



Medieval Fun Day in the Park

AS PART OF THE TOWN'S 750 charter year celebrations, Congleton Town Council has organised a medieval fun day in Congleton Park on Saturday 13 August. The fun starts at 12 noon and continues until 6pm. There will be an arena with a full programme of events including two dazzling jousting performances by the Knights of Nottingham, falconry displays, fire dancing, axe throwing and Dreygo the smoke-breathing dragon. Visitors can also enjoy food and drink stalls, a craft tent, the chance to go on a dragon quest, medieval music by Piva and much more!

The event is expected to attract thousands and so if you wish to attend please download a free ticket from Eventbrite (3,000) – scan the QR code above – or pick up a free ticket from the Information Centre in the Town Hall (2,000). 5,000 tickets were made available from mid-July.

As with all community events, there is a need for plenty of supporters and helpers on the day. If you are willing to help for a couple of hours, please contact: **info@congleton-tc.gov.uk** - we would really appreciate your help!

Friendship and Food at the Town Hall

EVERYONE needs a little help sometimes, and Congleton Town Council's new commercial partner, Mark's Events, in partnership with some local organisations and local volunteer power is determined to help! On a Monday lunchtime and one weekday evening individuals and families who can't afford to cook fresh meals at home, eat out or get a takeaway, will be invited to the Town Hall to enjoy some free food and friendship. The offer, soon to be launched by Mark Bailey, has the support of Plus Dane Housing, local Rotary and other community groups.

If you are a family in need, an organisation that would like to make a donation or donate some food, an organisation that could provide additional support such as counselling, debt advice etc. or someone who wants to volunteer and be part of it – please email: **markbailey3@sky.com**. By working together, we can make life a little bit better for members of our community in the greatest need.

We NEED your feedback!

IN SEPTEMBER, Congleton residents will be getting a postcard through their door asking for comments on the revised Neighbourhood Plan. Please take time to comment. All views received will help shape the future of our town. A full and summary version of the plan will be available online and in locations around the town. The plan has been developed over many years considering the views of numerous working groups, local and national policy and consultations. Now it is back to basics and making sure that the policies that are proposed

in the draft plan still reflect your needs. 1,444 residents commented at the start of the plan. The Neighbourhood Plan can only consider planning matters, is limited to the land within the town boundary and all the policies within it must fit with current planning laws and guidance. We can encourage house building in Congleton to have solar panels, heat pumps or other environmental factors that are well above and beyond building regulations requirements, but we can't insist on it. But even with these limitations, the Town Council believes that

Congleton would be stronger with a Neighbourhood Plan than without one and having one may possibly help unlock additional funding for the town – so we ask for your **support** in helping the Neighbourhood Plan group to put together the strongest plan possible for Congleton. We need your feedback – positive or negative but ideally constructive.



BRITAIN IN BLOOM UK FINALIST 2022
with the RHS

Going for Gold!

Congleton is a Britain in Bloom National Finalist 2022

Bear Necessities is produced by Congleton Town Council. The next newsletter will be delivered around **9 October**. All contributions should be sent by **20 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 (C)



Rob Moreton, Deputy Mayor (I)



Denis Murphy (LD)



Mark Rogan (I)



James Smith (LD)



Kay Wesley (WEP)



West Ward Councillors



Suzie Akers Smith (I)



Dawn Allen (C)



Martin Amies (I)



Russell Chadwick (I)



Paul Duffy (LD)



Suzy Firkin (LD)



Margaret Gartside Mayor (LD)



Robert Hemsley (LD)



Amanda Martin (C)



Jean Parry (C)

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



New Mayor

CLLR MARGARET GARTSIDE is the new Mayor of Congleton. She was appointed by her fellow councillors in May. The Mayor chose Kati-Leigh Newson from the Air Training Corp as her cadet. The Mayor is determined to help and raise awareness of as many Congleton-based

and Congleton-serving charities and organisations as possible. If you would like the Town Mayor to attend your event, contact: info@congleton-tc.gov.uk. This year's Deputy Mayor is Cllr Rob Moreton. The Deputy Mayor can deputise for the Mayor if the Mayor is unable to attend an event.

