

# Bear Necessities

With News from Congleton Town Council & Community Groups  
Winter 2020



## Congleton's Chance to Bloom in 2020

**In 2019, Congleton received its best-ever score from North West in Bloom - a massive 92% - and will now represent the North West in the national finals. By far, the overwhelming strength of the Congleton entry is the community involvement in the project.**

60% of the marks are allocated for environmental responsibility and community involvement, and 40% for horticultural excellence. The team believes that its greater focus on sustainable

planting, peat-free compost, allotments, composting and growing our own plants, along with the excellent work of the many 'It's Your Neighbourhoods' and involvement of so many groups and organisations in the town-wide In Bloom community campaign, will give Congleton a great chance in the National finals. If you want to be part of the success and have ideas or time to make Congleton a cleaner and greener town the team would love to hear from you. You can contact the In Bloom team via Congleton in Bloom on Facebook or by emailing [info@congleton-tc.gov.uk](mailto:info@congleton-tc.gov.uk)

## 2020 Action for Leisure Centre Refurb

Funding and permissions are in place for the refurbishment of Congleton Leisure Centre and local people should see works start within the next couple of months. As Bear Necessities went to press Cheshire East was finalising the contract so that a definitive timeline of works can be published.

The new centre will have a brand-new swimming pool, much improved changing areas, a modern café and soft play area, state of the art fitness suite over two floors as well as squash courts and sports hall. Every effort is being made to ensure that visitors can safely use the centre while works are being carried out.

During the construction, part of Hankinson's field will be fenced off. This will not prevent continued play by the rugby club, and pedestrians and dog walkers will still be able to gain access to the field and to both bridges leading to the park. For more details see [www.cheshireeast.gov.uk](http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk)



## Let Unplugged Blow Away The Winter Blues...



### CONGLETON Unplugged is back!

For three weekends, from 29th February to 14th March, Congleton Unplugged 2020 brings you music events for everyone - genres include Prohibition, Blues,

Folk, Pop, Indie, and Choral, or just come along and singalong! NEW for 2020.....SPOKEN WORD events.

**The main event is FREE to enter, with more than 40 gigs over the weekend of March 6th, 7th, 8th across a variety of your favourite Congleton venues.**

Leading up to the FREE weekend there are some ticketed events including:

- **Saturday 29th February, CONGLETON CRICKET CLUB:** The Jake Leg Jug Band with sounds of 1920s and 30s America. Supported by Andy Boote, Tickets £6
- **Tuesday 3rd March, BEARTOWN TAP:** Poems and Pints hosted by John Lindley, bring your own poetry to read or just sit in and enjoy! FREE entry.
- **Wednesday 4th March, LIBRARY:** JUDAS! the story of Dylan going electric at Newport folk festival 1965. Tickets £6
- **Thursday 5th March, CYGNET CLUB:** JOHN DHALI and support, takes his musical presence to another level. Brought to you in association with Biddulph Up In Arms, Tickets £6.

Programmes and tickets are available from Congleton Visitor Information Centre and Stonehammer Music, and online at [www.WeGotTickets.com](http://www.WeGotTickets.com)

**Bear Necessities is produced by Congleton Town Council.**

**The next newsletter will be delivered around 6th April. All contributions should be sent by 16th March to Jackie MacArthur at Congleton Town Hall, High St., Congleton, CW12 1BN; or Tel 01260 270350; or email [jackie.macarthur@congleton-tc.gov.uk](mailto:jackie.macarthur@congleton-tc.gov.uk)**



# Know Your Councillor

**CONGLETON** is divided into two wards, East and West. As a rough guide East Ward covers Buglawton, Bromley Farm and Mossley. West Ward covers the Town Centre, West Heath, Lower Heath and Newcastle Road. Each ward is represented by 10 Councillors.

