

Christmas Friday, 25 November!

THIS YEAR'S popular Christmas Switch-on will take place on Friday 25 November. Entertainment starts at 4pm, with the lights turned on at 6pm and the Christmas fun continuing until 8pm. The beautiful and cared for Cairngorm Reindeers with their handlers will be in the town centre, a Santa's grotto and children's activities will be in the Town Hall and a mixture of charity, food and craft stalls in the High Street and pedestrian area. The traditional lantern parade will gather from 5.30pm ready to process down Lawton Street to the Christmas Tree. The Town Council and Congleton Community Projects are working with local cafés, bars and pubs on a food offer. The emphasis is on free family fun with the option to buy local and support local groups if people wish to spend! If you can spare a couple of hours to help steward 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 inside!



Remembrance Sunday

CONGLETON'S Annual Remembrance Parade, organised by Congleton Town Council and supported by the Congleton branch of The Royal British Legion, will take place on Sunday 13 November.

You can watch the parade as it marches from West Street car park, along West Street to Swan Bank, through the pedestrian area, High Street, Market Square and Bank Street before reaching the Cenotaph in Lawton Street. After the two-minute silence at 11am, dignitaries and associations will be called upon to lay wreaths. This will be followed by a short service held at the Cenotaph. Following the service, the parade will march to the back of the Town Hall where they will be dismissed.



Town Centre consultation

BESPOKE Town Centre Vitality Plans have been created for each of the nine key market towns in Cheshire East. The plans have been commissioned by an expert team to come up with some fresh ideas to improve the Cheshire East towns. The Councils are seeking public opinion and support for the ideas. The proposals do not come with funding, but experience over the past few years

shows that when national funding becomes available it is the towns that already have an agreed set of priority projects, which are supported by the community, are the towns most likely to be successful in gaining funding. Responses are needed by 5pm on 8 November. Links to the Congleton document and consultation can be seen at: www.congleton-tc.gov.uk

Keep it local!

BY SPENDING LOCALLY, you are helping to keep money in the local economy and keep local people in employment. Our businesses need your custom to keep going

and survive. It's a concerning time for local businesses with costs rising and customers with less money to spend. Please help to ensure that our businesses can survive.

Bear Necessities is produced by Congleton Town Council. The next newsletter will be delivered around **24 January**. All contributions should be sent by **8 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, Deputy Mayor (I)



Denis Murphy (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 Mayor (LD)



Robert Hemsley (LD)



Amanda Martin (C)



Jean Parry (C)

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

Could you be a Councillor 2023-2027?



ON 4 MAY 2023, all 20 council seats on Congleton Town Council will be up for election. As part of the 2021 Boundary Review, Congleton is being divided into five wards – with four or five councillors in each (rather than the current two wards with 10 councillors in each). This will result in 22 councillors.

Town councillors are elected to represent people at the most local tier of government. They are not paid. To be eligible to stand as a councillor you need to be aged at least 18, a British, EU or Commonwealth citizen, registered to vote in the area or have lived, worked or owned a property in the area for at least 12 months before the election.

The role gives you an opportunity to help shape the community, to represent local people and use your energy to make a difference. Whatever your current experience or background, your knowledge will be useful in this role.

You cannot stand if you work for the

council or another council in a politically restrictive post, are subject to bankruptcy, sentenced to a prison sentence of at least three months within five years of the election or have been convicted of corrupt or illegal practice by an election court. If you decide to stand, you need to decide if you wish to represent a political party – in which case it is a good idea to contact the relevant party as soon as possible – or stand as an independent. All candidates need to be officially nominated by 10 people registered to vote in the ward in which they choose to represent. You can find out more by contacting: **info@congleton-tc.gov.uk** or see: **www.gov.uk/government/get-involved/take-part/become-a-councillor**

Improving Green Spaces for People and Wildlife

ACCELERATING CLIMATE CHANGE

means that it is no longer acceptable to wage war on the natural world with herbicides, pesticides and wall-to-wall mowing. A compromise needs to be found where people and wildlife benefit. As part of the climate and nature emergency, Congleton Town Council commissioned work to create plans to improve 30 green spaces in Congleton.

