

Bear Necessities

With News from Congleton Town Council & Community Groups

Winter 2024

Congleton War Memorial Hospital Celebrates 100 years!

CONGLETON WAR MEMORIAL is celebrating 100 years of service to the people of Congleton! The hospital was built in 1924 and paid for by local people as a memorial to the 243 killed in the First World War. It was opened by HRH Duke of York (later King George VI) who said: *"The hospital will always be a reminder to generations to come of the prudent and generous instincts of the townspeople of Congleton, and it is my earnest hope that it may be regarded by those who will follow in your footsteps as an inspiration."*

Until the National Health Service was formed in 1948 the hospital was funded by every worker in Congleton contributing 1d. per week (30p in today's money), an annual hospital carnival, private subscriptions, bequests and other fundraising.

The hospital remains an essential part of Congleton. East Cheshire NHS Trust is keen to promote the past, present and future use of the hospital and is encouraging local people to send their memories of the hospital to: ecntstaff.comms@nhs.net to create an online portal. Congleton Town Council is investigating hosting a 1920s style event in the park on 27 May to celebrate.



Duke of York
at opening



Blow Away the Winter Blues

CONGLETON LIVE is once again gearing up for a magnificent musical weekend with the upcoming **Congleton Unplugged Festival on 15-17 March**. Promising a diverse lineup of over 40 gigs across various fantastic venues throughout the town. Whether you're a fan of soulful jazz, electrifying blues, energetic rock, indie vibes, or catchy pop tunes - there will be something for everyone. All gigs over the weekend will be FREE to enter! There will also be popular ticketed events in the lead-up to and following the big weekend. Programme announcements will be shared on Congleton Unplugged's Facebook page, take a sneak peek into the lineup and start to plan your Unplugged experience.

Congleton in Bloom Blossoms again

CONGLETON ONCE AGAIN EMERGED VICTORIOUS at the RHS Britain In Bloom North West Finals. The town proudly clinched the coveted 'gold' in the Best Large Town category, affirming its commitment to fostering a beautiful and vibrant environment. The celebration extended to Congleton's cherished Park, which also secured a well-deserved 'gold' in the Large Park (LA) category. In a moment of special recognition, Congleton was bestowed with the 'Pride of Cheshire East' Special Recognition Award.

Congleton's 12 'It's Your Neighbourhood Groups' (IYN) celebrated epic results. They gained nine level 5s (Outstanding) two Level 4s (equivalent to Silver Gilt) and one Level 3 (equivalent to Silver). A thank-you evening was held in the Town Hall to acknowledge the hard work, passion, and commitment of everyone involved. The collaborative efforts of these individuals and groups have not only beautified the town but have also fostered a sense of community pride and engagement.

The group is looking forward to another year of floral brilliance and welcomes volunteers of all ages and abilities to get involved. Activities to help spruce up the town will include weeding, planting, litter picking, cleaning and having fun! To find out more visit the Congleton in Bloom Facebook page.



Scan the QR code on your mobile device to read this issue of Bear Necessities online.

Bear Necessities is produced by Congleton Town Council. The next newsletter will be delivered from **22 April**. All contributions to be sent by **31 March** to Jackie MacArthur at Congleton Town Hall, High Street, Congleton CW12 1BN, or tel: 01260 270350 or email: jackie.macarthur@congleton-tc.gov.uk

Know Your Local Councillors

The public elected 22 councillors to serve on the town council until May 2027. They have been elected into five wards.

Below are the pictures and names of your councillors. More details can be found on the town council website. Councillor emails are c1lfirstname.surname@congleton-tc.gov.uk

South East Ward

Mossley,
High Town,
Timbersbrook



David Brown
(C)



Charles
Booth (C)

North East Ward

Bromley,
Buglawton



Arabella
Holland (C)



Sally Ann
Holland (C)



Susan Mead
(WEP)



Rob Moreton
(I) - Mayor



Heather
Pearce (I)



Kay Wesley
(WEP) - Deputy
Mayor



Shaun
Radcliffe (I)



Glen Williams
(C)

North Ward

Lower
Heath



Dawn Allen
(C)

West Ward

West
Heath



Suzie Akers
Smith (I)

Central Ward

Town Centre,
Newcastle Rd



Mark
Edwardson (I)



Russell
Chadwick (C)



Robert
Brittain (C)



Heather
Seddon (L)



Emma Hall
(C)



Robert
Douglas (LD)



Richard
Walton (L)



Amanda
Martin (C)



Suzy Firkin
(LD)



Liz Wardlaw
(C)

(C) = Conservative (L) = Labour (I) = Independent
(LD) = Liberal Democrat (WEP) = Women's Equality Party

Health & Wellbeing Fayre returns to Town Hall

CONGLETON PARTNERSHIP is excited to be hosting the seventh annual Congleton Community Health and Wellbeing Fayre in Congleton Town Hall on **Tuesday 26 March**, running from **10am-3pm**. This eagerly anticipated event, open to all and free to attend, aims to bring together the best of the community, offering valuable resources to promote a happy and healthy lifestyle.



