

Bear Necessities

With News from Congleton Town Council & Community Groups

Spring 2023



Health and Wellbeing Fayre

CONGLETON TOWN HALL is the place to be on Tuesday 28 March. From 10am - 3pm more than 30 local organisations that provide health and/or wellbeing services within the Congleton community will be located in the town hall ready to meet you and see how they may be able to help. The event is open to all and free to enter, although best placed to help those aged over 50. Drop in when it suits you.

On the day there will be a 20-minute scam awareness course – helping to show you ways to protect yourself from scams and fraud. Last year in Cheshire, 5,281 people reported being scammed, costing them over £20 million. There will also be some defibrillator training, including basic life support.



CONGLETON UNPLUGGED is back to help blow away any winter blues! This mainly acoustic music festival is organised by Congleton Live and has over 70 free gigs organised in venues across the town on the weekend of 10-12 March. For more details see: Congleton Unplugged on Facebook.



Picnic in the Park for the Coronation of King Charles III

PACK A PICNIC and enjoy a free afternoon of live music and entertainment in Congleton Park as part of His Majesty King Charles III Coronation celebrations. The town council is working on plans for this event on Bank Holiday Monday (8 May) following the Coronation on Saturday.

The event will run from 1pm-5.30pm. Those attending can look forward to an afternoon of musical entertainment, including rousing tunes from Audley Brass Band. There will also be food and drink stalls, games, free crafts, face painting and some extra surprises planned for the day. The local branch of the RSPCA will host its popular dog show in the park. Mill Green and Park Road will be closed to traffic to help with the safety of the event.

More helpers and marshals are needed for the day, if you would like to be part of the team please contact: rachel.mccarthy@congleton-tc.gov.uk or call: **01260 270350 ext. 3**



Get Election Ready!

THURSDAY 4 MAY is local elections day! Voters in Congleton will elect 22 councillors to serve on Congleton Town Council and six councillors to serve on Cheshire East Council from May 2023 until May 2027. To vote you will need to be 18 and registered on the electoral roll.

Cheshire East Council maintains the electoral database. If you are new to the area or not registered you can register online at: www.gov.uk/register-to-vote. If you need a postal or proxy vote you can use the .gov website or email: electoral.information@cheshireeast.gov.uk. This year the government has ruled that everyone voting at the polling station must show original official photo ID, such as passport, driving

licence, proof of age, blue badge scheme. If you do not have valid photo ID you can apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate. For more details: www.congleton-tc.gov.uk

Bear Necessities is produced by Congleton Town Council. The next newsletter will be delivered **at the end of May**. All contributions should be sent by **5 May** 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



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?

THIS MAY 'all-out' elections will take place at Congleton Town Council. Those wishing to stand have until 4pm on April 4 to get their completed application forms to Cheshire East Council (CEC). CEC will hold a briefing session for potential candidates in Congleton Town Hall on Thursday 2 March at 5.30pm for potential borough councillors and 7pm for town councillors. Book a place via CEC's elections team on **01270 685922** or electoral.information@cheshireeast.gov.uk

To stand as a councillor you must be over 18, live, work or own property in the town, or live within 3 miles of the boundary. You cannot be subject to bankruptcy or have been sentenced to at least 3 months in prison within 5 years of the election.

Candidates can represent a political party - you will need the formal backing of that party - or can stand as an independent. Once elected, the 22 town councillors will be expected to work together on policy and direction, attend regular meetings and make decisions on services and budgets, they may also be contacted by residents seeking help. Town councillors are not paid. For full details: www.congleton-tc.gov.uk

Easter Treats and Hop around the Shops Trail

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL will be hosting a popular Easter Treats day in the town centre on Tuesday 4 April. From 11am-2pm you can enjoy a wide range of activities including easter crafts, Punch and Judy, meet the Halton Farm calves and milk a real cow, face painting, music, Woodland Trust, Congleton In Bloom, plus meet Billy the giant Rabbit.

