

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

Clr 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.