The site-specific plans consider the

existing natural framework of the area and look to see how the biodiversity value can be increased or strengthened. It could be by adding hedgehog, bat, bug or bird homes, introducing new planting or wet spaces or improving the understanding of nature in the area. There will be consultation on the sites before any changes are made and we will also be looking for local people to help champion or keep an eye on sites. More at: **www.congleton-tc.gov.uk**

White Ribbon Day

WHITE RIBBON DAY is Friday 25 November which starts the international '16 days of action' to end Violence Against Women and Girls. The White Ribbon team will be in town at the Maker's Market on 26 November, so come and make your White Ribbon Promise and find out what it takes to become a White Ribbon Ambassador.



Look out for activities and information throughout the 16 days. White Ribbon is a charity that engages men to help eradicate violence and abuse and Congleton Town Council is a White Ribbon Accredited Organisation.

Hope for a Congleton Waste Site

THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE in Congleton were outraged when Congleton's Household Waste and Recycling Centre, on Barn Road, was closed in September 2021. Since the closure, a strong group has continued to take every opportunity to explain why Congleton, the third biggest town in Cheshire East needs its own waste recycling site.

On 29 September 2022, Cheshire East

Council's Environment and Communities Committee unanimously agreed that a working group or members panel be set up to consider future household waste provision which particularly considers the needs of Congleton and surrounding areas. Our Congleton councillors will closely monitor future developments regarding the scope, remit and deadlines by which this study has to be completed.

Community Safety Pledge

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL has signed up to the Community Safety Charter Pledge. The pledge is about making communities safer, more resilient, and helping to eradicate Anti-Social Behaviour, harassment, intimidation and hostility towards others. The scheme is run by the National Neighbourhood Watch team. Anybody can take the pledge, community groups, businesses or individuals. On signing up, free training modules are sent to you to complete. It is all free – you just need to commit

some time. The Town Council is planning to host a meeting for all Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators in Congleton to see what support and help the groups require within their own communities. You can find out more about the pledge at: www.ourwatch.org.uk/charter



Bromley Farm Wellbeing Open Morning

'TELL US what you want in Bromley Farm! That's the shout-out from The Bromley Farm Wellbeing Hub, who is asking residents to let them know what activities, clubs or support you would like

to have in the area. Please pop in for a coffee and share your views by writing on then 'ideas boards' or talking to the team, between 10am and 12 noon on Saturday 22 October.

NEWS IN BRIEF...

IN BLOOM RESULTS

As Bear Necessities went to print, the In Bloom group was waiting to hear the results of the National and Regional summer competitions. The group is planning to host a thank you evening for all its volunteers on 17 November. Look out for the In Bloom calendar for 2023, celebrating 25 years of improving Congleton.

MEDIEVAL COUNCIL

On Thursday 10 November the Congleton Ale Taster, Town Crier and Catchpole will report on the activities from the 750th Charter Year. Recognition will be given to those who went the extra heritage mile to make the year special. Spectators are welcome to attend at 7pm in the Town Hall.

CONGLETON PRIDE

After an amazing Congleton Pride Day, the Congleton Pride Team is proud to be hosting a SpookDRAGular event on Friday 28 October in Radley's. Show from 7.30-9.30pm followed by party and disco! Tickets £15 from: www.ticketsource.co.uk/congletonpride. They also host a caffeine connections event at Bluey's Bar and Hub at 2pm on the last Wednesday of the month.

BINGO, QUIZZES AND KEEP FIT

Mid-week is buzzing in Congleton Town Hall. Monday is Quiz night, starting at 7.30pm. Tuesday is Bingo, doors open at 6pm starts at 7pm (food and drink available both nights). Wednesday is keep fit with three levels of classes.

BEER AND GIN FESTIVAL

Plans for a Beer and Gin Festival in late October have been postponed to 2023. For many reasons it was not the right time. The town council are planning a charity event next year.