Copies of the Hop around the Shops Easter Trail will be available at the event, as well as in participating shops from 3 - 17 April. To take part, simply pick up a leaflet,

find the bunnies in the window, make a note of the letter and form a phrase. Then take your completed form to Congleton Information Centre where you can swap it for a chocolate egg or healthy snack.

As an Easter Treat, Daneside Theatre will be showing Puss in the Boots the Last Wish on Wednesday 5 April.



Congleton Leisure Centre opening Spring 2023!

THE GREATLY IMPROVED Congleton Leisure Centre is expected to open mid to late May. The £10m+ project will deliver state-of-the-art health and fitness facilities



for residents. Inside there will be two new swimming pools with a thermal suite, 100-station two-storey gym, multiple fitness studios including a dedicated group cycling studio, sports hall, treatment rooms and a Taste For Life café with a great soft play area. Everybody Health and Leisure is recruiting, with some fantastic opportunities to work at the new look centre - including 'aspiring' roles where Everybody cover the cost of training and qualifications. More at: www.everybody.org.uk/about/careers

A Recycling Centre for Congleton

MORE THAN 6,000 PEOPLE signed three petitions handed to Cheshire East Council demanding a new Household Waste and Recycling Centre for Congleton. Town Councillors remain united in their belief that the town needs its own site. Fly tipping in the area has quadrupled in

recent months, creating a danger to people and wildlife and significant costs to the taxpayer. Cheshire East Council has resolved to form a sub-group to investigate future household waste and recycling provision, with particular reference to Congleton and the surrounding areas.

Community Tax

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL'S element of the annual Council Tax Charge (known as the Precept) will be £1,068,179 for the financial year 2023-24. This equates to £96.37 per year for a Band D property from April 2023, a rise of 3.65% from 2022-2023. Efforts were

made to keep the increase as low as possible whilst still supporting events, services, and improvements for 2023/24. Details of the town council's budgets and finance documents can be found at: congleton-tc.gov.uk/your-council/finance/



Come Dancing with Congleton's Town Mayor!

THE CONGLETON TOWN MAYOR'S ball has been replaced with a Strictly High Tea Dance, to make the fundraiser more affordable this year.

The event, which includes a traditional afternoon tea, dancing hosted by Love to

Dance, entertainment from the Congleton Youth Orchestra and Trinity Operatic Society and a charity raffle will be held on Sunday 26 February from 2.30pm – 5.30pm. Tickets cost £20 and are available from the Congleton Information Centre.

Senior Forum

THE SENIOR FORUM is a group within the Congleton Partnership that takes a special interest in older and harder-to-reach residents with a view to filling gaps in provision and tackling ways of improving the needs of this group within the community. They want to catch the views of residents and have launched a small survey to capture your ideas. Please spend a few minutes completing it if possible!

www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/KH5RYG6

Activities for the Young at Heart

A NEW BOOKLET, profiling around 40 regular activities across Congleton that are open to the Young at Heart, has been produced by the Congleton Partnership and the Dementia Friends group. Some of the activities are particularly aimed at those living with dementia, whilst others are dementia friendly and open to all. Pick up a copy at Congleton's Information Centre or download a PDF version.

www.congletonpartnership.co.uk/senior-forum/dementia-friendly/

Chat to the Police!

LOCAL POLICE OFFICERS hold regular surgeries where you can talk to an officer about issues that matter to you. Below are the dates for the next surgeries:

Tesco Barn Road, 4.30pm – 6.30pm: 28 February, 21 March, 11 April
New Life Church, 1pm – 2.30pm: 23 February, 16 March, 6 April
Astbury Mere Park Centre, 1.30pm – 3.30pm: 6 March, 27 March, 17 April



Congleton Pride Surveys

The Congleton Pride Charity is asking local people about their attitudes and beliefs about LGBTQIA+ people, and what Congleton is like for them as a place to live, work and socialise. The deadline is the end of March. There are two surveys, one for the public and one for the LGBTQIA+ community.

