

Bear Necessities

With News from Congleton Town Council & Community Groups

Spring 2024

Lots in Store for Summer '24

WITH SO MANY FABULOUS EVENTS taking place this summer, Congleton is the place to be! The recent Events and Attractions booklet 2024, written by the Town Council and delivered to all households in CW12 highlighted 32 events and 19 attractions for you to enjoy. If you don't have your booklet, more are available in the information centre and the library. Three of the biggest upcoming events are:



100th Anniversary of the Congleton War Memorial Hospital Picnic in Congleton Park. Bank Holiday Monday, 27 May from 12 noon – 5pm. Free entry. Music, food, drink, stalls, games, crafts and more. www.congleton-tc.gov.uk



Congleton's Annual Food and Drink Festival, Town Centre, Sunday 9 June, 10.30am – 4.30pm with award-winning produce, global street food pop-ups, all-day music, magic, street entertainment and kids activities in the Town Hall. www.foodanddrinkfestival.net



Congleton Pride, Saturday 20 July, turning up the volume on love, acceptance and celebration at Congleton Pride's 5th birthday. A family-friendly celebration in the town centre with stalls, music and entertainment from 10am – 5pm.

Congleton events are made possible thanks to grants and sponsorship from local trusts and businesses as well as the generosity of local people contributing their time to make our community events more special. Please listen to volunteer marshals at events and be patient if a fellow festival-goer is taking a little longer to do something. We all just want to have fun and be safe!

Signs of Summer – Congleton Paddling Pool

CONGLETON'S SUMMER STARTS ON THE 25 MAY when the Paddling Pool opens for the summer season! Capacity will be limited to 140 people per session, based on advice for the optimum working of the pool and the safety and enjoyment of those in the session. There will be two sessions per day, 10am – 1pm and 2pm – 5pm. Entry will be by a clicker system. It is no longer possible to book. Once a session is full no further entries will be allowed unless users permanently leave the session. For users safety, queuing space is being created within the pool area and not on the pavement. Opening will be weather-dependent, and times and dates may vary so please check www.congleton-tc.gov.uk for updated information to avoid disappointment. The pool will be closed Mondays and Tuesdays, during term time and open 7 days a week during half term and Summer holidays. All children must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Please use town centre car parks when visiting the pool.



Major Grant Offer Decarbonisation of the Town Hall

THE TOWN COUNCIL'S AMBITION to decarbonise Congleton Town Hall has become more realistic thanks to a grant offer that would see almost 82% of the costs paid for via a central government grant. The Public Sector Decarbonisation grant offer, which has been almost two years in the making, will see government pay £357,683 of the total £437,374 required. Potential projects to be included in the scheme include:

- Next-generation heating systems (non-fossil fuel)
- Fabric Upgrades – window secondary glazing, roof and wall insulation
- Solar power generation
- LED lighting

The first phase will ensure that both the technical and commercial feasibility are thoroughly scrutinised before progressing to phase 2, the procurement of equipment and implementation of structural changes. Phase 1 will be completed without commercial risk to the council or Congleton residents.



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

Congratulations to Congleton Town FC

CHAMPIONS OF MIDLAND PREMIER DIVISION 23/24

"Well done the Bears – you've made the town proud!"



Bear Necessities is produced by Congleton Town Council. The next newsletter will be delivered from **29 July**. All contributions to be sent by **12 July** 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 cllrfirstname.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)

* Mayor and Deputy Mayor roles due to change 16 May

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

If you can be anything, be kind!

MAKING CONGLETON MORE ACCESSIBLE FOR ALL

is the driving force behind a new Congleton Equal Access Group, which is advising the Town Council on how to make the town, events, transport, and communications more disability positive. The group is chaired by resident Deborah Lawson, recent winner of the Northern Women of Power - Person of Purpose Award for her work helping thousands of people and businesses become more disability positive on a national and regional level.