Open the door on unhealthy relationships

ARE YOU, or someone you know, in a relationship that doesn't feel quite right? Is one person in the relationship controlling, manipulative, abusive, or violent? If so, this is an unhealthy relationship and is defined as domestic abuse.

You are not alone, and you are not to blame. It doesn't matter who you are, your circumstances, your social group, class, age, race, disability, sexuality or lifestyle – domestic abuse can happen to anyone and there are people who can help you. So please, open the door and start a conversation on domestic abuse. Whatever happens behind closed doors, doesn't have to stay there.

You can get help and advice and access self-support services at: www.openthedoorcheshire.org.uk or call: **0300 123 5101**. In an emergency, always ring **999**.

New Year New You...

ARE YOU LOOKING for careers' advice, trying to get your CV just right or want to access fully funded qualifications? Careers Advisor experts are available every week and can work with you to identify that next opportunity, develop your perfect CV and even help you with those tricky interview questions. Springboard has been providing careers advice and qualifications for adults in Congleton since 2003. As the organisation embarks on its 20th year in Congleton it is keen to support as many adults as possible to gain skills and confidence to fulfil their ambitions – at work and in life. Call into the offices at Riverside to find out more about the fully funded qualifications



including Digital Skills, English, Maths and English for Speakers of Other Languages. They also run Health and Safety in Construction and Emergency First Aid qualifications. The team can advise if you are in work, out of work or simply looking for a new challenge.

For more information or to book an appointment contact: 01260 290682, email: info@springboard.me.uk or visit: www.springboard.me.uk

Working together with the Parishes

HULME WALFIELD and Somerford Booths Parish Council and Congleton Town Council are hoping that closer working relations can be forged on areas of common interest. The town council was disappointed about the decision of the recent boundary review, which put many of the new houses in the rural parishes. Opportunities for greater collaboration are being sought. This edition of Bear Necessities is being delivered by the parish to homes in its area.

Dates for Your Diary

OCTOBER 2022

- 15 Wychcraft Big Band, Daneside Theatre
- 16 Wedding and Parties Fayre, Town Hall
- 24-29 Footloose, Daneside Theatre
- 25 Cheshire Floral Society Demo, Town Hall
- 29 Repair Café, Old Saw Mill

NOVEMBER 2022

- 4 Northern Soul night, Town Hall
- 5 Rotary Bonfire, Congleton Park
- 6 Magic Voices Concert, Town Hall
- 10 Medieval 750 Council Meeting
- 13 Remembrance Sunday, Town Centre
- 16-19 Matilda Congleton Youth Theatre, Daneside
- 19 Choral Society, Congleton Town Hall
- 25 Christmas Lights Switch on
- 26 Frankie Valli Tribute, Town Hall
- 26-3 Gang Show, Daneside

DECEMBER 2022

- 3 Tree of Light Switch on, Community Gardens
- 3 Fodens Concert, Town Hall
- 10 Congleton Youth Orchestra, Town Hall
- 15-17 Wind in the Willows, Phoenix, Daneside
- 17 Christmas Makers Market, Town Centre
- 17 Choral Society, Town Hall
- 28 Welsh Superstars Wrestling, Town Hall
- 31 Orange New Year Ball for Visyon, 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



Printed on 100% recycled carbon-balanced paper.

Bonfire and Fireworks

ON SATURDAY 5 NOVEMBER, the town's bonfire and fireworks display, organised by the Rotary Club, will take place in Congleton Park. This event promises to be a show to remember, being the climax of the town's 750th Charter Year celebrations and also marking Rotary's 75th anniversary of unbroken community service in Congleton.

A huge bonfire topped with Guys made by the town's infant and nursery school children heralds the start of the evening at 6pm, followed by two separate displays. The first at 6.30pm is aimed at families with younger children and has fewer loud bangs.

The second at 7.30pm is the full display and the fireworks will, hopefully, be choreographed to music. In between the displays, fairground rides, sideshows and refreshments will keep everyone entertained. Tickets are available at the Congleton Information Centre at the Town Hall or in town at the Rotary gazebo on the three Saturdays before 5 November. Top tip! Get your tickets in advance! Bought before the day they are £7.50 for adults, £4 for children with under 5's getting free entry. On the day they are £10 for adults, £6 for children again under 5's are free.