Survey for the LGBTQIA+ Community:
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/LGBTQIACommunity>

Attitudes survey for the Public:
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/LGBTQIAAttitudes2023>

NEWS IN BRIEF...

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Congleton residents are encouraged to come and have their say at the Annual Town Meeting taking place on **THURSDAY 18 MAY** in the Town Hall from 7pm. This is not a council meeting, but a meeting of residents where you can have your say on matters connected to Congleton. It will be hosted by the town mayor. There will be a number of presentations and a chance to ask those burning questions!

CONGLETON COMMUNITY CREDIT UNION

Congleton Community Credit Union has added an extra collection point for members to have access to savings, affordable loans and to carry out all the usual transactions. The three venues are:

- The Old Saw Mill, 10am-12pm every Friday
- The Library, 10am-11am every Saturday
- The Bromley Farm Community Centre, 7.15pm-7.45pm every Tuesday

Find the Credit Union on Facebook or go along to one of the sessions for a chat (and maybe a coffee and cake too!)

MARGARET WILLIAMSON GRANTS

Local groups and organisations have until 24 March to submit a funding application to the Margaret Williamson Fund. To be considered, the projects and beneficiaries must fall within the Congleton area, defined as CW12 postcode or 01260 dialling code. The project needs to enhance opportunities for people to take part in the arts, provide education or awareness of the natural environment or conserve and improve the natural environment. See: www.congleton-tc.gov.uk

BARCLAYS BANK

Barclays customers can get every day banking advice at Riverside, Mountbatten Way every Tuesday and Thursday from 9.30am - 4.30pm. There is no cash service, customers can drop in for a chat, or search 'Barclays branch finder' to book an appointment.

INCLOSURE TRUST

Congleton Inclosure Trust is a local grant giving charity for residents of the Congleton district. To find out about the Trust, your eligibility and how and when to apply visit: www.congletoninclosuretrust.org.uk or call the secretary on: **07833 742200**.



Monthly Support Group for Women

MY CWA (formerly Cheshire Without Abuse) holds a monthly Peer Support Group in Congleton for women impacted by domestic abuse. The group provide survivors of domestic abuse with a safe space to relax, connect and talk openly about their experiences of abuse, without fear of judgement. The group sessions cover domestic abuse awareness, self-confidence, emotional wellbeing and communication skills; along with activities such as arts & crafts, mindfulness and writing for wellbeing. Please call the My CWA helpline for further details **01270 250390**.

Congleton Cares

The cost-of-living crisis is affecting people of all ages and backgrounds across the town.

Many groups, organisations and statutory bodies are working to offer warm friendly spaces where people can get some comfort, advice and in some cases practical help. Below are activities that the Town Council has been made aware of.

WARM PLACES Keeping Cheshire East warm

Registered Warm Spaces in Congleton are:

CHAPPELL CENTRE, MOSSLEY
Tuesday – Friday 9.30am – 3pm

CONGLETON LIBRARY
Monday 9am – 7pm
Tuesday-Friday 9am – 5pm
Saturday 9am – 1pm

THE OLD SAW MILL
Monday – Saturday, 10am–3pm

COST OF LIVING CRISIS TEAM CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Available on **0300 123 5024** from
8.30am – 5pm Monday to Friday



FOOD SUPPORT

Congleton Social Supermarket, 20
Lawton Street.

Open Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday
and Saturday from 10am – 3pm

Pick up food items,
no referral necessary.
10 items for £5, 20 items for £10 and
30 items for £15.

MONDAY

CRICKET CLUB COMPANY CORNER

Every Monday, 10am – 12pm

Don't be alone, come in for a
coffee and a cake and see a friendly
face! Open to all who would like
some company.

TOWN HALL FOOD & FRIENDSHIP

Every Monday, 11am – 3pm

Free hot food & some company
(need to book)

LIBRARY STORY AND TEA (FOR GROWN-UPS)

Fourth Monday of the month
2:30pm

A friendly reading group
with a difference. Free.

TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH STITCH & CHAT

Every Monday, 2pm – 4pm

Participation in the stitching
part isn't mandatory!