In the 2021 census, 32% of households had one or more people with a disability. Disabilities can be obvious, or hidden. Recent respondents to an Equal Access survey in Congleton believed that 74% of residents were not aware of the issues and challenges facing people with a disability. See the survey results and access some handy guidance notes on the Equal Access pages on the Town Council website. Thank you to everyone who commented on the survey.



not every
DISABILITY
is **VISIBLE**



Local Groups Benefit from Grants

The team responsible for allocating the interest of the Margaret Williamson fund, awarded a total of £2,525 to 12 groups. The team received requests worth £11,769 from 18 groups. Grants were awarded to Congleton Pride, Trinity Amateur Operatic Society, Friends for Leisure, Congleton Players, Congleton Amateur Theatre, Electric Picture House, Congleton Museum, Astbury Primary School Parents and Friends Association, Congleton Bath House, Havannah PTA, Congleton Scouts and Guide Gang Show and Daven School.

The trust was set up in 2015 following the sudden death of community stalwart Margaret Williamson. It supports cultural projects and environmental projects and learning opportunities in CW12. The trust is managed by the Cheshire Community Foundation. Further donations to grow the capital are welcomed. Contact Congleton Partnership Officer cathy.dean@congleton-tc.gov.uk

Low Mow Town

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL will continue with its low-mow approach to grass-cutting and boosting biodiversity enhancement but is not going to reduce grass-cutting to the level that Cheshire East has approved in its new grass-cutting policies. The Cheshire East scheme classified much of Congleton's public green spaces as rural and worthy of only two cuts per year. The Town Council will undertake additional grass-cutting as it believes reducing to two cuts (from 15) per year will make areas inaccessible or potentially unsafe for some people, due to long grass concealing litter and dog mess.

The Council is trying to reach a careful balance between safe and usable green spaces for the public and giving more space to nature. Currently, 58,649sqm (27.9%) of the grassed area that the Town Council has responsibility for cutting is only cut once a year at the end of the season. Congleton Town Council manages the street cleansing and groundworks operations, under contract to Cheshire East. We are the only Town Council within Cheshire East that takes control of this service. Please bear with us as we adapt to new schedules.

Get ready to Welcome the New Mayor

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL will change its Mayor at a public ceremony in the town hall on 16 May. This event will bring Cllr Rob Moreton's reign to an end. The new Mayor will be a serving councillor and elected by fellow councillors. They will make their pledge and introduce their consort and cadet, and then host a Mayor's parade and service where more people in the community can get involved on Sunday 2 June. Get the dates in your diary!



Wellbeing Appeal for Congleton War Memorial Hospital

EAST CHESHIRE NHS CHARITY has launched an appeal to support the wellbeing of patients and staff at Congleton War Memorial Hospital. With the hospital celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2024, the charity is calling on businesses, supporters, and members of the public to help raise £10,000.

Donations will go towards the installation of comfortable seating and secluded rest spots, and transforming clinical environments with calming murals and artwork. A new wellbeing garden will be created to provide patients, visitors and staff with an outdoor environment that is safe and secure and designed to promote wellness and decrease stress.

For more information on how to get involved or donate to the appeal visit <https://eastcheshirenhscharity.org/congleton-war-memorial-hospitals-wellbeing-appeal/>

There will also be the chance to contribute at the 100th Anniversary Hospital event in the Park on Bank Holiday Monday 27 May 12 noon – 5pm.



D-Day Landings Commemoration

Congleton will commemorate the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings on June 6. The Mayor and a representative of the Royal British Legion will lay a wreath at the Cenotaph at 11am. The Mayor will also light a lantern for peace at 9.15pm. Rode Hall Band will host an evening of reflection at New Life Church on June 6, concert goers are advised to bring food, drink and flags. The Air Cadets are arranging a special service at St Peter's church on June 7 at 7pm.

Congleton Blooms again!

