

Bear Necessities

With News from Congleton Town Council & Community Groups

Summer 2023



Pride in Congleton

THE CONGLETON PRIDE TEAM is preparing for its main annual event on Saturday 22 July, when there will be fun and entertainment from 10am until late at night.

Congleton town centre roads will be closed to allow for a full day of family fun including live entertainment from an outdoor stage and a variety of stalls and activities throughout the day. The evening ticketed event (18+) will be in Congleton Town Hall, with tickets available both online and from the Congleton Information Centre.

Pride is a festival that celebrates diversity and inclusion for LGBTQIA+ people. The festival has grown since the first Congleton Pride in 2019, and is now one of the highlights of the summer.

This year Pride promises to be the best ever with some fantastic acts during the day and evening, and lots of activities for old and young. This year Pride is holding its first Pride Parade and will unveil a second Community Stage, featuring a variety of cultural performances. Pride hopes all of Congleton will come and join in to share this celebration. There will be entertainment for the children, food, drink and shopping as well as the live shows. See www.congletonpride.co.uk



Can't go...Plans Change...Cancel!



CONGLETON PADDLING POOL opened its gates on Saturday 27 May and will remain open until 5pm on Sunday 3 September. It is currently open Wednesday to Sunday, but will be open seven days a week from the 24 July. The booking system is in place to ensure that the numbers are limited to 140, the number given for insurance and health and safety. There are two daily sessions, 10am -1pm and 2pm – 5pm. Bookings open a week in advance and this year it is possible to book even while the session is running providing there are spaces available.

It is vital that people who book and then can't make it cancel their booking before the start of the session so that their places can be reallocated.

The Paddling Pool is designed for children aged 11 and under and all children must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Parking is at nearby town centre car parks. To book sign in at <https://congletontowncouncil.getomnify.com> or scan the QR code.

New Look Congleton Town Guide

LOOK OUT for the new town guide landing through your letterbox! The bumper 2023 edition is bursting with information on the town's attractions, shops, places to eat and stay, things to do, history, useful numbers and community connections.

Congleton Town Council partnered with the Beartown Voice Team to produce a bigger and better publication made possible by the support of local businesses and organisations who've placed an advert to tell residents and visitors about their offer. Additional copies are also available in the Congleton Information Centre and other outlets and online at www.congleton-tc.gov.uk



Changes in your Town Council

THANK YOU to everyone who took the time to vote in the recent elections. The new Council has been formed and is made up of 22 Councillors serving 5 wards. There are 11 Conservatives, 5 Independents, 2 Labour, 2 Liberal Democrats and 2 Women's Equality Party members. Details of the new Councillors can be seen on pages 4 and 5.

Bear Necessities is produced by Congleton Town Council. The next newsletter will be delivered from **2 October**. All contributions should be sent by **6 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

We are proud to support the COMMUNITY SAFETY CHARTER



Neighbourhood watching out for neighbours...

THE MOSSLEY, TIMBERSBROOK AND HIGHTOWN area of Congleton had the lowest level of recorded crime in the whole of England and Wales in the past year. This is a great achievement, but keeping crime and the fear of crime low across all of Congleton is an ongoing challenge! The Town Council is working with Cheshire Police to increase

the number of Neighbourhood Watch groups across the town. There are currently 21 co-ordinators. A Neighbourhood Watch group can consist of a single street, or a collection of streets. The Town Council and Police can help you get started and can access stickers and signs to help you promote your group.

Neighbourhood Watch groups can take many forms. It may work as a What's App group, a zoom group or physical meetings. Groups can be self-declared, or verified by the police. You can find out if there is a group near you by checking www.cheshire.ourwatch.org.uk. Details about crime in your area can be seen at www.police.uk.

Communities looking out for each other...

THE COMMUNITY SAFETY CHARTER extends the scope of Neighbourhood watch towards the goal of eliminating harassment, antisocial behaviour and intimidation experienced by anyone who lives, works or visits an area. Local organisations, charities, businesses and

groups signing up to the Charter will be sent free training materials to help provide an environment that is safer for everyone. The Charter helps groups to promote a culture that doesn't tolerate Anti Social Behaviour and harassment, enables people to take a stance against such behaviour,

encourages witnesses and victims to report incidents and teaches about support and signposting those who need further support to the correct agency.