CHILDREN'S CENTRE YOUNG PARENTS GROUP

Every Monday, 1pm – 2pm

Parents aged 25 and under,
drop-in session.

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT MIND BODY SOLE

Every Monday, 12pm – 5pm

Congleton Town Football Club
drop in.

LIBRARY CODE CLUB

Every Monday 5:30pm

Learn to code for children
aged 7 – 11 years.

BROMLEY FARM NEVER TOO OLD TO HAVE FUN GROUP

Every Monday 12pm – 2pm

Fun for Seniors, Free lunch.

TUESDAY

CHAPPELL CENTRE LIMBER FOR LATER LIFE

Every Tuesday
11am – 12pm & 12pm – 1pm

Gentle exercise class for the
young at heart.

NEW LIFE CHURCH JUBILEE CLUB

Every Tuesday, 10am – 12:30pm

Meet new people and learn a new
skill, activities include allotments,
cooking, crafts and chatting!

THE OLD SAW MILL DOVE BUDDIES

First Tuesday of the Month, 10am

Anyone experiencing loss
and/or isolation.

NEW LIFE CHURCH LITTLE ANGELS 0-5 PARENT & TODDLER GROUP

Every Tuesday
1pm – 2:30pm (term Time)

Refreshments available.
£1.50 parent + child.

OLD SAW MILL KNIT AND NATTER

Every Tuesday, 2pm – 3pm

Meet, mingle, and trade yarns
with local knitters!

LIBRARY KEEN COOKS

Second Tuesday of the month
2:15pm

Join the tastiest book group in
town! Free.

ALL SAINTS, BUGLAWTON MUGS AND GAMES

Every Tuesday, 6:30pm – 9:30pm

A board game club.

WEDNESDAY

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH MUM & TOTS

Every Wednesday
10am – 11:30am (Term Time)

Refreshments available.
£2.50 per family.

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH COFFEE MORNING

Alternate Wednesdays, 10am – 12pm

Church open for refreshments
and a chat.

CROSS STREET CHURCH PARENT & TODDLER GROUP

Every Wednesday
10am – 11:30am (term Time)

Refreshments available.
£2 per family.

ALL SAINTS COMMUNITY, BUGLAWTON, EXERCISE FOR LIFE

Every Wednesday
10am – 11am

Exercise for older adults – £4.

LIBRARY GOOD VIBRATIONS

Alternate Wednesdays, 10:30am

Join us for a feel-good sing-along.
Free.

LIBRARY BOOK CHAT

Alternate Wednesdays, 11am – 12pm

A reading group. Free.

THE OLD SAW MILL CRAFT GROUP

Every Wednesday, 2pm – 4pm

LIBRARY CRAFTERNOON TEA

1st & 3rd Wednesday of the month
2:30pm – 3:30pm

Monthly group for adults.
£1 for materials and refreshments.

ALL SAINTS COMMUNITY, BUGLAWTON TEA & CHURCH

Every second Wednesday 3:30pm
Worship followed by high tea.

THURSDAY

BROMLEY FARM COMMUNITY CENTRE

Every Thursday 10am - 3pm

Time Out Group - Gives those living with early onset of Dementia the opportunity to have time out from home. Costs £20.

CHAPPELL CENTRE BIBLE STUDY GROUP

Every Thursday
11:30am - 12:30pm

Weekly Bible study and discussion group. Contact 01260 281601

CHILDREN'S CENTRE LITTLE STARS

Every Thursday
1:15pm - 2:45pm

For children 0-5 with diagnosed or undiagnosed additional needs.

LIBRARY BABY RHYMETIME

Every Thursday 2:15pm - 2:45pm
(term-time)

For babies under 12 months or not yet walking. Free.

ALL SAINTS COMMUNITY, BUGLAWTON MUGS AND GAMES

Every Thursday 6:30pm - 9:30pm

A board game club.

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT MIND BODY SOLE

Every Thursday 5pm - 8pm

Congleton Town Football Club drop-in session.