Get Historical with your Dates!

After a pause of four years, Congleton Museum has printed another of its popular Heritage calendars for 2023. They are available in A4 format at £5.50 or A5 at £3 from the Museum or the Congleton Information Centre. The calendar contains 13 carefully chosen historical images representing different areas of the town. Views include Henshall Hall, Havannah, High Street and Moody Street in festive mood, Lower Heath and West House. It's a great gift and the A5 version can be posted for the price of a 2nd class stamp. Congleton Museum is an independent charity, which

is working to preserve and present the town's history. By purchasing one of these calendars, you will be making a positive contribution to the museum's work.



Congleton Choral Society

Under the baton of Music Director Tom Newall, Congleton Choral Society is excited to present Carl Orff's Carmina Burana on Saturday 19 November, followed by their ever popular Christmas Carol Concert on Saturday 17 December, both at Congleton Town Hall from 7.30pm. Tickets from the Information Centre.

2022 Gang Show in Town

'Our Gang' takes place at the Daneside Theatre on Saturday 26 November at 7.15pm, then nightly from Tuesday 29 November to Friday 2 December at 7.15pm. Saturday 3 December showings at 2.15pm and 7.15pm.

It's a variety show produced and performed by members of the Congleton Scouting and Guiding movements and features over 100 young people supported by their leaders. To book tickets visit: **www.congletongangshow.co.uk/ticket-bookings** or email: **tickets@congletongangshow.co.uk**



Sleeping Beauty

All is going well in the land of Panto as everybody gathers to celebrate Princess Aurora's 18th birthday. Can things get any better? Oh no they can't! Aurora pricks her finger on a spinning wheel which has been cursed by the evil Maleficent. Who will outwit the evil Maleficent and foil her wicked plans? All will be revealed in this spectacular panto packed with magic, music, laughter and fun!

The panto is on at the Daneside from Saturday 14 – 21 January. Tickets are on sale online and at the Congleton Information Centre. There are signed performances on Sunday 12 January at 1pm and 5.30pm and Wed 15 January at 7.30pm. For the best view of the signer, please book seat numbers between 11 and 20.



COST OF LIVING CRISIS

SPECIAL

In September, Congleton Town Council carried out an online survey looking at the impact of the soaring cost of energy and food prices on residents.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS:

- 23% struggling to make ends meet
- 15% fallen behind on some or all payments
- 53% kept up with bills, but with a struggle
- 30% not experiencing difficulty paying bills
- 69% were worried or extremely worried about bills over the next 12 months
- 46% buying less food and essentials
- 65% using less water, energy or food

- 62% reduced spending on non-essential items and leisure
- 52% eating or drinking out less frequently

This is based on 229 responses. The questionnaire was answered by people across Congleton. 50% were in full-time employment, 19% part-time and 20% were retired. 77% owned their own home, 8% in private rented and 15% in social housing. 70% were aged 30 to 59.

AREAS OF HELP ASKED FOR

Most requested was information about cheaper food options, support for mental health, understanding household finances and information about how and where to get financial help. Comments made it clear that the cost-of-living crisis is affecting the majority of residents, including many who have never needed or expected to have to ask for help before.

Food Help Available Locally

Congleton Social Supermarket – Open on Lawton Street on Wednesdays and Fridays 10am–2pm. It is run by the Green Tree House Café Charity. You can pick up 10 items of food for £4.50, 20 items for £9 or 30 for £13.50. Some items are limited. No referral needed.

StoreHouse, New Life Church, West Road has run a free food bank for the past 13 years for people facing an emergency or extreme hardship. They have helped more than 31,200 people. Help is available Monday to Friday 9.30am – 2.30pm. Parcels are by referral and there are more than 50 agencies that can refer you. More at: www.nlchurch.org.uk/storehouse

Congleton Chat's Back – the community is trying to help each other in extreme need. See the Chat's Back Facebook group.