You can see more at www.ourwatch.org.uk/charter



Don't Block the Pavements!

BLOCKED PAVEMENTS, either by inconsiderate drivers or people leaving their bins on the paths continue to be an issue in Congleton. 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 is forced into the road 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. Notices to put on car windscreens for inappropriate parking can be downloaded from www.congleton-tc.gov.uk or picked up from the Congleton Information Centre.

White Ribbon

YOU CAN FIND OUT more about the White Ribbon campaign at a stall in Congleton Town Centre on Saturday 17th June from 10am – 2pm. The Town Council is White Ribbon accredited. You can join the hundreds of people in Congleton who have made their pledge never to use, excuse or remain silent about men's violence against women. www.whiteribbon.org.uk



Congleton's Neighbourhood Plan

CONGLETON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN attracted a lot of interest when discussed at the Congleton Annual Town Meeting. A review of the current plan is due to begin shortly initially with the councillors and interested working groups, extending out to the wider community. The focus of the plan is on protecting the green and blue (country and water) corridors in and around the town, protecting green spaces and improving sustainability. Look out for update on the Town Council website. www.congleton-tc.gov.uk

Margaret Williamson Grants

THIS YEAR the Margaret Williamson Fund was able to donate £2,100 in funds generated by the interest on the trust fund. Grants ranging from £150 to £450 were awarded to eight groups – Congleton Musical Theatre,

Congleton Community Projects, Congleton Climate Action Group, Congleton Town Council, Electric Picture House, Elizabeth's Group, Trinity Amateur Operatic and Vale Allotments.

Police Surgeries

CONGLETON'S Police Community Support Officers – Carol Holmes and Karen Linton both hold regular surgeries where members of the public can call in without an appointment to speak with them about any issues of concern. Surgeries are held in

locations across the town. To find out more see Congleton Police on social media. Local people can also report suspicious behaviour via **101** either online or via the phone or anonymously via Crime Stoppers on **0800 555 111**.



New Look Improved Leisure Centre

THE MUCH-AWAITED new look

Congleton Leisure Centre will open at 6am on Thursday 29 June. The centre is owned by Cheshire East Council and run by Everybody Health and Leisure. You can purchase a membership – which works out cheaper for frequent users – or pay as you go.

The new centre consists of:

- Six-lane, 25-metre swimming pool
- 12-metre learner pool
- Thermal spa with scented steam room and sauna
- 100-station, two-storey gym and fitness suite with state-of-the-art equipment

- Group fitness studios
- Group cycling studio
- Four-court sports hall
- Café with adjoining three-storey children's soft play area
- A children's party room
- Community rooms including treatment rooms
- Meeting rooms, including the Brightwell Suite
- Free parking for 114 vehicles, including electric vehicle charging points.

For more information see www.everybody.org.uk



NEWS IN BRIEF...

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



MAYOR'S CIVIC PARADE

The Mayor's Civic Service and Parade will take place on Sunday 2 July. Those in the procession to meet at the back of the Town Hall at 2.30pm ready to leave at 2.45pm. Service at St Peter's at 3pm.

GET READY TO PLAY

Congleton Play Day will return to the pedestrian area on Tuesday 15 August, from 10.30am – 2pm. There will be a chance to join in fun and games in the town centre and learn more about the importance of play. The event is organised by Congleton Community Projects with help from others.

NEW DEFIB FOR WEST HEATH

West Heath Shopping Centre is the latest location to benefit from a 24/7 defibrillator, installed with help from Congleton Partnership and Congleton Lions. In an emergency dial **999** and the operator will tell you the code and location for your nearest defib.

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. Drop off from August to October.

Get Walking and Cycling this summer!

THERE'S LOTS OF REASONS why local people should be encouraged to walk and cycle more often for shorter journeys around Congleton. For most people, it's good for their physical health making them stronger and fitter, good for their mental health and better for their financial health saving money. It is also better for all of us by creating less pollution. It can also inspire friends and family to get more active, and create good habits for children.

Some people think it will take too long. Next time you have a journey of a mile or less, try walking or cycling. It is probably quicker than you think. The Highway code has changed in favour of pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders and how people drive should be about protecting these more vulnerable road users.