TOWN HALL FOOD & FRIENDSHIP

Every Thursday 3:30pm - 6pm

Free hot food & some company.
Booking required

FRIDAY

CHAPPELL CENTRE PARKINSON'S GROUP SOCIAL MEET UP

First Friday of the Month
10:30am - 12pm

Monthly coffee & chat for those affected by Parkinson's.

CHAPPELL CENTRE BRIGHTER TIMES MONTHLY MEET UP

3rd Friday of the month

A group for people with life-limiting illnesses and their carers.

NEW LIFE CHURCH FORGET ME NOT GROUP

Every 2nd & 4th Friday of the month
10:30am - 12pm

Social group for carers and people living with Dementia.

THE OLD SAW MILL LUNCH CLUB

Meals delivered every Friday.
A 'meals on wheels' scheme delivered every Friday to eligible residents, cost of £5.

ALL SAINTS COMMUNITY, BUGLAWTON LUNCHEON CLUB

Every Friday 12 pm

Enjoy a hearty home cooked meal and fellowship (£4 donation). Free community transport available.

CRICKET CLUB SEQUENCE TEA DANCE

Every Friday 1 pm

Dance and social club,
you don't have to dance!

LIBRARY - LET'S CHAT

First Friday of each month 2pm

Join us for a cuppa and talk about this and that. Free.

NEW LIFE CHURCH THE LA (LESS ABLE CLUB)

Every 2nd Friday of the month
2:30pm - 4:30pm

Includes tea, coffee, bingo, and entertainment.

SATURDAY

ASTBURY MERE PARK RUN

Every Saturday 9am

Free timed 5k run or walk.

LIBRARY LEGO CLUB

First Saturday 10am - 12pm

Duplex available for younger children. Free.

THE OLD SAW MILL CONGLETON REPAIR CAFE

Last Saturday of the month
10am - 2pm

Bring your broken possessions and have them fixed.

OLD SAW MILL THE BIG CLOTHES MOVEMENT

First Saturday of the month
10am - 12pm

Children's clothes 0-6 years of age,
free, exchange or donations

RUBY'S FUND SATURDAY SEND SOCIAL

First Saturday of the month
1:30pm - 3:30pm

Saturday social for families with
SEND children.

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH BOARD GAMES FOR MENTAL HEALTH

Last Saturday of the month
2pm - 4pm

Young and old alike, Refreshments.

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH YOUTH GROUP

Every Saturday 7pm - 9pm
(term time)

Drop-in session.

SUNDAY

CRICKET CLUB MENTAL WELLBEING WITH MUSIC

Sunday Monthly 7 pm - 9 pm

Discos for adults 18+ with disabilities, feeling isolated or lonely. £2 per person (carers free).



THE STOREHOUSE, NEW LIFE CHURCH FOOD BANK

Monday - Friday
9.30am - 2.30pm.

Parcels are by referral, with more than 50 agencies that can help. Visit nlchurch.org.uk/storehouse.

FOOD AND FRIENDSHIP AT THE TOWN HALL

Every Monday 11am - 3pm
Every Thursday 3.30pm - 6.30pm

Free for local residents and families who are isolated and in need of a little help and support. Hot meal provided. Book by Thursday for Monday, by Monday for Thursday. Tel Mark Bailey on **07722 008421**.

OTHER OFFERS OF HELP....

Congleton Library has supplies of duvets, blankets, gloves, and slow cookers for families in need. Please contact **01260 375550** for more information.

Residents in need can obtain free female sanitary products via the customer services desk at Morrisons. Ask for a package for Sandy or a free period pack. Female packs are also available at The Old Saw Mill.

Struggling to get online? Springboard, based in Riverside is offering free data sim cards to eligible people. Please contact **01260 290682** for more information.

For more information please see the Congleton Cares page at:
www.congleton-tc.gov.uk

Protecting Green Spaces *in Congleton*



Green Web Pages

THE UPDATED 'GREEN' PAGES on the town council's website now provide more green resources and signposting for residents and businesses. There are three new sections – Green Council, Green Living and Green Business. Take the FREE Sustainable Living in Congleton e-learning course, to discover more ways to reduce your own carbon footprint (click the QR code).