With over 35 exhibitors participating, the event is a comprehensive showcase of the diverse health and wellbeing services available within the Congleton community. Whether it's fitness, mental health support, community activities, or specialised services, the Fayre promises a wide array of resources. The event is particularly well-suited to those aged 50+, but all residents and visitors are welcome to drop in at any time. To apply for a free stall, email: cathy.dean@congleton-tc.gov.uk

Men: Are you being abused?

DOMESTIC ABUSE CAN AFFECT ANYONE, but only half the men who experience domestic abuse tell someone about it. Society puts a lot of pressure on men to act strongly and sort out problems on their own. How do you work out if your relationship is abusive? If you're feeling controlled, unable to make your own decisions, scared, intimidated or threatened, you're being abused. Help is available! In Congleton we have a free, confidential Domestic Abuse Clinic that supports men.

Call the **Domestic Abuse Hub 24/7 helpline on: 0300 123 5101** to talk to someone who can help, or to make a clinic appointment. You can also email: cedah@cheshireeast.gov.uk. Locally, men's support group **Mentell** meet at the Old Saw Mill every Thursday 7pm-9pm.

Two national charities lobby for and support men affected by domestic abuse and provide helplines (Monday-Friday). **Mankind**, helping men escape domestic abuse: **01823 334 244** (10am-4pm). **Respect**, the Men's Advice Line: **0808 8010327** (10am-5pm).

Breast-Feeding Friendly places



COULD YOUR BUSINESS, place of work or favourite place to meet join the growing number of breast-feeding-friendly venues in Congleton? Congleton

Town Council is supporting the Cheshire East Really Useful Breastfeeding Service (CHERubs) provided by the Wirral Community Health and Care NHS Trust in its drive to increase the number of premises where breast-feeding is normalised and mothers feel supported if they need to breast-feed whilst on the premises.

Congleton Town Hall, Congleton Museum, Higher Ground Café Bar, Friendly Faces Nursery, Bromley Farm Hub and Kanga Health are among the first to sign up to be recognised as breast-feeding-friendly venues and display the sticker. Businesses do not need to provide anything new, just have a supportive attitude towards the feeding mother. More details can be found at: www.congleton-tc.gov.uk along with a short questionnaire to be filled in by companies or organisations wishing to register as Breastfeeding Friendly.

Cultural and Creative Volunteers

FANCY DOING SOMETHING DIFFERENT IN 2024? Want to learn some new skills whilst making a positive difference in your community? The Town Council, Congleton Community Projects and the volunteer hub at the Old Saw Mill are working with Cheshire East Council to develop a Volunteer Congleton Ambassador programme as well as exploring a Junior Congleton Ambassador programme for 14-18 year olds.

We aim to recruit friendly, enthusiastic people who enjoy working as part of a team and want to help deliver (and develop) some fantastic events in Congleton. As an Event Ambassador you will receive training and have the opportunity to volunteer at a wide range of events, working alongside many different community groups as well as the Town Council. We will try and match your skills and interests, but a willingness to 'muck in' is always appreciated! If you are interested email: info@congleton-tc.gov.uk and we'll keep you informed.

Continuing Elizabeth's Work

IT'S ANOTHER EXCITING YEAR FOR THE ELIZABETH'S GROUP, starting with a book launch 'Still She Rises' on International Women's Day (8 March). The date also marks the sixth anniversary of the group's formation and the second anniversary of the 'Our Elizabeth' statue unveiling.

The book is a compilation of stories and poetry by local people to honour Elizabeth and women everywhere. The book launch will mark the start of Elizabeth's Writers, a group of aspiring writers who are encouraged to share work and ideas at a monthly Zoom meeting – hopefully leading to more published work.

Elizabeth's Girls, another sub-group, will launch later in the year and will mentor young girls leaving care. This involves befriending and guiding a young person through the difficult phase of leaving care and entering the adult world. Mentor training will start in February, with mentoring starting this summer.

The new groups will cover issues that were important to Elizabeth - education and advancement of women and girls and her love of writing. If you are interested in getting involved please contact Susan Munro via:

www.elizabethelmy.com, Facebook: **@elizabethsgroup** or email: **elizabethwelmy@gmail.com**



Pride Of Place – Our Story



TO COMMEMORATE LGBT HISTORY MONTH IN FEBRUARY, Congleton Museum has teamed up with Congleton Pride to bring a community art exhibition to your doorstep. The **Pride of Place** art exhibition, part of the **Our Story** archive project, will be on display in Congleton Museum from 1-17 February 2024. This unique showcase not only commemorates the rich tapestry of LGBT history but also celebrates the talents of local LGBT artists who have made an impact on the cultural landscape of the community. The exhibition is set to be a vibrant and insightful journey, providing a platform for diverse voices and stories that have often been overlooked or marginalised. The exhibition will feature photography, paintings, textiles, video, poetry, and digital works.

Pride of Place serves as a beacon of inclusivity, promoting understanding and acceptance within the community.

Visit: **www.congletonmuseum.co.uk/our-story** for more information.