Look out for more information during

- National Bike Week – 8 to 15 June
- Clean Air Day – 15 June
- World Car Free Day – 22 Sept



More information from

www.livingstreets.org.uk
www.cyclinguk.org
www.sustrans.org.uk

Food and Friendship in the Town Hall

MARK'S EVENTS, in collaboration with Plus Dane, Rotary and local sponsors, offers free food and companionship at Blueys in the Town Hall on Mondays from 11.30am – 2.30pm and Thursdays from 3.30pm – 5.30pm. It is open to individuals and families who are feeling isolated or struggling to make ends meet. Sessions are free, but need to be booked. You can book by calling Mark on **07722 008421** or call into Bluey's.

Congleton Hydro Grant

BUDDING ENGINEERS, scientists, environmentalists and "green" champions have until 30 June to apply for a Congleton Hydro grant. The Congleton Hydro and Solar Scheme aims to provide funds for 20 years to stimulate local interest in environmental solutions. Each year a round of grants will support Community and Educational Projects.

If you live in Congleton and have an idea that promotes sustainable energy, improves the environment or can engineer a green solution to a problem get in contact! Apply online - www.congletonhydro.co.uk/community-trust-fund/



New Mayor of Congleton

Congleton Town Councillors have elected Cllr Rob Moreton to be Congleton's Mayor until May 2024. Cllr Moreton has chosen his wife Helen to support as Mayoress, Steve Hodgkinson from New Life Church as his Mayor's Chaplain and Amelia Downing from the Congleton Rangers to be his Mayor's cadet. During the year the Mayor will be raising funds for local charities.

Cllr Kay Wesley and her husband Mike will be the Deputy Mayor and Consort. To invite the Mayor for an event contact the Council's Marketing and Communications Officer, Debbie Coxon on

01260 270350 ext. 3 or contact mayor@congleton-tc.gov.uk

Cheshire East Councillors

Congleton has elected six ward councillors to represent you on Cheshire East Council. They are:

Congleton East Ward

(South East and North East wards)

Cllr David Brown

Cllr Sally Holland

Cllr Rob Moreton.

Congleton West Ward

(North, West and Central wards)

Cllr Emma Hall

Cllr George Hayes

Cllr Heather Seddon

Meet Your Town Councillors

South East Ward

Mossley, High Town, Timbersbrook

DAVID BROWN C

David has been a Town Councillor since 1999. He used to work for ICL. He has been Town Mayor three times and has chaired the successful Congleton in Bloom team for many years – narrowly missing out on winning the National Final.

Committees: 1, 2, 4 & 5



ARABELLA HOLLAND C

Arabella will graduate with a law degree from Kings University, London this summer and plans to put her legal training to good use in the council. She wants to be an advocate for young people in the town and bring some fresh ideas to the town council.

Committees: 1, 2, 4 & 5



SALLY ANN HOLLAND C

Sally Ann is in her 5th term as a local government representative and remains committed to delivering fair and appropriate projects, whilst keeping an eye on where your money is spent. She will work hard to influence decisions and will listen to the electorate to understand what the people of Congleton want.

Committees: 1 & 2



HEATHER PEARCE I

Heather is a Speech and Language Therapist and has worked in the NHS for over 30 years, at Congleton War Memorial and local schools and currently at CAMHS and SPACE4Autism. She and her husband have raised 3 children in Congleton, one of whom has additional needs. Heather is committed to improving sustainable development and to promoting inclusivity.

Committees: 2, 3 & 6



KAY WESLEY WEP

Kay has been a Town Councillor since 2019 and has driven equality and inclusion. She has tackled domestic abuse and introduced the Community Safety Charter. Kay has helped promote work on the climate and biodiversity crisis and has championed public transport. Kay owns Congleton-based Kanga Health, an international digital agency.

Committees: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6 (ex officio)



DEPUTY MAYOR 23-24

North East Ward

Bromley, Buglawton

CHARLES BOOTH C

Charles previously served as a Town Councillor in 2015-19 and was Mayor for the visit of Prince Charles in 2018. He works as a digital tutor and has lived in Congleton since 2004. He has a young family and is passionate about making Congleton a great place to live for all ages.

