

# Bear Necessities

With News from Congleton Town Council & Community Groups

Spring 2025

## A Delicious day of Fun and Flavour!



Congleton Town Council is gearing up for a spectacular day of food, fun, and entertainment as the **Congleton Food & Drink Festival** takes over the town centre on **Sunday 8 June, from 10.30am-4.30pm**.

With over 70 stalls showcasing artisan food from around the world, a host of street food vendors, and pop-up bars, this is set to be a foodie's paradise. The **Congleton Market Quarter** will be buzzing with even more stalls and entertainment, ensuring fun for all!

Enjoy a full day of **live entertainment**, including: The Mad Hatters Tea Party Walkabout, Stilt Walkers adding a touch of spectacle, a fantastic lineup of DJs and live bands, face painting and circus skills for all ages!

Inside the Town Hall, join an exciting hands-on experience in the demonstration kitchen, sponsored by Howden's. Led by an expert baker, learn how to craft delicious speciality breads. Tickets available via: [www.ticketsource.co.uk/congleton-town-council](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/congleton-town-council)

The event is **inclusive for all**, with a quiet zone in **The Space** kindly supported by TMC, accessible toilet facilities in the Town Hall, portable toilets on Market Street and on-site first aid throughout the day.

To accommodate the festival, **road closures** will be in place from 6am-6pm. Affected areas include High Street, Moody Street, top of Market Street into High Street, Mill Street and Swan Bank, right turn only at the bottom of Canal Street into High Street, turn left only from Kinsey Street into Lawton Street.

A huge thank you to our amazing sponsors, including **Beartown Brewery, Bridestone Shopping Centre, Congleton Market Quarter, Howden's, and Independent Street**. There's still time to become a sponsor and support this fantastic event!

Stay updated at: [www.foodanddrinkfestival.net](http://www.foodanddrinkfestival.net)



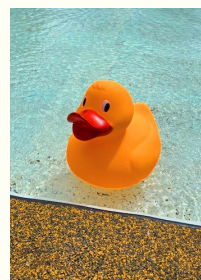
## Congleton Pride Returns for its Sixth Year!

Congleton Pride is back on **Saturday 19 July**, with a free, family-friendly event in the town centre. **The festivities begin at 10am** with a bustling Artisan Market in the covered Market Area (by Morrisons), running until 4pm, alongside events in the Market Quarter continuing into the evening.

The vibrant **Pride Parade** sets off from West Street car park at **11.30am**, reaching the main stage at noon, where an exciting entertainment lineup will run until 5pm. From 12-4pm, the **High Street** will feature volunteer and charity stalls, the Beartown Bar, food vendors, and a covered seating area. Meanwhile, **Bridge Street** will host a **Community Stage** (12-5pm) and a Children's Play Day with circus skills and art workshops (12-4pm). Congleton Pride promises a fantastic day for all. Don't miss this celebration of love, inclusion, and community spirit!



## The Countdown to Summer is On



Congleton Paddling Pool will officially open on **Saturday 24 May**. Visitors can look forward to cooling off and enjoying this much-loved community facility. The pool will be open daily during school holidays until Sunday 31 August, with **two sessions from 10am-1pm and 2pm-5pm**. The

pool will be closed on Monday and Tuesday during term time. No booking is required, but entry will be managed on a first-come, first-served basis, with a maximum capacity of 140 people per session. Once this limit is reached, visitors will need to wait until space becomes available. The pool may close on cold or wet days. For everyone's safety and enjoyment, check the FAQ sheet on the town council's website.



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 **4 August**. All contributions to be sent by **14 July** to [debbie.coxon@congleton-tc.gov.uk](mailto:debbie.coxon@congleton-tc.gov.uk)

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## News in Brief

**Parking fee changes** at Cheshire East car parks will take effect in May. Changes include extended charging hours (8am-10pm), Sunday charges based on weekday rates, a new 14-hour tariff, and increased fees for some permits. Updates will be displayed in car parks and on:

**[www.cheshireeast.gov.uk](http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk)**. Congleton Town Council strongly opposed the proposals in its written response to Cheshire East Council in October 2024. This stance was echoed by approximately 96% of residents who responded to the public consultation, expressing their objection to the increased charges.