Community Grants up for Grabs!

IF YOUR COMMUNITY GROUP IS SEEKING FUNDING OR GRANTS IN CONGLETON, YOU'RE IN LUCK! Annually, the Town Council allocates around £15,000 in grants to support community initiatives. The grant applications are considered at the Finance & Policy Committee meetings, which take place every 6-8 weeks. The upcoming meeting on 14 March 2024, will determine the allocation of the remaining funds for 2023/2024. To apply, download the application form from: **www.congleton-tc.gov.uk/your-council/grants**, or hard copies can be requested. Applications must be received by **6 March 2024**.

If your application is for a cultural, environmental or educational project in Congleton you should also consider the **Margaret Williamson Trust**. This allocates grants once a year, and is open for applications from **14 February until 18 March**. Funding decisions will be made by the end of March. The fund was set up in memory of Margaret Williamson OBE who was committed to improving culture, environmental and education opportunities in the town. The funds allocated will be the interest on the capital, expected to be around £4,000.

Application forms can be downloaded from:

www.congletonpartnership.co.uk

Congleton Credit Union

CONGLETON IS FORTUNATE to have its own Credit Union which has been running since 1995. The Credit Union is regulated by the financial authorities. It is run by its members for its members meaning that anyone joining can benefit from safe savings and reasonable-priced loans. Anyone living in CW12 can join the Credit Union, start saving and apply for a loan. You can find out more about the benefits of Credit Unions and the Congleton Credit Union by putting your postcode into: **www.findyourcreditunion.co.uk**. You can also meet the team at Congleton Library between 10am – 11am every Saturday morning or attend the AGM on 20 February at St Mary's Parish Centre, off West Road at 8pm.

Braced for Car Park Increases

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL and hundreds of residents responded angrily to Cheshire East Council's consultation about increasing the price of car parking across the borough. The proposed new charges would double the cost of parking in many of Congleton's car parks and increase the charged parking hours to 8am and 6pm. It suggested imposing fees for parking on Roe Street (Lawton House Surgery car park) and in towns that currently offer free parking. Cheshire East will be discussing the price rises at its Highways and Transport Committee on 25 January. The Town Council thanks all those residents who responded to this consultation and hopes that the suggestions and objections made by us all will be heard and the proposed increases will be suitably modified.



Volunteers Needed to help Children with a Disability

CAUDWELL CHILDREN'S CHARITY is looking for volunteers over the age of 18 who would like to be trained to help children with a disability or autism enjoy fun short break activity sessions in Astbury.

The sessions take place on the 3rd Saturday of the month. Full training will be given and the charity asks for a minimum of six months commitment to helping out. To find out more see: **www.caudwellchildren.com** or email: **volunteer@caudwellchildren.com**

Congleton Cares

TIMES ARE TOUGH FOR MANY PEOPLE LIVING IN CONGLETON and elsewhere in the country. On this page we have highlighted some of the activities that take place in our town which provide a warm welcome space, advice, activities and support. The list isn't exhaustive but aims to give a wide range of daily choices for people of all ages. Don't suffer in silence, reach out! All our Community Centres will offer a warm welcome and signposting for more support. If you need someone to help you make that first step contact the Social Prescribers in your local Doctor's Surgery.

With thanks to Plus Dane Housing for helping to sponsor the print of this page.

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!

The Old Saw Mill – Mama's Voices

Every Monday 11am – 12pm

Free singing group for expectant Mums and new parents

Town Hall - Food & Friendship

Every Monday 11:30am – 1:30pm

Free hot food & some company

Mental Health Support - Mind Body Sole

Every Monday 12pm - 5pm

Congleton Town Football Club drop-in

Bromley Farm CC - Never Too Old to Have Fun Group

Every Monday 12pm - 2pm

Fun for Seniors, free lunch

Trinity Methodist Church - Stitch & Chat

Every Monday 2pm – 4pm

Participation in the stitching part isn't mandatory!

Library - Crafternoon Tea

Alternate Mondays 2:30pm - 3:30pm

A monthly group for adults. £1.00 materials and refreshments.

Library - Story and Tea (For Grownups)

3rd Monday of the month 2:30pm – 3:30pm

Come along to our friendly reading group with a difference. Free

Library - After School board game club

Every Monday 3pm – 5pm

Drop in with friends and family after school for board games, chess & puzzles.

