

Bear Necessities

With News from Congleton Town Council & Community Groups

Summer 2024

Going for Gold

RHS IN BLOOM JUDGES WILL VISIT CONGLETON ON 14 AUGUST as the town vies to represent the North West region in the North West in Bloom finals. Congleton is aiming for more gold awards in the Large Town and Large Park categories, as well as 14 In Your Neighbourhoods. Join upcoming community tidies to help spruce up the town before judging day.



Over the past two decades, Congleton has earned more than 20 gold medals in regional and national RHS in Bloom competitions and multiple Green Flag and Heritage Flag accolades for the town's impressive Victorian park.

This year's floral 'plaque' planted by Streetscape commemorates the 100th anniversary of Congleton War Memorial Hospital. The colourful Back-to-Back Garden displays created by Congleton schools, nurseries, groups, and care homes can be viewed at weekends throughout August in the park poly tunnels. Good luck Congleton in Bloom!

Jazz and Blues Extravaganza!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS for the August Bank Holiday weekend and get ready for two days of live music and fun! Organised by Congleton Live CIC, this free-entry event will feature around 70 gigs spread across 20 or so town centre venues. Enjoy performances from festival favourites and discover new and exciting bands.

Walk between venues, meet up with friends, and soak up the vibrant atmosphere of our wonderful town.

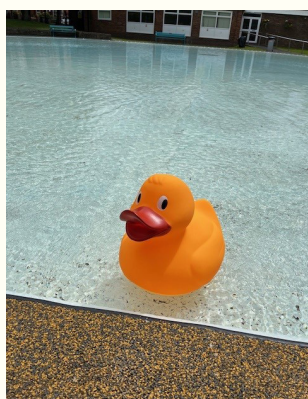
Keep an eye out for the pocket festival guide, so you don't miss a single beat! For full details, visit: www.congletonjazzandblues.co.uk and stay updated via their Facebook page.



Splash into Summer

CONGLETON PADDLING POOL is open daily until Sunday 1 September. Sessions run from 10am-1pm and 2pm-5pm. No booking is required. The pool operates on a first-come, first-served basis with a maximum capacity of 140 people. Once this limit is reached, users will need to wait until space becomes available.

For a safe and enjoyable experience, please refer to the FAQ sheet on the town council's website. Note: the pool may be closed on cold wet days.



CONGLETON GREEN FAYRE

28.09.24



"Helping Congleton to live more sustainably"

Congleton Green Day

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL AND CONGLETON PARTNERSHIP are gearing up for an even more spectacular Green Fayre on Saturday 28 September, from 10am-4pm. This year's free event promises to be a fantastic celebration of all things green, with a closed High Street featuring over 30 stalls showcasing green businesses, products, and services dedicated to protecting nature and our environment.

Expect something for everyone, including a display of electric vehicles and the Makers Market in the pedestrian area. Inside the Town Hall, you'll find the Congleton Repair Café and The Big Clothes Movement offering their fantastic services once again. Have a cuddle with the adorable Bumble Bees, making three 30-minute appearances. There are a few stalls remaining, free of charge to stallholders promoting green activities. Email: info@congleton-tc.gov.uk.



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 **28 October**. All contributions to be sent by **4 October** 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 cllfirstname.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)



Heather Pearce (I)



Kay Wesley (WEP) - 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) - Deputy Mayor



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

Working for Equal Access in Congleton



APPROXIMATELY ONE IN FOUR HOUSEHOLDS IN CONGLETON INCLUDES A PERSON WITH A DISABILITY.

Respondents to a recent survey carried out by Congleton Equal Access Group believed that 74% of residents had little or no awareness of issues surrounding those with disabilities and only 2% were well informed. Deborah



Lawson, Chair of the Congleton Equal Access Group has produced a Disability Awareness Guide to help combat this. The guide can be downloaded via the QR code and found on: www.congleton-tc.gov.uk.

The Equal Access Group has been working on feedback from the survey and developing action plans around transport, town centre, events and communications. The group welcomes further input from disabled residents, if you have comments or wish to join the group contact the town council.

Upcoming Consultation on Congleton's Draft Neighbourhood Plan

CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL is set to begin 'Regulation 14' consultations on the town's draft Neighbourhood Plan in late September. The council will invite local residents to participate as 'critical friends', reading and commenting on the policies as part of the consultation. Your feedback will help strengthen the plan for the next consultation round carried out by Cheshire East Council. Ultimately, the plan will be put to a referendum. Stay informed through the town council website, local press, and flyers through your doors!



Oyez! Oyez! Oyez!