All Councillors can be contacted through the Town Council and further details can be seen at [www.congleton-tc.gov.uk](http://www.congleton-tc.gov.uk) Your Councillors elected to serve until May 2023 are:



Duncan Amies (I)



David Brown (C)



Robert Douglas (LD)



George Hayes (C)



Sally Ann Holland, Mayor (C)



Rob Moreton (I)



Denis Murphy, Deputy Mayor (LD)



Mark Rogan (I)



James Smith (LD)



Kay Wesley (WEP)

**East Ward Councillors**

**West Ward Councillors**



Suzie Akers Smith (I)



Dawn Allen (C)



Martin Amies (I)



Russell Chadwick (I)



Paul Duffy (LD)



Suzy Firkin (LD)



Margaret Gartside (LD)



Robert Hemsley (LD)



Amanda Martin (C)



Jean Parry (C)

C = Conservative; LD = Liberal Democrat; I = Independent; WEP = Womens Equality Party.

## New Business Plan

Congleton Town Council's approved Business Plan for 2020 - 2023 has a focus on climate change and reducing the town's carbon footprint, the importance of making sure that services and infrastructure in Congleton keeps pace with the growth in Congleton's population, as well as working towards reducing economic, social and health inequalities within our community.

Some of the key issues identified include the shortage of social housing, the lack of support for families, the climate emergency, the declining retail market and the need for sustainable transport and more promotion of our town.

Many of the priorities are the responsibility of other agencies such as Cheshire East Council, the NHS or national bodies, but Congleton Town Council has set itself the challenge of working in collaboration with others to drive change.

You can read the full Business Plan on the Congleton Town Council's website: [www.congleton-tc.gov.uk](http://www.congleton-tc.gov.uk)



## Town Council's Share of the Precept for 2020/21

Congleton Town Council is largely funded through a precept. This is added to your annual community tax collected by Cheshire East Council. Approximately 5% of your annual bill comes to the Town Council, with the majority going to Cheshire East, Cheshire Police and the Cheshire Fire Service. Additional income is raised through the hire of the Town Hall and specific grants and sponsorship.

From April 2020 the Town Council will increase its precept by 3.6% which makes the Town Council precept for an average band D property £89.31 per year, or £1.71 per week. This is 6p per week more than last year. Time and funding resources will be focussed towards activities which enable the Town Council to achieve the aims and objectives laid out in the 2020-2023 Business Plan.

## Climate Change Emergency Focus on Walking and Cycling

Congleton Town Council has declared a Climate Change Emergency. We are looking for residents help and support in reducing carbon use. Walking and cycling for short journeys is an effective way to help reduce carbon emissions, improve air quality and improve personal fitness.

It's good to start young, and this year it would be great if even more young people could cycle and walk to school. Schools can help by producing an active travel plan - with an active travel plan, schools may be eligible for funding for secure cycle parking, lockers for bags and equipment to support cycling to school.

The Town Council's sustainable transport group is keen to hear about the barriers that stop you from walking journeys of less than one mile or cycling journeys of less than two miles. We know that people put bikes in the car to visit the parks or drive to the leisure centre. What needs to be done so that people would choose to cycle or walk to their destination?

Many people making a small change will add up to a big difference! Please contact [info@congleton-tc.gov.uk](mailto:info@congleton-tc.gov.uk) with your ideas and suggestions to encourage more walking and cycling.

*There will be an opportunity to find out about planned improvements to the cycling infrastructure proposed for Congleton at a cycling and walking conference being held by Cheshire East Council on Friday 13th March at 11am at Crewe Alexander Stadium. Telephone 0777 929 5011, for more details.*



# An Ambitious Tree-Planting Scheme

Work is commencing on a plan to plant 30,000 trees in and around Congleton over the next five years. A sub-group from Congleton Partnership is proposing to plant trees across Congleton funded by grants from Congleton Partnership, William Dean Trust and Congleton Town Council, as well as many other public donations. The aim is to create a more attractive environment for all; the planting will also improve the overall environmental quality, (including air quality and noise reduction), of the neighbourhoods.