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) has Consequences

EARLIER THIS YEAR, some ASB and criminal attacks involving young people led to several arrests, curfews and bans for individuals from the town centre, stopped named people meeting each other and even put tenancies at risk. The Police, local authorities and, where applicable, housing associations work together to reduce crime and the fear of crime. The aim is to stop young people from following a path that leads to greater criminality. Action can and will be taken against those committing ASB and crime. The route is usually:

1. Child is spoken to by Police – an alert is created, generating a letter to the parents.
2. Three incidents within six months may result in an ABD (Acceptable Behaviour Discussion) with housing, Cheshire East ASB team, the child and family present.
3. If the bad behaviour continues, consideration will be given to an ABC

(Acceptable Behaviour Contract). At this stage the child with guardians need to agree to behave in a certain way or do certain things.

4. If there are breaches of the ABC and no improvement of behaviour then a timeline will be put together with further evidence from housing, Councils and other partners. Consideration is given for a CBO (Criminal Behaviour Order) in consultation with Youth Justice Services

5. Continued breaches and offences will result in arrest and charge of the person so a CBO can be applied for at the court. Serious offences can result in arrest at any stage.

If residents see Anti-Social Behaviour, please ring 101 or report using 101 online. It helps to build up a picture of problem areas and helps the Beat Team Inspector develop a case for more officer hours. If Police HQ sees no reports, it will think there is no problem. REPORT, REPORT, REPORT.

Don't Block the Pavements

A FREQUENT COMPLAINT to the Council is around blocked pavements, either by inconsiderate drivers or people leaving their bins on the paths. Cars parked on the pavement may be trying to give more space to other motorists – but spare a thought for the person in a mobility scooter, with a pushchair or walking aid

who can't squeeze past and can't easily walk into the road to get around your obstruction. Or the danger that you are putting people in forcing them into the traffic while your car or bin hogs the pavement. Don't wait for it to be the law and face fines, do the right thing now by leaving the pavements for pedestrians.

Campaign for a Household Waste Site Continues

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL will be informing its Councillors about the winning bid for running its Household Waste Recycling Centres at its Environment and Communities Committee on 29 September. At the same meeting, Cheshire East will also determine if there is an appetite for

pushing forward with a new Congleton site. If you wish to comment contact Cllr Mick Warren (Chair), Cllr Sarah Pochin (Vice Chair) or Cllr Quentin Abel (Climate Change Champion) on the CEC Environment Committee. Contact details at: www.cheshireeast.gov.uk

Call for More Hosts

WITH THE WAR CONTINUING in the Ukraine, and life becoming harder and more desperate for many in the country, there is a renewed call for more hosts in our area. Many of the Ukrainian guests staying in and around Congleton have close family and friends who would like to come to our area. If you have a spare room or rooms and are interested in hosting, please contact the Congleton Area Ukraine Support Network (CAUSN). The group has a Facebook page and website and over the past four or five months has gained a wealth of experience in every aspect of hosting. Current hosts will be happy to talk you through the processes, help you to

work out if hosting is right for you, and if it is help to match you with an appropriate person or family.

The group is working hard to support hosts and guests; organising language classes, social visits, Pop up Boutiques where guests can get free clothes, support for hosts in getting furniture and equipment, fundraising to help support Ukrainians, sorting lifts for Ukrainians staying with rural hosts and sharing knowledge. More at: www.causn.com



Congleton Credit Union

SINCE 1995, anyone living or working in Congleton has been able to benefit from using the town's own local savings and loan cooperative. It is regulated and approved by the same bodies as the banks, free from any ties to religious or political groups and 100% run by volunteers, meaning all profits come back to members.

Members save what they can afford on a regular basis and can borrow up to three times the amount they have saved. Repayments are planned so there is no risk of getting into a spiral of debt as people have done when using payday loans, or local loan sharks.