TUESDAY

New Life Church - Jubilee Club

Every Tuesday 10am -12 pm

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

Library – Stories & Songs

Every Tuesday 10:30am – 11am

Stories, rhymes and activities for pre-school children. Free

Chappell Centre - Limber for Later Life

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

Gentle exercise class for the young at heart

Bromley Farm Hub Friends Lunch

Every Tuesday 12 noon – 2pm

Tea, Coffee & Snack. Drop-In

Congleton Leisure Centre – Menopause Cafe

Second and fourth Tuesdays of the month 12pm – 1:30pm

For those affected by the Menopause. Coffee & Cake

The Old Saw Mill - Dove Buddies

Every Third Tuesday of the Month 1pm – 2:30pm

Anyone experiencing loss and/or isolation

New Life Church - Little Angels Age 0-5 Parent & Toddler Group

Every Tuesday 1pm-2:30pm (term-time)

Refreshments available. £1.50 parent + child

New Life Church – Job Club

Every Tuesday 1pm - 3pm (term-time)

Help for those seeking work

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 – 3pm

Join the tastiest book group in town! Free

Library - Story & Tea

Fourth Tuesday of the month 2:30pm – 3:30pm

Friendly reading group, refreshments available

St John's Community - 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 or Bereavement Group

Alternate Wednesdays 10am – 12pm

Church open for refreshments alternates with the bereavement session

Cross Street Church Parent & Toddler Group

Every Wednesday 10am - 11:30am (term time)

Refreshments available. £2 per family

St John's Community - Exercise For Life

Every Wednesday 10am - 11am

Exercise for older adults - £4

Library - Pre-school Fun

Every Wednesday 10am – 12pm

Drop-in, Games, Crafts Stories or Colouring.

0-5 Children.

Library - Good Vibrations

Alternate Wednesdays 10:30am – 11:30am

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

Congleton Family Hub - Little Stars

Every Thursday 1:30pm - 2:40pm

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

The Old Saw Mill - Craft Group

Every Wednesday 2pm - 4pm

Library – Crafty Natter

Alternate Wednesdays 2.30pm-3.30pm

Bring your project to chat over a cuppa & cake!

St John's Community - Tea & Church

Every second Wednesday 3:30pm

Worship followed by high tea

Bromley Farm Hub – Peer Support Group

Wednesday monthly 8pm – 9pm

Share problems or just come for a chat. Free.

THURSDAY

Bromley Farm CC – Time Out Group

Every Thursday 10am - 3pm

Allows those living with early-onset of Dementia to have time out from home. Cost £20.

Library - Rhymetime

Every Thursday 10:30am - 11am (term time)

For Pre-school children. Rhymes and songs. Free.

Chappell Centre - Bible Study Group

Every Thursday 11:30am - 12:30pm

Weekly Bible study and discussion group. Contact 01260 281601

Town Hall - Food & Friendship

Every Thursday 11:30am – 1:30pm

Free hot food & some company.

Library – Relish Book Club

Every Thursday 1pm – 3pm

Adults looking to improve mental health, socialise & relax over refreshments. Free.

Library - Baby Bounce

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

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

Mind Body Sole - Mental Health Support

Every Thursday 5pm – 8pm

Congleton Town Football Club drop-in session.

St John's Community - Mugs and Games

Every Thursday 6:30pm - 9:30pm

A board game club.

Old Saw Mill – Mentell

Every Thursday 7pm – 9pm

Support Group for men.

FRIDAY

Bromley Farm Hub – Stay & Play

Every Friday 10am – 11:30am

Children 0-4, Snack and drinks.

Congleton Family Hub - Change, Grow, Live

4th Friday of the month. 10am – 12pm

Drug / Alcohol support for young people

New Life Church - Forget Me Not Group

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 are delivered every Friday

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

St John's Community - Luncheon Club

Every Friday from 12pm

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

Cross Street Church – Nourish (Food for Body & Soul)

3rd Friday of each month 12pm

Booking required. £4 each.

Support available from...

COST OF LIVING CRISIS TEAM CHESHIRE EAST - available on **0300 123 5024** between 8.30am-5pm Monday to Friday.

HELP FOR HOUSEHOLDS – How to save energy and lower your bills this winter, visit: www.helpforhouseholds.campaign.gov.uk

CONGLETON LIBRARY - Congleton Library has supplies of duvets, blankets, gloves and slow cookers for families in need. Advice on blue badges, benefits, railcards and signposting to other sources of help. Call in or contact **01260 375550** for more information.

SPRINGBOARD - Struggling to get online? Springboard is offering free data sim cards to eligible people. Please contact **01260 290682** for more information.

Cricket Club - Sequence Tea Dance

Every Friday at 1pm

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

Congleton Family Hub – Stay & Play

Every Friday 1:30pm – 2:30pm

Parents/Carers for children up to 5 years, drop in.

New Life Church - The LA (Less Able Club)

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

Includes tea, coffee, bingo and entertainment. £20 per year.

Cross Street Church – Lighthouse Children's Club

Every Friday 5:30pm - 7pm (term time)

Primary school-aged children.

SATURDAY

Astbury Mere - Park Run

Every Saturday 9am start.

Free timed 5k run or walk. Dogs are welcome.

Ruby's Fund – SMILE Group

1st Saturday of the month 10am – 12pm

Perinatal mental health group.

Library - Lego Club

Every Saturday 10am – 12pm

All children welcome. Duplo 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. Free (Donations welcome).

Ruby's Fund - Saturday SEND Social

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

Saturday social for families with SEND children.

United Reformed Church Youth Group

Every other Saturday 7pm - 9pm (term time)

Drop in session

SUNDAY

St Mary's Catholic Church

Every Sunday 8:30am & 10:30am

Refreshments served after.