CONGLETON IN BLOOM is hoping to regain its crown as the best large town in the North West this summer as it raises its standards along with towns across the region. The team is also looking to have more fun with In Bloom and the It's Your Neighbourhoods and is inviting residents to join In Bloom and Friends of Congleton Park in a 60th Anniversary of the Royal Horticultural Society event on the 7 July in Congleton Park. Expect a range of garden displays, community stalls, workshops and kids' activities. The event is from 12 noon to 4pm in Congleton Park – see www.congleton-tc.gov.uk. Look out for Tidy Town events throughout the summer months – updates on the Congleton in Bloom Facebook site.



TLC for Congleton Businesses!

BUSINESS IS NOT EASY for many of Congleton's independent companies – managing higher wages, increased energy costs, more expensive raw materials, higher rents/mortgage payments and meeting the needs of customers who also have less spare income.

Totally Locally Congleton (TLC) is helping businesses to work together and encouraging residents to support local businesses. It is a free marketing service for independent businesses.

Congleton Town Council is supporting the initiative and funding secured through the levelling up fund is helping with the set-up costs. Look out for Totally Locally promotions or read more at www.totallylocallycongleton.com



News in Brief

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE

Congleton Town Council will be seeking your views on additional policies that have been worked up to be included in the proposed Congleton Neighbourhood Plan. The main focus will be on protecting blue and green corridors, encouraging greater connectivity across the town and protecting heritage. Most of the new development is not within Congleton Town Council boundary.

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING All those eligible to vote in Congleton are invited to the Annual Town Meeting. The meeting is being held in the town hall on the 9 May from 7pm – 8.30pm. There is also a drop in session from 11am – 5pm. Questions can be submitted in advance to info@congleton-tc.gov.uk or raised at the meeting.

ANNUAL WALK TO SCHOOL WEEK 20 – 24 May. Traffic around many of Congleton schools is an ongoing problem which makes it more dangerous for young people to walk and cycle to school. Drivers are asked to be extra vigilant and to try and avoid school routes – particularly during this national week.

SUMMER PLAY DAYS Every Tuesday during the summer holidays the Town Council will be hosting a fun day in the Town Centre from 10.30am -2.30pm. There will be a different theme each week.

YAMAHYA IN THE TOWN HALL Former Capital Walk company that cooks up English and Japanese dishes will be serving out of the Town Hall between 9.30am and 9pm on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. This is initially a pilot from April for three months.

DIGITAL UPSKILLING Check out two new courses run by Springboard in Riverside Mill. The International Driving License (ICDL) and Essential Digital Skills for Work. Both courses are free of charge subject to eligibility. Call **01260 290682** or email info@springboard.me.uk

VOLUNTEER ACTION CONGLETON

Encourages and supports volunteering in Congleton. It works hard to match what you would like to do, what you don't want to do and how much time you want to give with local opportunities. You can find out more about VAC at

www.congletoncommunityprojects.org

NEW: TRANS WITHOUT ABUSE Patterns of domestic abuse can be similar in heterosexual and same-sex relationships, but when abuse happens within the trans and non-binary community, there are several additional behaviours to consider. Local domestic abuse provider myCWA has worked with trans+ people to develop specialist services, and invites anyone affected to call the Cheshire East Domestic Abuse Hub on **0300 123 5101** (always call 999 in an emergency), or email transwithoutabuse@mycwa.org.uk

Be Part of Our Future Health

AS BEAR NECESSITIES WENT TO PRINT, we were expecting to learn that 'Our Future Health' the UK's largest health research programme, will be located in Congleton for a month this summer. This portable 'ward' will be located in a car park. The programme is gathering data from up to 5 million volunteers across the UK to transform our understanding of how diseases like dementia, cancer, heart disease and stroke develop and are treated. Those attending the clinic will learn about their own cholesterol, blood pressure and future risk of disease.