Interest on loans is low and members are encouraged to keep saving while repaying. The more members the credit union has, the more funds are available for others. Some members join to be part



of a great community initiative, while some use it as a vital lifeline to help make ends meet.

You can pay by standing order into your credit union savings account, but many deposit money in person. The main collection point is staffed by volunteers on a Saturday morning between 10am-11am on the ground floor of Congleton library.

Sexual Harassment OUT!

SEXUAL HARASSMENT happens so often in the places where young people hang out – in person and online – you'd think it was normal. BUT IT'S NOT. From unwanted touching to sexist name-calling, there's no excuse for this kind of behaviour, and it's never the fault of the person who is being harassed. Congleton Town Council is backing the young people's SHOUT campaign.

Paddling Pool

CONGLETON PADDLING POOL will remain open until 4 September. The pool, which is paid for by Congleton residents, is open 5 days a week from 10am-5pm, with visitors able to book free morning or afternoon sessions. A qualified plant room



technician must be always on-site. With the pool numbers appropriate for the size of pool, the pumps and filters have been less problematic. The Paddling Pool remains very popular. When warm weather is forecast, it is always fully booked. So that more people can enjoy the pool, PLEASE CANCEL your booking if your plans change.

NEWS IN BRIEF...

WHISKY TASTING

Congleton Town Mayor is hosting a whisky tasting event in the Town Hall on **Friday 14 September**. Tickets will be available from the Town Hall Information Centre. All funds raised will go to the Town Mayor's charities.

WEDDING AND PARTY FAYRE

Got a big celebration coming up? Want to meet the people that can make your event extra special? Pop into a free Wedding and Party Fayre in the Town Hall on **Sunday 16 October** from 11am-2pm.

APPLE JUICE

If you have a surplus of apples, Congleton Old Saw Mill will be delighted to receive them and turn them into wonderful Congleton Apple Juice, Cider and Apple Vinegar.

HORTICULTURAL NO SHOW

For the third year running there will be no Horticultural Society Show in the Town Hall this September. The group is only just starting to meet and hope to be back in force in 2023.

ANNUAL REPORT

Click on this QR code to download a copy of the Town Council's Annual Report. It can also be found online at www.congleton-tc.gov.uk/your-council/publications or a few copies are available from the Information Centre.



Town Centre

IF YOU'VE NOT VENTURED into Congleton Town Centre for a while, you'll find a host of new businesses to explore. Capital Walk has re-opened with a wide range of interesting food and drink venues offering food from 'Capitals' around the world. The former RBS is now a fabulous bar and eatery, the Losers Club in the former FoneHouse is a gamers paradise, a new Indian restaurant has opened in the pedestrian area, Radleys Cellar Bar and Leone Restaurant are great additions to the renovated Lion and Swan, The Little Cellar Bar in Little Street is full of character and dedicated local people with great ideas have purchased both the former B&M building and the site that was owned by Scarborough. The nature of the High Street may be changing, but there is still lots of interest in Congleton.



#CongletonGreen



Thanks to the hard work of many, a great new Bee-friendly space has been created in Congleton Park. With benches to sit on and lots of colourful, scented plants to enjoy it's a haven for insects and bees. The garden was designed by Annabel Jackson from Congleton High School, who was a runner-up in a BBC Radio Two National competition to create a Bee Garden. Annabel worked closely with Friends of Congleton Park and Congleton In Bloom.



Above: Bee-lightful space in Congleton Park

Inset: Plastic Free Congleton

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL is encouraging residents and businesses to work together to help drive biodiversity and reduce their carbon footprint. A number of groups are working collaboratively with the council on different initiatives to help people living or working in Congleton to become more sustainable.

Every month the council and partners focus on an environmental issue and would like you to contribute your hints and tips via social media. Take a short video on your phone showing what you are doing about the topic and share any time during the month using the relevant campaign hashtag plus **#CongletonGreen**.