Recipe Ideas – there is a wealth of information online about nourishing meals and purchasing cheaper food. Such as www.frugal.org.uk, BBC Good Food, Good Housekeeping Magazine. There are also many recipe books in Congleton library to help inspire people wishing to cook from scratch. Many supermarkets discount products when on their use by/best before date.

Friendly Places to Go

- **Old Saw Mill** – Community Café and so much more on Back River Street. Various groups and organisations, just call in for a chat.
- **Bear Grills and Wild and Wild** – Gift a coffee or meal – customers often leave a free donation for those who need it more.
- **Cricket Club** – Company Corner, every Monday 10am – 12noon.
- **New Life Church** – Jubilee Club– tea and toast every Tuesday.
- **Town Hall** – Mark's Events– food and friendship – starts Monday 17 October, 11am-3pm and Thursday 3.30-6.30pm – donations welcome if you can afford to contribute.
- **Congleton Library** – mixture of events – Story and Tea for grown-ups, Keen Cooks recipe swap, Crafternoon Tea, Crafty Natter, Good Vibrations sing along, Let's Chat sessions – or just a warm place to sit down and read a book!
- **Counting House** – refillable coffee – £1.25.

Mental Health Support

With increased pressure brought about by financial worries, it is not surprising that mental health concerns are also rising. Like physical illness, mental illness can affect anyone. And just like with a physical illness it is important that you seek support particularly if you:

- Feel sad and worthless
- Have lost interest in things that you once enjoyed
- Have feelings of worry and panic

Your local doctors' surgery is usually the best place to start. They will be able to provide you with different options of support which may include talking therapies, and/or medication.

There is a 24 hour, 7-day-a-week local NHS Mental Health Crisis Line run by NHS staff for people of all ages needing mental health support in our area. The number is: **0800 145 6485**.

If you suspect a friend, work colleague or family member is suffering one way you can support them is simply by listening, not interrupting, just letting them talk and respond in a non-judgemental way.

Details of local mental health groups can be found on: www.congleton-tc.gov.uk

Financial Support

Whatever the issue, you are not alone and millions of others are in a similar position. The issue will not magically resolve itself. If you can't make your payments it is best to speak to your lenders or suppliers and try and come to an arrangement. www.nationaldebtline.org has useful information on making the most of your money and dealing with high electric and gas bills. They can also be contacted on: **0808 808 4000**.

There is also a wealth of information at:

www.moneyhelper.org.uk which is a free service provided by the money and pensions service and sponsored by the Department for Work and Pensions. For self-employed people:

www.businessdebtline.org or tel: **0800 197 6062**.

www.citizensadvice.org.uk has specialist debt advisors who can talk you through your options – call: **0808 808 4000**.

You can use a free and anonymous benefits calculator to check what benefits you could be entitled to – see: www.gov.uk/benefits-calculator



Christmas in Congleton!

As Christmas approaches, there's lots of festive activities happening in Congleton. Here are a few of the Christmas gems that you can get involved with...

LANTERN MAKING WORKSHOPS

The tradition of Christmas Lanterns is alive and strong in Congleton! This year's lantern-making workshops will be held in the Electric Picture House, in Spindle Mill, Spindle Street, near the Beartown Brewery. Workshops are from 10.30am-3.30pm on Saturdays 5, 12 and 19 November. All equipment is provided, and experienced makers are on hand to offer advice. A £1.50 donation towards the light would be appreciated. Carry your lantern on Friday 25 November as part of the grand procession at the lights switch-on. For information tel: **01260 270908** or email: **jo@congletoncommunityprojects.org**

TREE OF LIGHT AND LIFE

Remember family and friends that you love and miss at Christmas time by purchasing a star and placing it on the Tree of Light and Life in the Community Gardens on Lawton Street. The traditional Christmas Tree is not just a tree of remembrance, it's for the living, for friends and loved ones too! Stars can be bought online at: **www.congletonrotary.co.uk** or from the Congleton Information Centre. The tree will be lit at an event on Saturday 3 December and remains illuminated until the 12th Night.