All Saints St Stephen's Church Service

Every Sunday 9:30am & 11am

Refreshments are served in between.

Trinity Methodist Church Service

Every Sunday 10am

Refreshments served after.

United Reformed Church Service

Every Sunday 10:30am

Refreshments served after.

New Life Church Service

Every Sunday 10:30am

Refreshments served after.

Cross Street Church Service

Every Sunday 10:30am

Refreshments served after.

All Saints St Peter Space and Time (Drop-In)

Every Sunday 11am

Refreshments served throughout

Cricket Club - Mental Wellbeing with Music

Sunday monthly 7pm – 9pm

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



Food & Friendship at Congleton Town Hall - A

free hot meal for local residents and families who are isolated, in need of a little help and support. Mondays & Thursdays 11:30 am – 1:30 pm. For more information, book your place or have an informal chat contact Mark Bailey 07722 008 421



Friends Lunches at Bromley Farm Hub - Every

Tuesday 12pm – 2pm. Good chats and a free bowl of nutritious soup.



The Storehouse - New Life Church Food Bank.

Mon – Fri 9:30 am – 2:30 pm. Parcels are by referral, there are more 50 agencies that can help. For more



The Green Tree House - Congleton Social

Supermarket. Wed, Fri & Sat 10 am – 3 pm. No referral is needed.



Big Clothes Movements - Trying to recycle as many

clothes as possible in Cheshire East! Fill up a bag for just £2, children's clothes 0-6 years old. Women's and

men's clothing is available at some events. Regular events are held in Congleton, visit: www.facebook.com/kidsswapshop for the latest event information.



LOL (Listen Out Loud) Foundation Looks to help

veterans with issues such as homelessness, mental health, addictions and other problems. See more at

www.lolfoundation.co.uk or call into the All Ranks Mess and Community Café, opposite Morrisons in the Bridestones Centre for a friendly chat.

VENUE CONTACT DETAILS

Bromley Farm Community Centre -

Edinburgh Road Congleton CW12 3EN. Glen Williams on 01260 279707, or email: bscdt@tiscali.co.uk

Bromley Farm Wellbeing Hub - 17 Parnell Square CW12 3EQ. 07873 653 408 or email: bromleyfarmhub@gmail.com

Chappell Centre - 83-87 Leek Rd Mossley Congleton CW12 3LJ. 01260 281601 or email: manager@chappellcentre.co.uk

Congleton Family Hub - New Street Congleton CW12 3AH Mon - Thurs 9am – 5pm Fri 9am – 4.30pm. 01260 371 061 or email: congletonfamilyhub@cheshireeast.gov.uk

Congleton Library - Market Square CW12 1ET. 01260 375550 or email: congleton.library@cheshireeast.gov.uk

Congleton Cricket Club - Booth Street CW12 4DG. 01260 275601 or email: info@congletoncricketclub.co.uk

Congleton Town Hall (Bluey's) - High Street CW12 1BN. 01260 270350 or email: info@congleton-tc.gov.uk. Food & Friendship - Mark Bailey 07722 008421

Old Saw Mill - Back River Street CW12 1HJ. 01260 277658 or email: info@theoldsawmill.org

Mind Body Sole - www.mindbodysole.uk @mindbodysoleuk or email: Help@MindBodySole.UK

All Saints - St John's Community Centre - Buglawton Buxton Old Road CW12 2ES. 01260 271103 or email: peterhouldsworth@hotmail.co.uk

Ruby's Fund - Meridian House Roe Street CW12 1PG. 01260 277666 or email: info@rubysfund.co.uk

CHURCH CONTACT DETAILS

All Saints - Congleton Parish. Chapel Street CW12 4AB. 01260 273212 or email: admin@allsaintscongleton.org.uk

Cross Street Church - Cross Street CW12 1HQ. 01260 273635 or email: andrew@crossstreetchurch.co.uk

New Life Church - West Road CW12 4EY. 01260 297961 or email: mail@nlchurch.org.uk

St Mary's Catholic Church - 30 West Road CW12 4ES. 01260 273314 or email: stmarysrc.congleton@gmail.com

Trinity Methodist Church - Wagg St CW12 4BA. 01260 270899 or email: office@danetrentmethodist.org.uk

United Reformed Church - Antrobus ST CW12 1HE. 01260 273901 or email: barbarafarrington@hotmail.co.uk

VOLUNTEERING

Most of our groups and venues listed run on volunteer power, volunteering can help you learn new skills, meet new people, gain confidence, build relationships and make a difference. For a list of current volunteering opportunities contact cathy.dean@congleton-tc.gov.uk

DONATE

If you don't need the help and support of a food bank and can afford to, why not donate to help residents in your area who are struggling and need the extra help? You can donate directly to your local food bank or at collection points, such as in supermarkets.