To see which environmental and sustainability initiatives we will be supporting in future months, view the online calendar here: www.congleton-tc.gov.uk/yourcouncil/greencouncil.

Please note: the calendar is a working document and will be subject to change.

Sustainable E-Learning

Try the 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. The e-Learning course is available for everyone free of charge on the Town Council's website at <https://learn.congleton-tc.gov.uk/>

Active Travel

September 22 is World Car Free Day. Motorists are being urged to ditch their vehicles and 'get more active' to show support for the day. Getting more active boosts personal health as well as benefiting the environment.

Although the day is a great way to focus attention on the issue, it is hoped that new habits can be created that last way beyond World Car Free Day. People are being encouraged to support 'footstep Fridays' and 'Cycle Saturdays' as alternatives to driving. Being more active is not only good for our physical and mental health but also good for our climate, air quality, our local communities and our pockets – especially as fuel prices spiral upwards.



Gearing up for Green Week

Following the success of last year's Climate Festival and Green Fayre, Congleton Town Council and Congleton Partnership are working together to bring another Green Week to Congleton – but this time from the 18-25 September.

The week will include a bigger and better Green Fayre on Saturday 24 September from 10am-4pm. The last Saturday of the month repair workshop will move from its home at the Old Saw Mill to the Town Hall as a one off for the festival. The team is also investigating hosting a textile exchange in the Town Hall. The closed High Street will be the base for 32 stalls as well as a collection of electric bikes and cars. The Makers Market will be held at the same time in the pedestrian area.

In the week leading up to the Green Fayre there will be a programme of talks, walks, demonstrations and open days. For details see: <https://bit.ly/GreenFayre>. If your group or organisation wishes to get involved contact: cathy.dean@congleton-tc.gov.uk



Plastic Free Congleton

It's official – Congleton is now a Plastic Free Community! Congratulations to the Plastic Free Congleton team and everyone involved in achieving Plastic Free Communities Status. The accreditation was granted in June by Surfers Against Sewage. Representatives of the group led by local resident Heather Seddon received recognition for their achievements from Congleton Town Mayor, Cllr Margaret Gartside.

Well done to all the businesses, schools, community groups, sports clubs and churches for all their hard work in helping to rid Congleton of single use plastic and clear up river ways. By making a slight change you can help to make a big difference to our beautiful town. To find out more visit the Plastic Free Congleton Facebook page.



Congleton Town Hall

A top venue in the heart of the town

YOU MAY have been to Congleton Town Hall for a party, a meeting, your Covid-19 jab, to give blood, a charity fayre or even a boxing match! But increasingly since lockdown restrictions were lifted more people are booking this fabulous building for weddings, funerals, concerts, training sessions, presentations and even ghost hunts!

The licensed venue, which is owned by Congleton Town Council, has three rooms available for hire seven days a week. Either on an hourly, half-day (4 hours) or full-day rate (8 hours). Minimum booking two hours.

The glorious Grand Hall takes up to 300 for a concert or 150 for a dinner dance, with magnificent lighting options. For corporate bookings, we can accommodate 220 seated, and an additional 100 if using the upstairs balcony.

The beautiful Bridestones Suite is ideal for large team meetings, training courses, intimate wedding ceremonies and public meetings. The room is perfect for 30-100 guests.

The Spencer Suite is popular for interviews, meetings and training sessions for up to 12 people.

All rooms will be set to your requirements benefiting from strong Wi-Fi connections, audio-visual and PA facilities and are disability friendly. The Town Council is currently considering the pricing structure and is determined to strike a balance between reasonable community use which benefits charities and residents wishing to attend healthy activities and commercial use which helps to pay the bills for running this expensive Victorian building. Look out for a trial of Sunday to Thursday £15 per hour offer for rooms including the Main Hall!

The Town Council is working with consultants to explore options to reduce the carbon footprint of the building and reduce its enormous energy bills. To offset the high operating costs, the events team is committed to attracting more visitors to increase income via new and improved facilities, packages and services offered to customers.