Committees: 2, 3 & 5



SUSAN MEAD WEP

Runs a successful, green-flagged eco nursery called Friendly Faces and recently set up the Bromley Farm Hub to deliver activities and support for local residents. She won a Coronavirus Local Heroes Award for supporting vulnerable people during lockdown and is a national campaigner for better childcare who has been on national radio.

Committees: 1, 2 & 6



ROB MORETON I

Rob has served on the Council since 2019. He is Congleton born and bred and was a postman for 34 years before taking early retirement in 2023. He hosts regular discos for people with disabilities and organises charity events for local causes.

Committees: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6 (ex officio)



MAYOR 23-24

SHAUN RADCLIFFE I

Shaun will be known to many in Congleton as the manager at The Maskery. He set up an alternative food support 'Hubbers' group during COVID-19, is a regular volunteer at town events and a supporter of Congleton Pride. He wants to give a voice to those who feel ignored by authority.

Committee: 1



GLEN WILLIAMS C

Glen has always lived in Congleton and has been a community champion for 20 years. He is heavily involved in supporting Bromley Farm, Congleton in Bloom and Congleton Park as well as being a governor at Daven and Eaton Bank schools. He has previously served on both Congleton Town and Cheshire East Councils.

Committees: 1, 2, 4 & 6



Below are details about the Councillors that you have elected to serve you for the next four years.
The committees that they are sitting on for 2023-24 have been included. All Councillors sit on Council.
The Mayor and Deputy Mayor automatically sit on all the committees.

North Ward

Lower Heath

DAWN ALLEN C

Dawn has been a town councillor for 15 years, during which time she has championed disability issues. She has a disability herself and is a single mum to two children. For 28 years she has also been involved in supporting people with mental health issues – and hopes to expand local support.

Committee: 5



West Ward

West Heath

SUZIE AKERS SMITH I

Suzie has been a Town Councillor since 2015 and is a former Town Mayor. She is passionate about getting more people, more active, more often and has championed the campaign to improve cycling and walking at town and borough level. She runs her own business and has three sons.

Committees: 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6



Central Ward

Town Centre and Newcastle Road

MARK EDWARDSON I

Mark has lived in Congleton with his wife for more than thirty years. They have two children who've enjoyed growing up in the town. Mark is a TV & radio presenter and reporter who worked for the BBC for more than three decades.

Committees: 1, 3 & 6



RUSSELL CHADWICK C

Russell worked in Congleton in the IT industry for 20 years. He was instrumental in creating a software solution to help law enforcement track internet criminals across the globe. Latterly working for the EU with a focus on global crime.

Committees: 4 & 6



ROBERT BRITTAIN C

Robert is a driving consultant, having worked in the driver training industry for over 25 years. He is a Fellow of the Association of Road Risk Management and has a passion for road safety. Robert enjoys being with his grandchildren and researching motoring history.

Committees: 3, 4, 5 & 6



HEATHER SEDDON L

Heather is passionate about science and nature and as Chair of Congleton Sustainability Group enjoys volunteering with environmental projects in the town. Heather is also a member of 'Elizabeth's Group', which successfully raised the funds for the statue of Congleton's famous suffragist, Elizabeth Wolstenholme Elmy.

Committees: 2 & 4



EMMA HALL C

Emma runs a successful local business in the ward as a Yoga/Wellbeing Teacher and is the founder of EMAYOGA. She is a huge advocate for mental health and wellbeing having set up a local menopause and wellbeing support group. Community is at the heart of everything she does.

Committees: 1 & 3



ROBERT DOUGLAS LD

Robert is a chartered accountant who for 22 years was Group Financial Director of a multi-million-pound business. He has been a Town Councillor since 2019. Robert is vigorously campaigning for a replacement recycling site and ensured that the weedkiller, glyphosate, was banned from use in our children's play areas.

Committees: 3, 4 & 5



RICHARD WALTON L

Committed to ending gender-based violence in all its forms and a passionate equalities champion. Founder of the campaign to return our War Memorial Hospital to full use, Trustee of Congleton Pride and keen supporter of our Town Centre's regeneration.