**"Devolution and what it means for you"** Residents in Cheshire and Warrington have voiced their opinions on proposed changes to local democracy. A government consultation on the devolution deal closed on 13 April, with a decision pending. If approved, a new mayoral combined authority (CA) would be created, existing councils in Cheshire East, Cheshire West, and Warrington would be retained. See: **[www.cheshireandwarringtondevolution.com](http://www.cheshireandwarringtondevolution.com)**

**Need funding for a community project or event?** Local groups, charities, and non-profit organisations can apply. Grants are approved by the Town Council's Finance and Policy Committee. Download an application form at: **[www.congleton-tc.gov.uk/your-council/grants/](http://www.congleton-tc.gov.uk/your-council/grants/)**

## Drug Testing Kits launched to Combat Spiking



Congleton Town Council, in collaboration with Congleton Police and funding from the Cheshire Police & Crime Commissioner's Safety, Working Together, Action and Prevention (SWAP) fund, has introduced drug testing kits in local venues to **support potential spiking victims**.

The recently launched initiative, was developed with input from the town council's White Ribbon group and the Community Safety group.

Hospitality venues across Congleton now have drug testing kits behind the bar for individuals who suspect they or someone they know has been spiked. Costa Coffee locations across the town, also offer these kits, as they open earlier than most venues.

Unlike hospitals, which typically test for only two substances, these kits detect 13 common drugs. Victims can provide a urine sample and check the results within 60 minutes. **Spiking is a serious offence**, carrying up to 10 years imprisonment, and victims are encouraged to seek support and report incidents to the police immediately.

## Accessible Scheme Opens Doors

A Disability Welcome Scheme has been launched by the town council to help local shops and businesses **improve accessibility** for disabled visitors. A survey by the council's Equal Access Advisory Group found that 87% of disabled respondents faced challenges in the town centre, and over 50% felt businesses were not well informed about their needs. The group, made up of local people with lived experience, helped create a checklist of simple measures businesses can take, such as large-print pricing, clear aisles, temporary ramps, and staff training.

Businesses meeting the checklist requirements will receive a 'Disability Welcome' window sticker, certificate, and inclusion in a planned Disability Guide to Congleton. All businesses with a shop front are encouraged to apply. The leaflet is available from Congleton Information Centre and **[www.congleton-tc.gov.uk/business-support-development/disability-welcome-congleton/](http://www.congleton-tc.gov.uk/business-support-development/disability-welcome-congleton/)**



## Have Your Say at the Annual Town Meeting

Congleton residents are invited to the public meeting on **15 May at 7pm** in the Town Hall. Residents will have the opportunity to voice their opinions and discuss matters affecting the town. The evening will include presentations and a Q&A session. Before the meeting, the **Town Mayor's Civic Awards** will celebrate outstanding volunteers, with winners announced and presented on the night. Come along to recognise their achievements and get involved!

## Congleton to Welcome New Mayor

Congleton Town Councillors will elect a new mayor at a public ceremony in the Town Hall on **22 May, 7pm**. The incoming mayor will make their official pledge, and outline their plans for the year ahead. The celebrations will continue on **22 June**, with the **Mayor's Parade and Civic Service**, at **St Peter's Church, 3pm** offering the wider community an opportunity to take part in this civic tradition.

## 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. Here are the pictures and names of your councillors. More details can be found on the town council website.

### West Ward

West Heath



Suzie Akers Smith



Robert Brittain



Robert Douglass



Suzy Firkin

### North East Ward

Bromley, Buglawton



Charles Booth



Susan Mead



Rob Moreton



Shaun Radcliffe



Glen Williams

### North Ward

Low



Dawn Allen



Russell Chadwick



# Trees for Congleton Exceed 30,000 Tree Goal

The group have surpassed their ambitious goal of planting **30,000 trees**, one for every resident, since launching in 2019. Formed after the town council declared a climate emergency, the volunteer group has worked tirelessly over six years despite COVID delays.