Taking part involves:

- Answering some online questions about yourself.
- Providing a small blood sample.
- Getting your blood pressure and cholesterol levels measured at the clinic

As a thank you, those taking part will be offered a £10 voucher from Voucher Express, this can be spent in supermarkets, high street shops and online retailers, or can be donated to the Our Future Health charity. To register see <https://ourfuturehealth.org.uk> – and you'll be notified about the clinic details. Everyone over the age of 18 and living in the UK can take part.

So much Talent to See in Congleton!

CONGLETON IS AWASH WITH TALENT this Spring. Treat yourself to a night at a concert, play, musical or recital. You won't regret it! A ticket for a night out in Congleton is around a 1/6 th of the price of city theatres – but the talent, passion and performances are every bit as good!

Forget-Me-Not creation at Congleton Museum

CONGLETON MUSEUM is encouraging local people to knit or crochet forget-me-not flowers which will be used for a big installation in November 2024 marking 110 years since the start of the First World War.



A group, which is open to all, meets at the museum every Thursday from 10.30 – 11.30 am to help with the creation and share tips and advice on knitting and crocheting. Anyone wishing to attend is encouraged to take their own yarn/hooks and needles, although the museum has a limited supply available. There is a charge of £1 per person to cover the cost of tea, coffee and biscuits.

Helping to Combat Fraud



In the past 12 months, 4,976 people in Cheshire reported being scammed, with 1,840 being aged 50+ and living in Cheshire East. The criminals behind the scams target older people more than any other group. The award-winning Age UK Cheshire East Scams Awareness Team helps older people (aged 50+) become resilient to fraud. They also support and help victims of fraud. The team does not charge and is happy to advise individuals or speak to groups of older people. To make a booking for yourself or a group or to find out more please contact Sally Wilson on **01625 612958** or enquiries@ageukce.org or check their website www.ageuk.org.uk/cheshireeast/

THINKING OF **SPIKING**
SOMEONE'S DRINK?



YOU COULD FACE UP TO
10 YEARS IN PRISON

Keep Yourself and Others Safe

SPIKING A PERSON'S DRINK OR FOOD is a serious offence that can lead to prison. It has potentially life-threatening consequences for the victim. If you suspect that you or a friend have been spiked and are feeling unwell ask 999 for the police as well as an ambulance. Always let the venue know too, as there is a good chance that you are not the only victim. Spiking is something that must stop.

Dates For Your Diary

MAY

- 6** Annual Town Meeting
- 16** Annual Mayor Making – Town Hall
- 15-18** Frozen Jr by Congleton Amateur Youth Theatre, Daneside Theatre *
- 18** Bath House Open Day 10-4pm
- 22-25** Girl on the Train – Phoenix Theatre Company, Daneside Theatre *
- 27** 100th anniversary of War Memorial Hospital, Congleton Park 12 – 5pm

JUNE

- 2** Mayor's Civic parade and service
- 6** D-Day Concert, New Life Church, 7.30pm *
- 6-8** Everybody Leisure Games, Congleton Leisure Centre
- 9** Food and Drink Festival
- 11-15** Frankenstein, Congleton Players, Daneside Theatre *
- 21** Oasis tribute band in the Town Hall *
- 23** Artisanity Craft Fayre, Congleton Town Hall
- 29** Echo Performance Arts Summer Showcase, Daneside Theatre *
- 29-30** Patchwork and Quilters display at the Town Hall
- 30** Lion's Duck Race, Congleton Park

JULY

- 6** Congleton Youth Orchestra concert in the Town Hall *
- 7** 60th Anniversary of RHS – Congleton Park 12pm – 4pm
- 12** Audley and Macclesfield Male Choirs Concert, Town Hall *
- 13** Congleton Choral Society Concert, Congleton Town Hall *
- 20** Congleton Pride – Town Centre 10am – 5pm

For the latest information see the what's on guide at:

www.congleton-tc.gov.uk

* Tickets available at the Congleton Information Centre