Committees: 3 & 4



AMANDA MARTIN C

Amanda has been a Town Councillor for twelve years and has a special interest in planning. She is also passionate about getting the people of Congleton what they want, rather than what people in authority think they ought to have.

Committees: 2, 4, 5 & 6



SUZY FIRKIN LD

Suzy is a chartered engineer who has worked as a freelance management consultant for over 20 years. She has been a councillor since 2019. She has a grown up daughter and loves hill walking. Her areas of interest include protecting services for the most vulnerable and the environment.

Committees: 1, 2, 4, 5 & 6



LIZ WARDLAW C

Has lived and worked in Congleton for more than 30 years and had the great privilege of serving as Mayor in 2015-16. Liz loves the town, its community values and its vibrancy. Her long career as a nurse has given her a particular interest in the health and well-being of Congleton's residents.

Committees: 3 & 6



How to Contact

Councillor contacts can be found at www.congleton-tc.gov.uk. This will also show you which committees, working groups and outside bodies the councillor has been allocated. The Town Council's committees are Community, Environment, Personnel, Planning, Policy and Finance, Town Hall and Assets.

To email a councillor, insert *cllr* and then the *councillor's first name* followed by a full stop and then their *surname*

@congleton-tc.gov.uk. For example:

cllrrob.moreton@congleton-tc.gov.uk

Committees' Key:

- 1: Community
- 2: Environment
- 3: Finance and Policy
- 4: Personnel
- 5: Planning
- 6: Town Hall Assets and Services



Be a Friend of Congleton Park



CONGLETON PARK needs you! The Friends of Congleton Park has worked with the Town and Cheshire East Councils for the past 18 years to help keep our beautiful Congleton Park a place local people can be proud of! The Friends group is involved in events, park tidies, consultations on park developments and delivering projects such as the Just Bee Garden, rowing boat planter and new sustainable bed and working with the councils to refurbish the paths in the Park Wood. Now the group is looking to expand

and involve even more people in making the most of the Park.

The Friends welcome new volunteers, and new ideas and are encouraging people to get actively involved through the new volunteer



package. The Park is owned by Cheshire East Council and maintained by Congleton Town Council's Streetscape services with Ansa cutting the sports pitches. Over the years the park has won multiple awards such as Green Flag, Heritage Green Flag and numerous In Bloom accolades.

2023 Free Band Concerts All 2.30pm – 4.30pm

11 Jun	Can't Sing Choir
2 Jul	Lions Youth Band
16 Jul	The Encores
30 Jul	Poynton Royal British Legion concert band
6 Aug	Barnton Silver Band
13 Aug	Rode Hall Silver Band
1 Sep	Rode Hall Silver Band

The Friends of Congleton Park organise the summer music concerts centred around the bandstand. These are free to attend and greatly enjoyed. They also support larger park events such as the Congleton Rotary bonfire and fireworks and special events like the Jubilee and Coronation celebrations. The group would love more help with running the concerts, information stalls and fundraising.

You can find further details by visiting friendsofcongletonpark.co.uk, Facebook, or by contacting Glen Williams, Chair, on **01260 277384**.



Blooming Marvellous

CONGLETON IN BLOOM welcomes a new group of volunteers and councillors to its working group this year, with a busy season ahead. Congleton is going for Gold on 1 August, when the town will be judged in the North West Large Town Category in the RHS In Bloom competition. Keep your eyes peeled for dates of the upcoming community tidies, to help spruce up the town ready for judging. The annual Back to Back Gardens competition will be judged in July, where Congleton schools, nurseries and care homes get involved and build mini show gardens in the park poly tunnels and micro gardens in a wheelbarrow! The theme this year is 'Celebrations' to commemorate 25 years of In Bloom in Congleton, as well as the Coronation of King Charles III. Floral displays around the town will include purple, the King's favourite

colour. The displays can be viewed at weekends throughout July and August.

Over the past two decades, Congleton has had amazing success in regional and national RHS In Bloom competitions scooping 20 gold medals for its horticultural excellence, community involvement and environmental responsibility. Congleton has represented the North West in the national large town finals in 2001, 2007, 2014, 2016, 2018 and 2022, winning 4 gold medals. Congleton would have been a finalist in 2020 but for COVID-19.