With support from Cheshire Wildlife Trust, Congleton Partnership, and other funders, hundreds of school children, residents, and businesses have planted trees, hedges, and over 25 orchards, enriching biodiversity. The group has also led planting projects celebrating the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee, the King's Coronation, and Congleton War Memorial Hospital's Centenary.

March saw nearly 100 schoolchildren plant Cheshire East's **first tiny forest**, learning about tree species and habitats. Recent projects include a **community orchard** at Astbury Mere, 250 hedge plants at **Black Firs School** (pictured), and planting efforts by Buglawton in Bloom, Kanga, and TMC. Leaving a lasting green legacy for future generations.

To mark this remarkable milestone the group would like to invite all its volunteers to a special event unveiling a plaque for the 30,000th tree at Hankinson's field on **9 May at 4pm**.



## In Bloom Going for Gold

Congleton will proudly represent the North West in the 2025 RHS Britain in Bloom UK Finals, competing in the Best Overall Large Town category. Aiming for its fifth Gold, the town will be judged on **24 July** for North West in Bloom and **7 August** for Britain in Bloom. This year's theme highlights the connection between people, plants, and mental health. Look out for the **Flower Finding Trail** this summer - search for clues in shop windows and collect a free seed planting kit at the end! Congleton in Bloom's success is a true team effort, with volunteers, community partners, and the Streetscape team. Get involved with the **Town Tidies** on the first Saturday of each month, 10am-12pm. More details on the Congleton in Bloom Facebook page.



## Mental Health Support in Congleton

**SheTalk** – A new mental health support group for women, meeting **every other Monday from 12.30pm–2pm** at Bromley Farm Wellbeing Hub, Parnell Square. For more details, contact Laura Jackson on: **07473 737475**.

**Mentell** – A men's mental health support group meets every Thursday from 7pm at Congleton Town Hall. Sign up at: **[www.mentell.org.uk](http://www.mentell.org.uk)**

**Help is available** – If you're struggling, reach out. Call the **Cheshire East Mental Health Crisis Line** on: **0800 145 6485** or the **Samaritans** on: **116 123**.

You're not alone.

## Whole Housing Approach to Domestic Abuse

The Whole Housing Approach (WHA) pilot has transformed how housing and domestic abuse services collaborate to **support survivors**. Funded by the National Lottery and led by Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse, the initiative has worked in partnership with Cheshire East Council, Cheshire Police, mental health practitioners, and survivor consultants. Providing support and safe, stable housing solutions for those affected by domestic abuse. If you or someone you know is affected by domestic abuse, contact the **Cheshire East Domestic Abuse Hub** tel: **0300 123 5101**, text: **07777 941464** or email: **[cedah@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:cedah@cheshireeast.gov.uk)**. There is also a monthly Peer Support Group in Congleton, call the same number for details.

Councillor emails are  
**[cllfirstname.surname@congleton-tc.gov.uk](mailto:cllfirstname.surname@congleton-tc.gov.uk)**

**C = Conservative**  
**L = Labour**

**I = Independent**  
**LD = Liberal Democrat**

**EP = Equality Party**

er Heath

### South East Ward

Mossley, High Town, Timbersbrook

### Central Ward

Town Centre, Newcastle Rd



Emma Hall



Amanda Martin



David Brown



Arabella Holland



Sally Ann Holland



Heather Pearce



Kay Wesley



Mark Edwardson



Heather Seddon



Richard Walton



Liz Wardlaw

## Exciting Tribute Events

Get ready for top-class entertainment at Congleton Town Hall with these fantastic tribute events!

Tickets are available via:

[www.ticketsource.co.uk/congleton-town-council](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/congleton-town-council)  
or in person at **Congleton Information Centre**.

