 750 years the town has grown to 30,000 residents.

The Town Council is working with Congleton Community Projects developing an exciting calendar of Medieval themed events and activities throughout the year so that everyone living and working in Congleton can join together to celebrate our town, its history and all the many things that are special about Congleton.



Heraldic Flags & Mountbatten Way Banners

Town centre buildings will be adorned with 60 heraldic flags during the summer months. Led by Congleton Community Projects with support from local artists and the Electric Picture House, the flags have been individually created at a series of workshops. The project has been funded by a successful Heritage Lottery grant. Mountbatten Way and West Street roundabout area will be decorated with heraldic banners. Local businesses have the opportunity to sponsor a banner(s) at a cost of £250 + vat. each.

The banners will be 2m long, double-sided and will hang from brackets on the lamp posts. If you would like your business to be involved, complete the registration form. The illustrations show how your details will appear on one of the four alternating banner designs. For further information on the different sponsorship packages available

and the registration form see: www.congleton750.org or email: info@congleton-tc.gov.uk

Could you be Congleton's Ale Taster?

If you have a passion for pubs, pints and people, we would love to hear from you. We are searching for a local towns person to become Congleton's next Ale Taster! The role has been created as a fun and fitting post to add to the medieval celebrations.

We would like our Ale Taster to be passionate about ale and we welcome their ideas on how they would use the role to be an ambassador for Congleton's brewing activities and our many excellent ale houses. Their ability to be able to enter into the spirit of the events and engage with the public is the most important part of the role.

Applicants from all backgrounds and levels of ale experience are encouraged to apply! And don't forget women can be Ale Tasters too! We stress that the role is unpaid and voluntary and doesn't hold any official status or power, but should be a fun experience! An outfit will be provided to ensure the Ale Taster is resplendent in Medieval finery.

Ale enthusiasts who wish to be considered for the role should fill in the application form see: www.congleton750.org or email: info@congleton-tc.gov.uk