Big Green Plant Up

AS A FINALE to the Big Green Week, people are being encouraged to help at a Big Planting Day near Parnell Square where new community allotments are being planted by the Bromley Bloomers. The group is hoping that plenty of hands will make light work between 11am – 3pm on Saturday 17 June. All equipment and plants are provided and the scheme is being paid for as part of the Landshare Airbnb for Gardens scheme, Plus Dane and the Bell group.



Sign the Rotary Environmental Pledge!

CONGLETON ROTARY is trying to make Congleton the most environmentally friendly town in Britain and already a few hundred people in Congleton have signed up to the Rotary-led environmental pledge to play their part. The pledge is to make simple changes in 10 everyday areas of life. It's easy. It costs nothing and if thousands of people make the small changes it could add up to a big difference. Pick up a flier from the Congleton Information Centre or go online at www.congletonrotary.co.uk to see if you too could sign the pledge!

Grab a free stall at the Green Fayre

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL and Congleton Partnership are now taking bookings for stalls wishing to attend the Green Fayre in Congleton on Saturday 30th September. Stalls are free of charge, but all stallholders must be promoting green activities, products or services and be prepared to stay from 10am – 4pm. To find out more contact info@congleton-tc.gov.uk



Investment in our Town Centre

CONGLETON TOWN CENTRE is looking forward to welcoming some new businesses and seeing a transformation of some of its long-term underused areas. The new Market Quarter will transform empty buildings and land between Princess Street (market) and Mill Street. It is set to open later this summer with some exciting food and drink vendors and private and collaborative workspace. This will give an attractive and interesting look to this area and create some great community space linking with the Congleton Market area. The former Woolworths/B&M building is being converted by TMC into an attractive modern office space, bringing lots of important jobs and workspace into the town. The British Heart Foundation has also been converted, and The Original Factory Shop will be moving into the former M & Co building. If you've not been to the town centre for a while, make it your mission to make a date with the town this summer!



Night at the Museum

FOR HISTORY LOVERS, there's a treat in store on both August 8 and 10, when residents are invited to purchase tickets for a very special Night at the Museum to celebrate its 21st Birthday. There will be an exclusive museum talk and the opportunity to view some of its most treasured objects.

The museum opened in 2002, making 2023 its 21st birthday. Night at the Museum is a rare opportunity to visit the museum after hours and see the fascinating collection up close. There will be talks on how the museum has changed over time, hear about the latest acquisitions and the Roman hoards.

Tickets are £11.50, Friends of Congleton Museum (members) receive a 30% discount. Tickets include nibbles and a complementary glass of fizz or a non-alcoholic option.

Congleton Museum is a registered charity. Funds made from the evening will support the running costs, ensuring that the history of the town is accessible to the people of Congleton for generations to come. To book

and for more information contact

info@congletonmuseum.co.uk. The museum is located on Market Square, Congleton (behind the Town Hall).



Join Congleton's Biggest Group!

NOT IN FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT and feel like you want to try something new?

Congleton U3A (university of the 3rd age) could be a fantastic option for you! The club has more than 1200 members and runs more than 100 different groups with diverse subjects from arts and crafts, languages, science and technology, history, music, dance, walking, cycling and a wide range of sports and games. Membership is £50 a year, or a £20 discounted rate if you only wish to join groups without room fees. Groups meet from September to June, with 32 official sessions, although many groups also meet informally outside of 'term-time'. There is lots more information **www.congletonu3a.org.uk** or call into the Old Saw Mill on the 1st Monday of the month between 10.30am – 11.30am during term time.



Horticultural Show

DO YOU have flowers, photos, handicrafts, vegetables, or cookery items you would like to display? Congleton and District Horticultural Show in the Town Hall on Saturday 2 September is the place to show them off! Entry forms need to be with the show secretary (Diane Kemp **01782 514326**) by 9pm Wednesday 30 August or before 4.30pm at the Congleton Information Centre in the Town Hall. The show is open to the public from 10.30am - 3.15pm with the presentation and trophies at 3pm. Admission is £1 and FREE for accompanying children.

Inclusive Roundabout

CONGLETON PARTNERSHIP would like to thank all the backers who contributed to the crowdfunding initiatives to raise £14,000 to install the new inclusive roundabout in Congleton Park.