**Legless 11 Bingo** - 9 May

**Coldplay Tribute, Live in Technicolour** - 4 October

**Ashleigh as Taylor Swift** – 22 November



## Bark in the Park

A fantastic new community event in Congleton Park on **6 July, 12pm-4pm**. Enjoy dog shows, doggy retail stalls, wildlife organisations, animal charity stalls, music, food trucks, and the Beartown Brewery Bus Bar. Organised by the local RSPCA, Congleton Community Projects, and Friends of Congleton Park.

Interested in having a stall or volunteering?

Contact Jo Money: [jo@congletoncommunityprojects.org](mailto:jo@congletoncommunityprojects.org)

## BigUpBuglawton

A brand new family fun day celebrating Buglawton! On **21 June, 11am-5pm** at the Scout & Guide Hut, St Johns Rd, CW12 2BD. Take part in creative arts workshops and kids' activities, plus stalls, music and refreshments. Organised by Congleton Community Projects, 1st Buglawton Guides and Scouts, Buglawton School and local voluntary groups. For stalls, information, or to get involved, contact Jo Money: [jo@congletoncommunityprojects.org](mailto:jo@congletoncommunityprojects.org)

## Summer Play Days

Join the town council for free, family-friendly fun on **Tuesday 5, 12, and 19 August** from **10.30am-2.30pm** in the pedestrian area.

Enjoy a variety of activities for all ages.

Don't miss out on the summer excitement!



## Summer Music Concerts at Congleton Park

Celebrate 20 years of **Friends of Congleton Park** with a fantastic lineup of band and music concerts. Along with the Town Council's Streetscape Team, this dedicated volunteer group has worked tirelessly to protect, promote, and enhance Congleton Park for future generations, and their efforts have truly made the park a community gem. All performances are free and take place at the **Bandstand, 2.30pm-4.30pm**.

**1 June - The Extractions**

**8 June - Poynton Royal British Legion Concert Band**

**15 June - Congleton Choral Society**

**22 June - North Staffs Accordion Band**

**13 July - Congleton Lions Youth Brass Band**

**27 July - Rode Hall Silver Band**

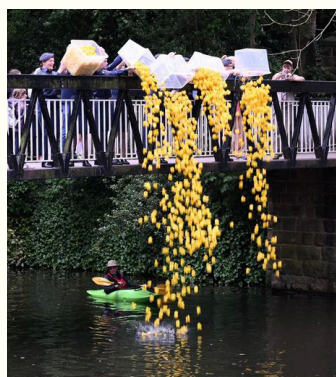
## Have a Quacking good time!

Congleton Lions are hosting their 13th Annual Charity Duck Race on **20 July on the River Dane, Congleton Park**. Corporate Race at 2pm, Main Race at 2.15pm, with prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place!

Tickets are only £1 from the Congleton Information Centre. All proceeds will support local community projects. Don't miss out – it's going to be a duck-tacular day!

For more information:

[congletonlionsduckrace@gmail.com](mailto:congletonlionsduckrace@gmail.com)



## An Evening of Music

Under the baton of Music Director Tom Newall, **Congleton Choral Society** is excited to present their summer concert at Congleton Town Hall on **13 July, 7.30pm**.

Tickets from Congleton Information Centre.

## Honouring 80 Years Since VE Day – 8 May

The town council will mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day with a day of remembrance and community spirit. The commemorations will begin at **9am at the Cenotaph** with the official **VE Day Proclamation** and the raising of the VE Day flag. A short service will follow at **11am**, held in partnership with the Royal British Legion. This poignant event, honouring the end of World War II in Europe, is open to all.

Invited guests, including care home residents and elderly members of the community, will be treated to a traditional Fish & Chip lunch at the Town Hall, generously sponsored by Congleton Partnership and Congleton Lions. **'Soldier Bear'** a newly painted commemorative bear—will be stationed at the Town Hall. **St Peter's Church** will hold a service at **3pm** and will take part in the national tribute by ringing its bells at 6.30pm. Keep an eye out for other community events taking place across the town as we come together to remember and reflect.