Catering For Your Every Need

The Town Hall is pleased to welcome on board its new Commercial Partner 'Mark's Events'. Company owner Mark Bailey has over 10 years experience working in the catering and hospitality sector, providing fantastic food combined with excellent service for clients hosting small events to larger functions with over 200 guests. Mark is

delighted to be working in partnership with the town council and aims to work alongside the team to ensure all bookings are individual, special and perfect.

Mark has hit the ground running serving up a range of beautiful menus at recent functions including Mayor Making, the Queen's Jubilee Afternoon Tea and several private parties. He is already receiving rave reviews. The Congleton Beartown Patchwork and Quilters said:

"The service was immediate, the food freshly prepared and everyone very complimentary. Absolutely nothing was too much trouble from meeting special dietary requirements to re-arranging the furniture – all done with a smile. We commend Mark and his team for making our event so successful."

What's New in the Town Hall

The venue formerly known as the Cotton Club within the Town Hall is undergoing a makeover under the management of Mark Bailey. It will open its doors with a brand-new name and a freshly decorated interior. The multi-purpose space will serve as an additional room to hire for clients using the main hall, as a community hub offering affordable food and a meeting space for groups, businesses and individuals to hire. The new stylish bar will be stocked with more than 250 gins from around the world for customers to enjoy every Friday evening. Watch this space for the official opening date.

Upcoming Events

- Congleton Jazz & Blues – Sat 27-28 Aug
- Congleton Green Fayre – Sat 24 Sept (free entry)
- 750 Medieval Banquet – Fri 30 Sept (ticketed event)
- Wedding and Parties Fayre – Sun 16 Oct
- 750 Beer Festival – Sat 29-30 Oct
- Christmas Lights Switch On – Fri 25 Nov

Our friendly and professional team make Congleton Town Hall the perfect venue choice for any event. We will be happy to show you around the impressive building and discuss the new food and drink packages on offer. Please contact the office on: **01260 270350** (ext. 1) or email: **info@congleton-tc.gov**. For the latest information see the Town Hall pages at: **www.congleton-tc.gov.uk**

Dates for Your Diary

AUGUST 2022

- 5-7** Rewind Festival - North, Capesthorpe Hall
- 7** WALK: 'From Weaver to Wearer'
Congleton Museum
- 7** Talon - The Best of Eagles,
Open Air Theatre, Gawsworth Hall
- 9-12** Landscape Painting Summer School,
Capesthorpe Hall
- 12-13** We Will Rock You @ Daneside Theatre
- 13** Medieval Festival (free ticketed event)
Congleton Park
- 14** Plant Hunters Fair, Capesthorpe Hall
- 20** FILM: Minions - The Rise of Gru,
2pm, Daneside Theatre
- 20-27** Family Treasure Hunt, Old Sawmill
- 27-28** Congleton Jazz & Blues Festival,
Various Venues
- 28-29** Classic Car & Motorcycle Show,
Capesthorpe Hall

SEPTEMBER 2022

- 3-4** Hide & Seek Festival, Capesthorpe Hall
- 4** WALK: 'Congleton and the Age of
Entertainment', Congleton Museum
- 4** Paddling Pool closes for 2022, Park Road
- 7** Welsh Superstar Wrestling,
Congleton Town Hall
- 9** FILM: Pretty Woman, Open Air Theatre,
Gawsworth Hall
- 10** FILM: Grease Sing-a-Long, Open Air
Theatre, Gawsworth Hall
- 11** FILM: A Star Is Born, Open Air Theatre,
Gawsworth Hall
- 11** Cheshire Half Marathon, Capesthorpe Hall
- 17** Rotary - Last Night at the Proms,
New Life Church
- 23 - 24** Centre Stage in Concert 2022,
Daneside Theatre
- 24** Congleton Green Fayre,
Congleton Town Centre
- 30** Medieval Banquet, Congleton Town Hall