CONGLETON IS LOOKING TO RECRUIT

A NEW TOWN CRIER to cry at many of the town's festivals and large events and support civic events run by the town council. The appointed Crier will also be given the opportunity to enter local and national competitions. The ideal person will have a loud voice, be proud of Congleton and live in Congleton or the immediate parishes. It's a voluntary role which will hopefully be a lot of fun! An outfit will be provided for the appointment which will initially be for a year, but will hopefully develop into a longer commitment. The plan is to recruit the role at a public event at the end of September! See: www.congleton-tc.gov.uk or email your interest to: info@congleton-tc.gov.uk



Town Council Grants

ARE YOU A NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANISATION, LOCAL GROUP OR CHARITY that needs a small cash injection to deliver a project or event that will benefit people in Congleton? If so, the town council would be interested in hearing from you and may even be able to help with a grant. Councillors consider and approve grants at the Finance and Policy Committee. This is a public meeting and papers are made public on our website. The next dates are: 19 September, 14 November, 13 February 2025 and 27 March 2025. Application forms can be downloaded from www.congleton-tc.gov.uk and must be submitted 10 days in advance.

Exciting Additions in the Town Centre

LET'S WELCOME AND SUPPORT THE NEW BUSINESSES IN

CONGLETON! Research shows that for every £1 spent locally, 63p stays in the community. Pay a visit to:

Abu Barbers, Bench, Café Hugo, Crepe'O'Licious, East 360, Kutchenhaus, Oh Lala Crepe & Co, The Carter & George Practice

Operation Park Safe

VEHICLES PARKED IRRESPONSIBLY, blocking driveways, forcing pedestrians onto the road, and preventing bin collections, deliveries, and emergency vehicle access is a common problem experienced across Congleton. **'Operation Park Safe'** has been set up by Cheshire Police to help tackle this problem by allowing the public to report parking issues online. Uploaded photos and videos of offending vehicles will be assessed by a traffic officer, dangerous parking offences dealt with and minor obstructions allocated to the neighbourhood policing team to deal with.

When reporting an incident you must be prepared to give your details. The Police can deal with vehicles parked on zig-zag lines, white lines, pavement parking which forces a pedestrian into the road, parking on cycle paths and parking on or at a junction. Parking on single or double yellow lines or pavement parking where the pedestrian can still use the pavement is a Cheshire East not Police matter. To report on: www.cheshire.police.uk go to 'report a road traffic incident', click no to 'did a vehicle collide with something'; on the next page click on a 'possible driving offence' and complete the form.



Summer Adventures at Congleton Museum!

EMBARK ON YOUR TOWN EXPEDITIONS THIS SUMMER with Congleton Museum's free family-friendly festival. There are 4 new trails, 9 unique challenges and 2 bespoke events to experience. All activities have been created by young people on work experience placements alongside museum professionals. Collect your Trails and Heritage Passport sticker book from Congleton Museum. Visit: www.congletonmuseum.co.uk

Springboard Your Way into Autumn – Adult Education in Congleton

SPRINGBOARD, BASED AT RIVERSIDE CONGLETON, is committed to providing the best adult learning opportunities through a range of high-quality, fully funded (free) courses. Open Monday to Friday; with an 'open-door' every Thursday for course enquiries and registrations. Drop-in (10am-11am) or book a 'Work Hub' appointment (11am-3pm). The team of advisors will provide employment and careers advice; as well as creating bespoke training and development plans.

Enrol now for September course starts, which include Multiply Math's; City & Guilds Functional Skills Math's and English; and Digital Skills courses. New vocational qualifications include an Introduction to Working in the Care Sector, Working in Customer Service and Health & Safety in Construction (CSCS). **Scan the QR code for course details.**



Targeted Health and Wellbeing Programmes at Congleton Leisure Centre

EVERYBODY HEALTH AND LEISURE offer a range of self-referral and referral based, targeted health and wellbeing programmes, which include:

- **Good Boost Aqua Classes** - A water-based rehabilitation programme beneficial for people with a range of musculoskeletal conditions
- **Be Steady Be Safe** - An evidence based, 12-week balance and mobility programme, aimed at reducing the risk of falls
- **ESCAPE-pain/back**s - An evidenced based rehabilitation programme, designed to reduce pain and disability for people with chronic joint pain, lower back pain or Osteoarthritis
- **Recondition Cheshire East** - Free weekly live online exercise classes for people unable to attend in-person sessions

More at: www.everybody.org.uk/locations/congleton/health-and-wellbeing-programmes/

Join a Vibrant Community of Learning and Fun!

LOOKING TO EXPLORE NEW INTERESTS AND ACTIVITIES WHILE NOT IN FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT? Congleton U3A (University of the 3rd Age) has over 1200 members, and hosts more than 100 diverse groups covering arts, languages, science, history, music, physical activities and much more. Membership costs £40 annually, or a discounted rate of £15 if you prefer to join groups without room fees. Groups typically meet from September to June for 32 official sessions. For more details: www.congletonu3a.org.uk or drop by the Old Saw Mill on the 1st Monday of the month between 10.30am – 11.30am during term time.