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. As part of the climate and nature emergency Congleton Town Council commissioned work to create plans to improve the biodiversity of 30 green spaces in Congleton.

The 30 sites have been evaluated and appropriate improvements suggested, which will be subject to consultation and funding. The initial focus will be on Quinta Park, Back Lane, Stirling Close, land off Hillfields Close, Redfern Avenue, Windsor Place and Blackshaw Close. The Biodiversity improvement project will be launched at Stirling Close at 11 am on 6 April.

Staff will be available to explain more about the sites and for those wanting to get more involved there will be a chance to learn about hedge planting, tree planting and maintaining green spaces. All the plans can be seen on the biodiversity pages of the town council website and we would welcome your feedback and help with these important projects.

Low Mow Town

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL is adopting a low-mow town approach to grass cutting and is encouraging other organisations to do the same. The low mow approach will be an all year round campaign which will see more swathes of land left completely unmown during the growing season to enable nature to thrive,

whilst some areas will be cut less frequently.

The Low Mow approach has evolved from experience, and the council believes it will be better for wildlife – especially frogs and dormice, better for the equipment and will lead to less issues around mess. The approach will see more areas left wild until the end of the season,

whilst regularly used areas are kept trimmed. Mowing schedules will vary from area to area, with all areas being left at the beginning of May. Where grass is cut less often, the town council's Streetscape service will still visit to maintain the area. At the end of the growing season all areas will be cut to prepare for the next season.

Fight against Fly-Tippers

ILLEGAL FLY-TIPPERS will be 'caught on camera' in a new initiative by Cheshire East Council (CEC) and Congleton Town Council. Portable CCTV cameras will be used at fly-tipping hotspots around Congleton and the surrounding countryside to help identify offenders. The footage will be used as evidence and to identify vehicles or individuals present who may have useful information. Fly-tipping is a criminal offence

with maximum fines of £50,000, or a 12-month prison sentence.

If you are aware of fly-tipping, please report it via Fix my Street or phone CEC on 0300 123 5011. Leaving unauthorised bags by recycling, cloth or public bins is classed as fly tipping. Last year the cost of clearing up fly-tipping in Congleton was £12,000.



Tree Planting

THE TREES FOR CONGLETON GROUP was delighted to receive lots of positive support for its tree and hedge planting plans during recent consultation. An initial nine Congleton sites were identified for planting in 2022-23, using funding from the Tree Council. These are at Back Lane, Hertford Close, Lambert's Lane Water Tower, Pirie Road, Quayside / St Peters Rd, Quinta Park, Havannah Lane – St Johns Rd, Solly Crescent and Thirlmere Court. Plans and planting dates can be viewed online.

The volunteer group, under the umbrella of Congleton Sustainability Group, is on track to plant 30,000 trees in Congleton by the end of 2024. The group is grateful to everyone for their help, particularly the young planters getting involved as well as businesses and organisations expressing an interest.

Please report any tree/s you plant in your

garden so they can be added to the running total. Visit: www.treesforcongleton.co.uk, email: treesforcongleton@gmail.com or see for Trees For Congleton on Facebook.

Town Tidy events 2023

JOIN CONGLETON IN BLOOM at community 'Town Tidy' days held from 10am – noon on the first Saturday of the month. Residents of all ages are invited to come along. There will be a variety of activities in addition to litter picking. No experience is necessary and equipment is provided. Locations will be confirmed a couple of weeks before the event, feel free to suggest areas! For more information visit the Congleton in Bloom Facebook page or contact the town council.

Congleton Town Hall

A top venue in the heart of the town

CONGLETON TOWN HALL is a stunning Victorian building owned and managed by Congleton Town Council. Licensed for civil weddings and partnerships with a licensed bar, the venue is an increasingly popular choice for weddings and parties, award ceremonies, meetings, exhibitions, concerts, sporting events and even ghost hunts! This affordable first class venue has a choice of three versatile rooms available to hire which will look fantastic for any celebration or corporate occasion.