Easter Extravaganza



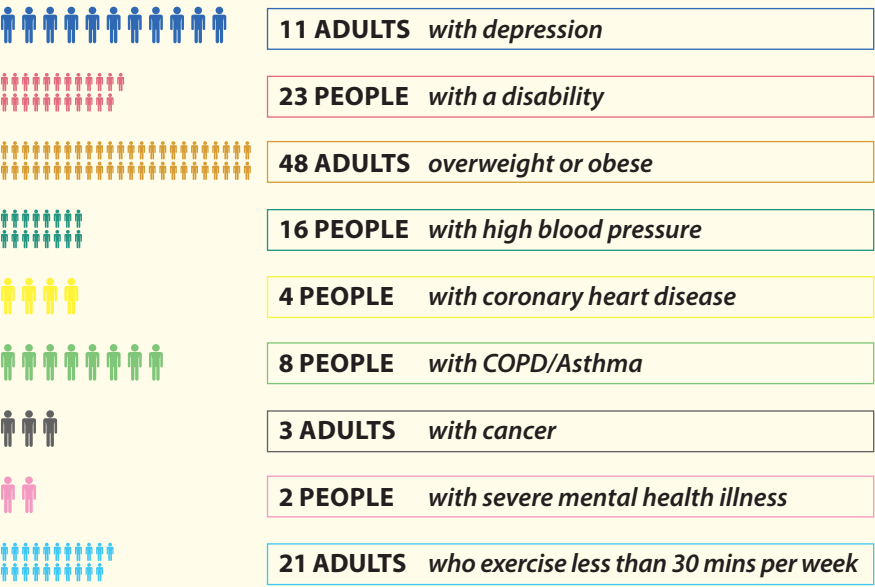
CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL is planning a cracking Easter celebration, promising fun-filled activities for families to enjoy during the Spring holiday season. Mark your calendars for **'Easter Treats'** day on **Tuesday 9 April**. Come into the town centre from 11am-2pm for egg-citing games and entertainment including Easter crafts, farm animals, seed planting, face painting and much more.

A highlight is the ever popular **'Hop Around the Shops'** trail. Families can hop from one shop to another, looking for clues along the way with an Easter treat at the end. Perhaps even an appearance from Billy the giant Rabbit himself! The trail runs from **Easter Saturday to 15 April**. Get ready to embrace the Easter spirit!



If Cheshire East were a village of 100...

AS WE PLAN HEALTH AND WELLBEING programmes and initiatives for 2024, we thought residents may be interested to know the extent of health-related issues across the community. Did you know if Cheshire East (and Congleton is typical) was a village of 100 there would be...



If you are in one of these groups you are far from alone and there is support available. See **Cheshire East Living Well website** for details of support groups. You can also call in and see healthcare professionals offering a range of services, from blood pressure checks to cholesterol screenings and direct referrals to talking therapists on the **NHS Well Being Bus**. The bus will be in the Congleton Market Quarter on Saturday 24 February from 10.30am – 4pm. There is no need to book, just pop down and get on board!

Congleton Celebrates New Businesses

EXTEND A WARM WELCOME to the new businesses setting up in Congleton!

Let's rally together to support these local ventures. Research has shown that for every £1 spent locally, 63p stays in the local community. Congleton has over 200 shops and 40 plus pubs!

Show your support for independent businesses and make a positive impact on the town's economy.

Discover the delights of:

- **Barber Shop** – West Street
- **Belles Boutique** – Lawton Street
- **Congleton Market Quarter** – Princess Street
- **Diamond Scissors** – Pedestrian Area
- **Milk & Rose** – High Street
- **Sunny Bank Koi** – Pedestrian Area
- **The Corner Cauldron** – Swan Bank
- **The Orange Tree** – West Road
- **Urban Street Grill** – High Street
- **Vinny Brennan Hair lounge** – Pedestrian Area
- **Willowsbrook** – Pedestrian Area

**TOTALLY
LOCALLY
CONGLETON**

Totally Locally Congleton in 2024

2024 IS THE YEAR when many traders expect that the Totally Locally bug will take hold in Congleton.

In late 2023 Congleton Market Quarter trialled a Totally Tenner Wednesday, with some great results. Now a steering group made up of local traders, businesses and town council representatives will be working on bringing **Fiver Fest**, **Totally Tenner** and more **Totally Locally** events and promotions to Congleton Town Centre.

At the heart of Totally Locally are independent businesses supporting and helping promote each other. It's about encouraging local people to form closer connections with their local independent traders and keeping more money in the local economy.

The Town Council has secured some UK Shared Prosperity Funding to help the Totally Locally team with the marketing. For more information see: www.congleton-tc.gov.uk

If every Congletonian spent just £5 per week in their local shops and businesses, instead of online, at the supermarket or with the huge multinationals, it would be worth £7.38 million going directly into our town every year...

Which means real jobs, a vibrant high street and a nicer place to live.

shop local.
live local.
invest local.

£5m Diagnostic Centre coming to Congleton

IN THE YEAR THAT WE CELEBRATE 100 YEARS OF THE WAR MEMORIAL HOSPITAL (WMH), it is a massive credit to the Cheshire East NHS Trust that it has secured £5 million for a new community diagnostic centre to be built on the hospital site.

Congleton will house one of only four new centres in England and the services will be a great benefit for residents.