News in Brief



TOWN COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT:
Scan the QR code to download. Copies available from the Information Centre.

HWRC:

Following the emergency closure of three more waste sites, Cheshire East has increased the weekday opening hours of its Macclesfield and Alsager sites to 6pm. On weekends and Bank Holidays, residents must book online before visiting. There will be no limit to the number of visits. Changes come into force on 5 August.

NEW STOCK AT THE CIC:

Looking for some Congleton gifts? Check out the latest fabulous stock in the Congleton Information Centre – including branded mugs, coasters, cards and prints. New tea-towels and baubles coming soon!

REPORT CRIME:

Congleton has low reported crime. This is fantastic, as long as it is accurate! Police resources are allocated according to need. Please help Congleton to get the policing it deserves by making sure that all crime is reported – either phone 101 (unless an emergency then 999) or report online: www.cheshire.police.uk

Get Ready to play!

EVERY TUESDAY DURING THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS, families can enjoy a variety of free, fun-filled activities in the pedestrian area from 10.30am-2.30pm.

Event Lineup:

- **30 July:** Junk Modelling
- **6 August:** Olympic Games with Everybody Leisure
- **13 August:** Traditional Play Day, with Congleton Community Projects
- **20 August:** Photo Snappy
- **27 August:** Comic Art and Flyaway Day

The town council and Congleton Community Projects have extended their annual collaboration to celebrate National Play Day on 13 August. Families can enjoy even more fun and games, highlighting the importance of play. The events are funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.



Congleton Park Alive with Music

COURTESY OF THE FRIENDS OF CONGLETON PARK, enjoy a fantastic lineup of summer bandstand concerts.

4 Aug: The Encores, 2.30pm, 11 Aug: Beartown Singers, 2pm, 18 Aug: Rode Hall Silver Brass, 2.30pm.. For further details visit: www.friendsofcongletonpark.co.uk or contact Glen Williams, Chair tel: **01260 277384**

Clonter Opera Theatre Fair & Car Boot Sale

SUNDAY 1 SEPTEMBER, 10am-4pm. In aid of Visyon and The Clonter Farm Music Trust. Entry £5 (Adults), Children under 16 Free, Free Parking. Artisan and vintage crafts, classic cars, food and drink, car booters, sports games, dog show and live music: www.clonter.org or tel: **01260 224 514**

Congleton Half Marathon

CELEBRATING ITS 40TH YEAR, entries are open for the 13.1 mile race on Sunday 6 October. Chip timed, with two water stations and pacers. Free race photos and medal included. Min age 17, entry costs £24 - £26 with a £1.90 booking fee. www.congleton-harriers.co.uk



The Ultimate Network Showcase

ATTEND THE EAST CHESHIRE CHAMBER BUSINESS FAIR on Wednesday 25 September from 10am-3pm at Congleton Leisure Centre. Showcase your business or explore local offerings. Free entry for all visitors. Exhibitor spaces with tables and electricity available to book. Email: liz.longmore@eastcheshirechamber.co.uk or tel: **01260 540570**

Horticultural Delights

ENTER YOUR TALENTS INTO THE SHOW on Saturday 7 September! Categories include flowers, photos, crafts, vegetables, and cookery. Forms available from the Information Centre or Show Secretary. Deadline for entries is 4 September, by 9pm to the Show Secretary, Diane Kemp (**01782 514326**) or by 4.30pm at the Information Centre. Taking place in the Town Hall from 10.30am-3.30pm, with the presentation of awards at 3pm. Admission is £1, children free.



Celebrate Community at the Green Island Fiesta!

DEvised BY CONGLETON COMMUNITY PROJECTS the exciting new Fiesta will take place on Sunday 8 September from 11am-4pm. This vibrant event will showcase the rich history of the area nestled between Bromley Road, Willow Street, and Brunswick Street. We'd love you to share your memories or photos of Green Island. Please send them to: jo@congletoncommunityprojects.org www.congletoncommunityprojects.org



Halloween Extravaganza

ENTERTAIN LITTLE GHOSTS AND GHOULS over the October half term with the Haunted Halloween Trail, running from 26 October to 3 November. This spooktacular adventure, crafted by the town council with support from local town centre traders, promises thrills and chills for all ages. Join us on 30 October for 'Witchy Wednesday' in the Town Hall for more Halloween hijinks!

Town Hall Tributes

THE ICONIC TOWN HALL is gaining a growing reputation for its tribute nights.

Don't miss the nostalgic 80s Party *Electromantics* on 27 September, the sensational Take That Tribute '*Rule the World*' on 1 November and The *Jam'd* on 7 Feb. Medium *Steve Holbrook* is back by popular demand on 25 Feb.

Tickets from the Information Centre or book online at: www.ticketsource.co.uk/congleton-town-council