The Grand Hall has a high vaulted ceiling, wooden sprung floor, balcony, stage, ornate décor and minstrels gallery. The room can seat up to 150 dining guests, or 200 guests for a dance or party. For corporate bookings, we can accommodate 220 seated, and an additional 100 if using the upstairs balcony. Standard hourly rate for private hire (min booking of 2 hours) is £44.40+VAT.

The Bridestones Suite is a 'mini' Grand Hall on the first floor. This room is suitable for intimate wedding ceremonies for 30-100 guests or 50 dining guests. The suite is also ideal for meetings, training sessions and exhibitions. Standard hourly rate for private hire (min booking of 2 hours) is £34.80+VAT.

The Spencer Suite, on the first floor is popular for interviews, meetings and training sessions for up to 12 people. Standard hourly rate for private hire (min booking of 2 hours) is £18+VAT.

If that's not enough to impress your guests, Bluey's Bar at the front of the Town Hall can be hired exclusively for pre-celebration drinks.

All three rooms are 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. We operate three pricing structures for private hire customers, corporate

and publicly funded clients and registered charities and groups. The exclusive £15 hourly rate available to charities and community groups at set times has seen an increase in residents through the doors

attending health and wellbeing activities and social events.

Please contact the Town Council to discuss initial room hire rates. There are a number of additional options available to make your special occasion even more perfect, dependent upon your requirements the price will be charged accordingly.

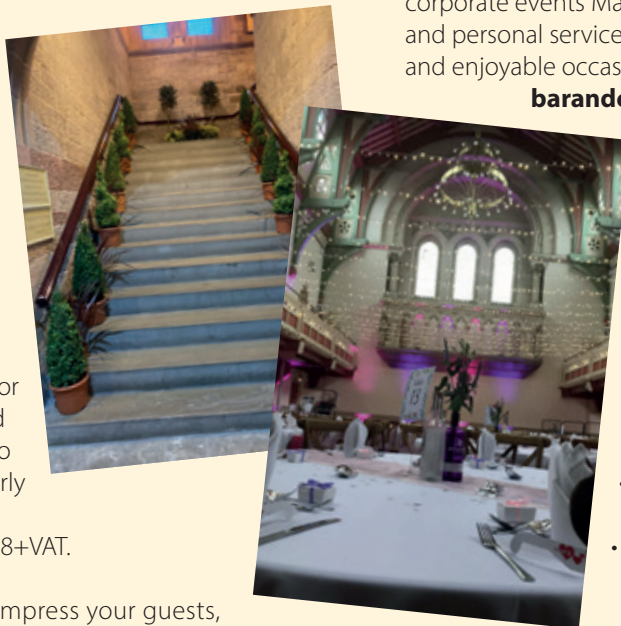
The Town Hall's Commercial Partner, headed by Mark Bailey of Mark's Events, will be on hand in the lead up to your event and on the day to ensure that everything runs smoothly. From weddings and private functions to corporate events Mark's Events will provide a professional and personal service to ensure you have a successful and enjoyable occasion. Contact Mark Bailey via email:

barandcatering@congleton-tc.gov.uk

If you are looking to hire out any of our rooms here in the Town Hall we will be happy to discuss your requirements and show you around the impressive building. Useful information to note:

- Contact us via email: **bookings@congleton-tc.gov.uk** or call **01260 270350 option 1**
- A provisional booking may be held for up to 14 days
- Once a booking form has been received, a 50% deposit, payable within 21 days of receipt of the initial costing sent to you, will be required
- For parties, SIA registered door staff will be required – CTC will arrange these and invoice you along with the room hire
- You will be unable to bring outside caterers into the Town Hall, we have our resident Commercial Partner, who will be able to arrange all your bar and catering requests

For the latest information see the Town Hall pages at: **www.congleton-tc.gov.uk**



Key dates for your 2023 Diary

There are lots of activities being planned for your enjoyment in 2023! Below is a guide to community events that we think you won't want to miss! As more events are made known to the town council they are being added to the "Discover Congleton" events guide at: www.congleton-tc.gov.uk. They will also be listed in a Love Congleton 2023 leaflet due out in the Spring.