The diagnostic centre will provide multiple additional screening rooms in addition to associated patient waiting facilities, toilets and other amenities.

Diagnostic services delivered from Congleton hospital will focus on Imaging, X-ray and Non-Obstetric Ultrasound (NOUS), and Cardio-Respiratory physiological testing such as Electrocardiography (ECG), Echocardiograms and other physiological tests. This means local people can be tested closer to home.

According to NHS England, more than 85% of patients seeking NHS care require diagnostics. Prompt diagnosis can save lives and drastically improve patient outcomes.

Planning permission is being sought from Cheshire East Council and it is anticipated that the new centre will be in operation in 2025.



Sowing the seeds of Community

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL and Congleton Rotary have joined forces to cultivate a sense of community through the innovative Community Garden Stall. This initiative not only aims to enhance the town's green spaces but also promotes sustainability and a spirit of sharing among residents.



The stall, located in Congleton Park, will operate from February to November, Monday-Friday from 8am-3pm, offering free garden pots, tools, produce, and plants. Embracing the principles of reuse and recycling, people can take what they need and contribute any surplus gardening items they may have. Residents are encouraged to show their support to help turn the stall into a flourishing hub. Look out for Rotary's Wildlife Friendly Garden competition running June-August.

Fostering Biodiversity

ENHANCING THE ENVIRONMENT between people and nature is at the forefront of the town council's biodiversity plans. The council is actively expanding green sites across Congleton, encouraging individuals to participate in a greener future. Residents can engage in activities such as hedge planting, tree planting, and the upkeep of green spaces. Although 30 sites have been identified, the initial focus will be on 7 key sites: Quinta Park, Back Lane, Stirling Close, land off Hillfields Close, Redfern Avenue, Windsor Place and Blackshaw Close. The plans can be viewed on the town council's website. To get involved contact Ruth Burgess: ruth.burgess@congleton-tc.gov.uk or **tel: 01260 270350 ext 2**.



News in Brief...

TOWN MAYOR'S BALL

Buy your tickets for the Town Mayor's Ball on 26 April from the Congleton Information Centre. The £40 ticket includes a three-course meal and live music from 'The Sound Party' playing 80s and 90s classics. All profits to the Mayor's chosen charities – Visyon and Vale Juniors Kickabout.

NEW LIBRARY OPENING HOURS

To save funds, Cheshire East Council has reduced the library opening hours. Congleton library now opens at 10am Monday-Friday, closing at 7pm on a Monday, 5pm Tuesday-Thursday and 1pm on a Friday. Saturday 9am-1pm.

See its updated schedule for regular events and new sessions like Citizens Advice Drop-In and Barclays Local.

NSPCC TOY APPEAL

A heartfelt thank you to all the generous people who contributed to the children's toy appeal. Over 2000 items were donated brightening the lives of over 150 local children during the holiday season.

NEW HUB ON NEW STREET

Congleton Family Hub (next door to Daven School) opened in November. The Hub provides a one-stop shop for the community so that families can access the right support, at the right time. Contact Tracy Turner on 01260 371061 or email: congletonfamilyhub@cheshireeast.gov.uk

HIRE THE TOWN HALL

Congleton Town Hall is available for hire at affordable rates, offering a versatile space for a wide range of occasions. Whether it's a dream wedding, lively party, productive meeting or interactive training session the Town Hall can meet your needs. Email: bookings@congleton-tc.gov.uk or call **01260 270350** option 1 to book or view the venue.

GARDEN BIN REMINDER

If you want Cheshire East to empty your garden bin, you'll need to pay £56 per year. The price is the same if you join now or later in the year. Details at: cheshireeast.gov.uk/gardenbin

Congleton Climate Action Group

CONGLETON CLIMATE ACTION GROUP is a friendly group of like-minded volunteers who are interested in creating a more climate-friendly, greener, and safer Congleton.

They are excited to announce '**Green Fest**' on **Saturday 15 June at Asbury Mere**. The event promises a day of environmental awareness and positive action. The group welcomes everyone, regardless of skills or interests, there are numerous opportunities to get involved.

Follow their Facebook page for upcoming details of events and meetings.

Dates For Your Diary

THERE'S EVEN MORE TO SEE AND DO IN

CONGLETON in 2024 with a lineup of captivating community events that you won't want to miss! Stay in the know with the "What's-On Guide" at: **www.congleton-tc.gov.uk**, where additional events are continually being added. In the Spring, keep an eye out for the new Congleton Events and Attractions booklet, set to be delivered to all CW12 households!

Regular monthly events:

The Makers Market - last Saturday

Congleton Market Quarter Market - first Saturday

The Repair Café - last Saturday at the Old Saw Mill

Congleton Museum monthly historic walk - first Sunday

Roman Week is back!

CONGLETON MUSEUM invites families and history enthusiasts to embark on an exciting journey back in time during the February half-term, from Tuesday 20 – Sunday 25 February. With a different activity each day, meet Roman soldiers, decorate your own wooden sword or shield, explore what life was like in Roman Cheshire 2,000 years ago and so much more!