OCTOBER 2022

- 2** WALK: 'Where Trains Would Run',
Congleton Museum
- 2** Congleton Half Marathon,
Congleton Harriers
- 4-8** Blackadder II - The Elizabethan Years,
Daneside Theatre
- 8** Drop me off in Harlem, Clonter Opera
- 14** Mayors Whisky Tasting,
Congleton Town Hall
- 16** Wedding and Parties Fayre,
Congleton Town Hall
- 29-30** Beer Festival, Congleton Town Hall

For more information about What's on in Congleton contact the Congleton Information Centre on: **01260 270350** or see what's on at: **www.congleton-tc.gov.uk**

It's Jazz and Blues Time!

CONGLETON JAZZ AND BLUES 2022

takes place on Saturday and Sunday 27/28 August, the bank holiday weekend. This year's festival gives more of everything; bands, venues and music, and it is all FREE ENTRY.

The Festival operates within the town centre so you can walk between venues, bump into friends or just wander about. There is everything from our opening Traditional Dixieland Umbrella Parade, at 1.30pm on Saturday 27, community events and music in the Physic Garden from 2pm till early evening, and music in all types of bars, pubs, coffee shops, bistros outside space.

There are 21 venues and more than 70 gigs over the two days, every kind of Jazz from

Ragtime and Traditional, all the way to some of the coolest modern stuff, and Blues all the way from the Country Blues of the Mississippi Delta through to Chicago and onto modern Blues and Blues Rock. There are many great artists - plan your days and take your pick - but don't miss out!

For more information follow:

www.congletonjazzandblues.co.uk

www.facebook.com/congojazzblues



Congleton Heritage and Antiques Festival



CONGLETON HERITAGE & ANTIQUES FESTIVAL

will take place from 10 to 25 September. There will be a wide variety of both online and live events. The Festival starts with a town centre fun day. Enjoy vintage fairground attractions, or try your hand at metal detecting. Amongst the many other events there is a talk/valuation by local TV and antiques expert, Adam Partridge, a special opening of Biddulph Old Hall, a pub quiz and rare opening

of our Masonic museum. The Festival has commissioned a poem by John Lindley to commemorate Congleton's 750th Charter year and the BBC has given permission to show "Restored to Glory" all about the restoration of Biddulph Old Hall. With walks, talks and so much more, full details are available at: **www.congletonheritagefestival.com** or follow the daily events on Facebook: **Congletonhaf**.

Take a Tour with the Ale Taster

CONGLETON has around 40 bars, 29 of which sell real ale! With the help of CAMRA and Congleton's Ale Taster, Benedict Goodale, the Town Council has put together a Congleton Ale Trail highlighting the pubs and bars selling real ale. You can pick up a leaflet from the participating venues or from the Congleton Information Centre from early in August. Those who visit 12 or more of the real ale bars can purchase a Congleton Real Ale Tour T-shirt from the Congleton Information Centre!

On 29 & 30 October there will be a chance to taste your pick of Ales at the Ale Taster's beer festival in Congleton Town Hall. More details on **Congleton750.org** as it becomes available.



Electric Picture House

FROM 10 SEPTEMBER, The Electric Picture House will be holding an art exhibition called Seasonal with artwork by resident artists, both nationally and internationally recognised. The preview is on Saturday 10 September from 11am to 3pm and the exhibition will run until Saturday 15th October.

In the October half-term there will be free children's art workshops on Tuesday 25, Thursday 27 and Friday 28 from 11am to 3pm.

For further details or to book contact the Electric Picture House, 1st Floor, Spindle Mill, Spindle Street, Congleton, Cheshire, CW12 1QN or tel: **01260 270908** or **electricpicturehouse@gmail.com**

Congleton Harriers Half Marathon



NOW IN ITS 38TH YEAR, the scenic race will take place on Sunday 2 October at 9:30am. The race HQ will be at Congleton High School. All entrants will receive a medal and t-shirt in the chip timed race. To find out more see: **www.congletonhalfmarathon.co.uk**

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