The team leading the project includes a local experienced professional Landscape Architect, Cheshire Wildlife Trust, experts from Cheshire East Council and Congleton Town Council plus a team of knowledgeable volunteers. All tree species will be carefully selected and will be appropriate for the location.

Trees benefit local communities in many ways including the following:

- Absorbing greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide, which in turn helps to combat climate change.
- Offering shade and a cool place for people to enjoy during periods of high temperature.
- Soaking-up rainwater helping to prevent localised flooding.
- Supporting wildlife through providing habitats for feeding and breeding as well as a shelter.
- Reducing noise pollution within the busy environment if they are planted in dense walls, hedges or avenues.

If you want to get involved, have suggestions for planting or wish to raise concerns, then please contact [info@congleton-tc.gov.uk](mailto:info@congleton-tc.gov.uk) with your email subject as: TREE PLANTING



## GREEN SPACE

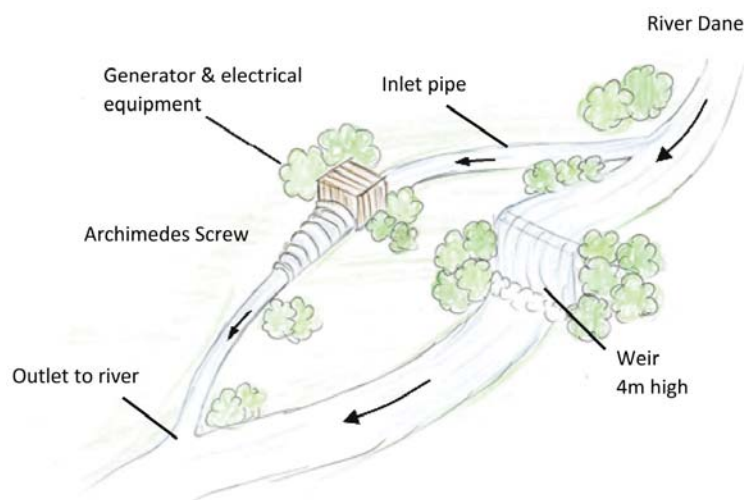
Congleton Neighbourhood Plan Working Group has identified 43 areas which it believes should be protected with a Local Green Space designation in the emerging Congleton Neighbourhood Plan. Local Green Space designation is a way to protect green areas or open spaces against development where they are of particular importance to local communities. The Congleton Neighbourhood Plan can only consider spaces **within** the Congleton Town boundary and not in the adjoining parishes.

The national guidance allows for a wide range of spaces to be included - but they do need to be in reasonably close proximity to the community and proven to be special to a local community and hold a particular local significance eg for its beauty, history, recreational value or richness of its wildlife.

Please take a few minutes to review the list of proposed Green Areas and Open Spaces listed on [www.congleton-tc.gov.uk](http://www.congleton-tc.gov.uk) and give comments at [info@congleton-tc.gov.uk](mailto:info@congleton-tc.gov.uk) or in Congleton Library.

## Invest in Congleton's Community Energy Scheme

After nearly four years of detailed work by the Dane Valley Community Energy volunteers the Hydro Project on Havannah Weir is now on a solid road to fruition. Extensive ground investigation works have enabled robust civil design and costings to be completed. It is planned that site work will commence by the middle of the year and electricity being generated late in 2020.



This will only happen if as a community we raise the capital through a Community Share Scheme regulated by the FCA (Financial Conduct Authority).

The Share Prospectus is currently being prepared and will be available later in January, 2020.

To register your interest in the Community Share Scheme and to receive a copy of the Prospectus please contact [admin@congletonhydro.co.uk](mailto:admin@congletonhydro.co.uk)



## Green Fayre

Following the first very successful Green Fayre held in the Town Hall in October 2019, Congleton is preparing to host two Green Fayres during 2020 - one on Saturday 30th May and one on Saturday 31st October. Both events will be held in the Town Hall and will showcase a wide range of organisations, groups, and businesses that can help reduce your carbon footprint or introduce fun and

environmentally friendly products into your personal, social or work life! There will also be a chance to catch up on green initiatives happening across the town.