EAST CHESHIRE HOSPICE

CHRISTMAS TREE COLLECTION

You can help this worthy charity by giving a donation to its volunteers to take away your Christmas tree in the New Year. Last year over 7,000 trees were collected raising £150,000 for this essential charity. Details of how to register are at: **www.eastcheshirehospice.org.uk/echtrees** or tel: **01625 708939**.

TOY APPEAL FOR CONGLETON

The Town Council is once again working with the NSPCC, Congleton Chronicle, Plus Dane Housing and Boots' Barn Road to co-ordinate a toy appeal. Last year local people donated around 600 toys! This year we need new toys and gifts to suit all ages from babies to teens. Those working in the community will help to identify families who need the gifts the most. Toys can be donated at Boots Barn Road or Congleton Town Hall from 14 November - 16 December. Please do not wrap the presents.

CIVIC CAROL SERVICE

This year's Civic Carol Service will be held in St Peter's Church. The service is open to all and takes place on Thursday 15 December, starting at 7pm.

ROTARY CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Eaton Bank Choir and Silk Brass Band will provide an evening of traditional Christmas favourites and carols at Daneside Theatre on Saturday 10 December. The event is usually a sell-out! Tickets are available at the Congleton Information Centre.

NEW LIFE CHURCH

TOWN CENTRE CAROL CONCERT

Wrap up warm and join in the Christmas cheer at an outdoor carol concert on Saturday 17 December, 11am-12noon. At the Bridestone's shopping centre (close to M&Co). All donations to the Town Mayor's Charities.

CHARITY CHRISTMAS PARTY

Cllr Rob Moreton is hosting an 80s and 90s Christmas Party at the Cricket Club on Saturday 26 November. Tickets cost £10 and include food. Proceeds to local charities. Tickets can be purchased from the Cricket Club, Congleton Information Centre or by calling Rob on: **07597 085396**.

SHOE BOX APPEAL

New Life Church is collecting donations towards the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal. Boxes can be taken to New Life Church, West Road, Monday-Friday between 9am-5pm from 14 to 18 November. Visit the Samaritans website for gift suggestions and what not to include: **www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operationchristmas-child**

FOOD BANK APPEAL

In addition to the usual food parcels, New Life Church is creating 400 Christmas Food Hampers and are asking for festive food donations, such as Christmas Puddings, Mince Pies etc. cash donations are also welcome.

OLD SAW MILL CHRISTMAS FEAST

Congleton's Old Saw Mill will offer a Christmas Day lunch for people who may be on their own this Christmas. The price is £15 and there may be some sponsored places available. If you are interested in nominating a person, sponsoring a space or can offer to help, contact the Old Saw Mill on: **01260 277658**. From 28 November the OSM will be offering pre-booked Christmas meals for £15 which includes a main course, pud and glass of Christmas cheer. The Big Heart Lunch club will be distributing Christmas lunch on Friday 23 December.

WREATH MAKING

AT THE TOWN HALL

Have some Christmas fun and learn to make a wreath that you can use to decorate your home! Mark's Events and Astbury Floral will run the six sessions on Thursday 24, Monday 28 and Tuesday 29 November and Thursday 1 December all at 7.30pm – 9.30pm and Sunday 27 November from either 11am – 1pm or 2.30pm – 4.30pm. Tickets from the Information Centre cost £40 and include a festive drink and nibbles and all materials and tuition.

KEEP IT LOCAL

Did you know that Congleton has more than 90 retail shops, 85 service businesses and 50 places to eat and drink in the town centre that are looking forward to helping you find great gifts, get ready and pampered and celebrate Christmas this year. Research has shown that for every £1 spent locally 63p stays in the local community. This year shop local, drink local, buy local, enjoy local and support your local community.

THREE FREE PARKING DAYS

To make it easier for you to stay longer and enjoy Congleton this Christmas, Congleton will use three of its four 'free' parking days on the three Saturdays in December – Sat 3rd, 10th and 17th. Park for free AFTER 10am in Princess Street car park, Back Street car park (behind Lawton Street) and Fairground car park. The Fairground car park still has a three-hour upper limit for parking. Back Park Street car park remains free every day after 3pm.