- **Tuesday 20** – Roman archaeology handling session
- **Wednesday 21** – Paint your own wooden sword or shield (£3 per craft)
- **Thursday 22** – Centurions ROME'in around the museum, meet real Romans
- **Friday 23** – Write your own name in Roman numerals and dress-up
- **Saturday 24** – All roads lead to Rome, interactive session about Roman life with object handling
- **Sunday 25** – Hidden Treasure, a talk on the Roman Hoards in Congleton Museum (2pm)

This event promises to be an unforgettable experience! So, grab your toga and prepare for six days of discovery, creativity and wonders. Visit: **www.congletonmuseum.co.uk/whats-on/roman-week** for more information. Congleton Museum, Market Square, Congleton, CW12 1ET.



Town Hall Tribute Nights

YOU CAN BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW for the fantastic tribute nights booked for the Town Hall. Dance and sing the night away with UK Bjorn, an Abba Tribute on 1 March, the awesome Oasis on 21 June, the nostalgic 80s Party Electromantics on 27 September, and the sensational Take That Tribute 'Rule the World' on 1 November. Tickets from the Information Centre or book online: **www.ticketsource.co.uk/congleton-town-council**

FEBRUARY

6-10: Funny Money, Congleton Players - Daneside Theatre

10: Big Clothes Movement (preloved children's clothes) - 10am-11.30am, Congleton Cricket Club

20-25: Congleton Museum, Roman Week – Last admission 3.45pm

27: CTC 'An Evening of Clairvoyance' with Medium Stephen Holbrook – 7pm, Town Hall

MARCH

1: CTC 'UK Bjorn Again' ABBA Tribute – 8pm, Town Hall

2: A Taste of Cairo, Daneside Theatre

8: The Queen Story, Daneside Theatre

15-16: Congleton Rotary, Swimathon – Congleton Leisure Centre

15-17: Congleton Live, Congleton Unplugged – Town Centre venues

17-23: Joseph & the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat, Centre Stage Youth Theatre- Daneside Theatre

26: Health & Wellbeing Fayre - 10am-3pm, Town Hall

29: Churches Partnership, Good Friday Easter Service - Town Centre

30: CTC 'Hop around the Shops' Easter Trail (until 15 April)

APRIL

9: CTC 'Easter Treats Day' – 11am-2pm, Town Centre

23-27: The Addams Family, Trinity Operatic Society - Daneside Theatre

26: CTC 'Town Mayor's Charity Ball' – Town Hall

MAY

9: CTC 'Annual Town Meeting' - 7pm, Town Hall

11: Big Clothes Movement (preloved children's clothes) - 10am-11.30am, Congleton Cricket Club

16: CTC 'Mayor Making' - 7pm, Town Hall

18: Open Day at the Bath House and Physic Garden – 10am-4pm

22-25: The Girl on the Train, Phoenix Theatre Company - Daneside Theatre

25: CTC 'Congleton Paddling Pool Opens'

27: CTC & War Memorial Hospital 'Centenary Event' – Congleton Park (tbc)

JUNE

5-8: Everybody Leisure, 10th Anniversary - Congleton Leisure Centre

9: Congleton Community Projects, Food & Drink Festival – Town Centre

15: Congleton Climate Action Group, Green Fest – 10am-4pm, Astbury Mere

21: CTC 'Oasis Tribute' – 8.30pm, Town Hall

29: Congleton Rotary, Big Band Jazz Night – 7.30pm, New Life Church

TBC: CTC 'Town Mayor's Parade & Civic Service'

JULY

20: Congleton Pride – all day & evening events, Town Centre

AUGUST

17: Big Clothes Movement (preloved children's clothes) - 10am-11.30am, Congleton Cricket Club

Tuesdays: CTC 'Children's Events' - Town Centre

24-25: Congleton Live, Jazz and Blues Festival – Town Centre venues

SEPTEMBER

1: CTC 'Congleton Paddling Pool Closes'

7: Congleton Horticultural Society Show – 10.30am-3.30pm, Town Hall

7: Open Day at the Bath House and Physic Garden - 10am-4pm

14: Congleton Rotary, Last Night at the Proms – New Life Church

27: CTC 'Electromantics' 80s Tribute – 8.30pm, Town Hall

28: Congleton Green Fayre -10am-4pm, Town Hall & Town Centre

OCTOBER

6: Congleton Harriers, The 40th Congleton Half Marathon

26-3: CTC 'Halloween Trail' – Town Centre

30: CTC 'Witchy Wednesday' - Town Hall

NOVEMBER

1: CTC 'Rule the World' Take That Tribute – 8.30pm, Town Hall

2: Congleton Rotary, Bonfire & Fireworks - Congleton Park

10: CTC & RBL 'Remembrance Sunday' – 11am, Cenotaph

29: CTC 'Christmas Lights Switch-on' – 4pm (Lights on at 6pm)

30: Congleton Rotary, Tree of Light Ceremony – 4pm, Community Garden

DECEMBER

14: Congleton Rotary, Christmas Concert - Daneside Theatre