This new facility will take a wheelchair and carers. Two users can sit and more stand if they wish. The project was developed following a request from parents about the lack of equipment for those in wheelchairs.



Congleton Info Centre

CONGLETON INFORMATION CENTRE

(CIC) is here to help visitors and residents make the most of their time in Congleton. The Centre is the main reception for the Town Council and Town Hall dealing with calls and enquiries as well as a much-valued resource that supports the Congleton community. The centre has a variety of gifts and souvenirs from local suppliers ranging from cushions, tea towels and mugs specially designed with Congleton in mind to handmade felt decorations, notebooks and jewellery. In addition, the CIC stocks a small selection of local food and drink products such as traditional Congleton gingerbread, locally

sourced honey and apple juice from The Old Saw Mill. If you are looking to explore the great outdoors, the CIC has a selection of books, maps and guides available to purchase in addition to a number of free leaflets on walking, cycling routes and attractions. The CIC sells tickets for local events as well as performances taking place at the Daneside Theatre, and shows at Gawsworth Hall, RHS Tatton Flower Show and the Cheshire Show. Opening hours are Monday-Friday 9am – 4.30pm and Saturday 10.15am – 1.45pm. Contact **01260 270350**, email **info@congleton-tc.gov.uk** or Facebook search Congleton Information Centre.



It's Jazz and Blues Time!

CONGLETON LIVE CIC (Community Interest Company) is on full throttle to deliver the Congleton Jazz and Blues 2023 Festival. The two-day free entry event will take place on Saturday and Sunday 26/27 August. Details are still being finalised, but organisers are expecting it to be around 70 free gigs in 20 or so town centre venues, with some festival favourites returning as well as some new and exciting bands. The Festival operates within the town centre so you can walk between venues, bump into friends and enjoy our wonderful town. Full details of

the gigs will be placed on **www.congletonjazzandblues.co.uk** with news and updates on **www.facebook.com/congojazzblues**. The popular festival guide will be available from mid-August.

Congleton Live CIC enjoys the support of Congleton Town Council and a number of local businesses including AD Profile, Beartown Brewery, Eze Talk Ltd, Franklyn Financial Management, Hammond McNulty, SAS Daniels and Stephenson Browne, all of which are much appreciated.

CONGLETON
JAZZ AND BLUES

Congleton Half Marathon

APPLICATIONS are open for the 39th Congleton half marathon taking place on Sunday 1 October.

The race is open to all over 17. Entrants will get a certificate, t-shirt and medal.

The race is chip timed, with water on route, pacers and a race photographer. Entry costs £24 - £26 with a £1.90 booking fee. See **congleton-harriers.co.uk**



Get Ready to Audition

AUDITIONS for this year's pantomime Hansel and Gretel will take place on Sunday 9 July at 1.30pm at the United Reformed Church, Antrobus Street.

Show week is 13-20 January 2024 at the Daneside Theatre and rehearsals will be every Monday and Wednesday from 11 September 2023. If you are aged 14 and above at the time rehearsals begin register your interest to receive an audition pack. Email: **director.hanselandgretel@gmail.com**



Lion's Duck Race

GET READY to go Quackers at the 11th Annual Lions Duck Race in Congleton Park. The race starts at 2pm on Sunday 9 July and there will be a chance to support and sponsor ducks in advance.

The Magic Flute

THIS YEAR'S Opera at Clonter, The Magic Flute, is one of the most popular operas of all time. Four young people journey through a magical kingdom questioning the old world and forging a new one. Sung in English with an orchestra, it is a beguiling blend of romance, comedy and philosophy, Mozart's virtuoso score shows him at his brilliant, inventive best in this dazzling, fast-paced fantasy. The show is from the 20 – 29 July. Bring a picnic or book a dining

CLONTER

option and enjoy a drink from the bar. Free parking. For more information or to book visit **www.clonter.org** or call the Box Office on **01260 224514**.



Beer and Gin Festival

6-8 October

JOIN US for a three-day event that will showcase a line-up of incredible brews and craft gins from local and regional producers. Plus amazing food and live entertainment. Not to worry if you aren't a beer or gin fanatic - we have a tipples for everyone! Ticket information available soon via: **www.congleton-tc.gov.uk**