FEBRUARY

26 Mayor's Strictly High Tea,
Congleton Town Hall - £20 ticket

MARCH

10-12 Congleton Unplugged, music gigs in venues across the town – *Congleton Live*

28 Health and Wellbeing Fayre, Congleton Town Hall – *Congleton Partnership*

APRIL

4 Easter Treats Day, Congleton Town Centre – *Congleton Town Council*

3-17 Easter Hop around the Shops Easter trail – *Congleton Town Council*

MAY

4 Elections for Town and Cheshire East Councils

8 King Charles III Coronation Picnic in the Park – *Congleton Town Council*

18 Annual Town Meeting, Congleton Town Hall

27 Paddling Pool opens for the summer season – *Congleton Town Council*

JUNE

11 Congleton Food and Drink Festival, Free – *Congleton Community Projects*

25 Congleton Lion's Duck Race, Congleton Park

TBC Congleton Triathlon

JULY

22 Congleton Pride Day and Evening – *Congleton Pride*

AUGUST

15 Congleton Play Day, Town Centre – *Congleton Community Projects*

AUGUST

26-27 Congleton Jazz and Blues Festival – *Congleton Live*

SEPTEMBER

30 Congleton Green Fayre, Town Centre

OCTOBER

1 Congleton Half Marathon – *Congleton Harriers*

21-29 Halloween Trails, Congleton Town Centre – *Congleton Town Council*

TBC Beer and Gin Festival, Congleton Town Hall

NOVEMBER

4 Congleton Bonfire and Fireworks – *Congleton Rotary*

12 Remembrance Sunday, Town Centre – *Congleton Town Council and RBL*

24 Congleton Christmas Lights Switch-on

DECEMBER

Congleton Tree of Light – *Congleton Rotary*

There are lots of regular events in Congleton, including:

- Makers Market in the town centre on the last Saturday of the month
- Retail Market every Tuesday and Saturday
- Congleton Repair Café in the Old Saw Mill on the last Saturday of the month
- Congleton Museum lead walks on the first Sunday each month – starts at 2pm
- Films, plays, musicals and concerts at Daneside Theatre
- Tree Planting sessions – lots of days up until the end of March
- Green campaigns and activities throughout the year – see Congleton Green

If you know of more events that should be added to the Congleton What's On Calendar please contact : info@congleton-tc.gov.uk



The Big Gig Music Festival

THREE local cover bands, The Volts, The Trigger Hounds and No Fit State will be playing in Congleton Town Hall on Saturday 18 March to raise funds for local youth sports initiatives including Congleton cricket, football, rugby and tennis clubs. Tickets are £8 and available from: www.ticketsource.co.uk/the-big-gig-2023

Roman Week at Congleton Museum

COME DOWN to Congleton Museum (behind the Town Hall) this February half-term to encounter some real-life Romans! Experience what life was like in Ancient Rome and Roman Cheshire, and hear it from the Romans themselves. We have lots of fun, family orientated activities taking place from the 21-25 February. We look forward to seeing you 'Rome-ing' around. Entry to the museum is free, but donations greatly appreciated to help with the running costs.



Congleton Information Centre

THE CONGLETON INFORMATION CENTRE located inside the Town Hall is stocked with lots of information about events, attractions, places to stay and things to do. Discover maps and guides, what's on listings, souvenirs and lots more. The team sell tickets for shows and films at Daneside Theatre with no added booking fees! Copies of the Congleton Chronicle and even single postage stamps are available to buy from the counter. Browse special gifts on sale from talented local independent creators. The opening hours are Monday-Friday from 9am-4.30pm and Saturday from 10.15am-1.45pm. The reception can be contacted on: **01260 270350 ext 1** or info@congleton-tc.gov.uk