If you would like to be considered for a FREE stall at the event please contact Mike Smith or Jackie MacArthur on 01260 270350 or email [info@congleton-tc.gov.uk](mailto:info@congleton-tc.gov.uk)



# Mayor's Annual Triathlon

Due to the building works taking place around the Congleton Leisure Centre the 4th Annual Congleton Town Mayor's Triathlon will not take place in April 2020. However, organisers are excited about working with Graham Construction on a fun cycling and running/jogging and walking events on the new Congleton Link Road ahead of it being opened to traffic towards the end of the year.



More will be revealed in future editions of Bear Necessities. It is hoped that the Mayor's Triathlon can return following the completion of the Leisure Centre.

## Support Grows for Elizabeth

The Elizabeth Group has been working hard and gaining some great coverage locally and nationally! The donations have been building up and the group has been adopted by several local businesses including Berisfords and the Co-op. They are now almost halfway towards their total for the statue.

The website [www.elizabethelmy.com](http://www.elizabethelmy.com) is up and running, and work has started on a

permanent heritage trail that will link to the website and enable people to walk through the town taking in several sites associated with Elizabeth and her work.

Fundraising events in the pipeline include a Celidh on 15th February at the Town Hall and Elizabeth Wolstenholme Elmy Lecture on 28th May. The group's patron, Dr Maureen Wright, will speak about Elizabeth's work and influence and launch her new book. There are also plans for an 'Elizabeth's Day' on the 2nd May when the heritage trail will be launched.

If you would like to help in any capacity please contact Susan Munro, [suziemunro@icloud.com](mailto:suziemunro@icloud.com). The group is always on the lookout for new volunteers, especially for fundraising activities.



## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES...

### Apply Now for Margaret's Fund!



Any groups, organisations and individuals with great ideas to strengthen or deliver cultural or environmental improvements in Congleton have until the 20th March to apply for a share of around £3,700 being distributed through the Margaret Williamson Memorial Fund.

Forms and further details can be downloaded from:  
[www.congletonpartnership.co.uk](http://www.congletonpartnership.co.uk)

Those selected to receive funds will hear at the end of March and receive the funds in April.

### Funding for Bright Ideas

Cheshire East Council has introduced two new forms of 'Bright Idea' funds to support not-for-profit organisations and to inspire local people to develop or enhance local projects. Funding is allocated four times a year. The closing dates for applications in 2020 are 27th March, 26th June, 25th September and 18th December.

#### My Bright Idea Fund

A maximum award of £250. This provides an opportunity for local residents who wish to share skills, interests and passions through volunteering to promote or deliver projects that will improve the health and wellbeing of their community.



#### Our Community Bright Idea Fund

A maximum award of £10,000.

Supports the continuation and development of not-for-profit organisations and local projects that are created with the local community. See more at [www.cheshireeast.gov.uk](http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk)



**Town Council Grants:** The Town Council also gives out grants to local groups and organisations who are carrying out projects or activities which benefit people in Congleton. Grants are made at the Finance and Policy Committees, held 6 to 8 times a year.

See [www.congleton-tc.gov.uk](http://www.congleton-tc.gov.uk) for an application form and full details of eligibility.

## News In Brief...

### WAR MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

The Minor Injuries Unit and the X-ray department at Congleton War Memorial Hospital have been closed since before Christmas due to electrical issues at the hospital. It is hoped that by early Feb the improvements to the system will allow the temporary electrical heaters to be removed, reducing the load on the electric circuits and enabling the X-ray to be operational. The Minor Injuries Unit should then re-open Monday - Friday 10am - 6pm, with the caveat that the NHS Trust can move staff at short notice to cover A&E at Macclesfield. It is always worth checking online that the Unit is open. The Town Council believes that the services provided at the War Memorial are vital for Congleton and the surrounding areas and is lobbying to ensure they continue and become more reliable.

### TOWN TIDIES

The first town tidy of the year will be held on Saturday 7th March. This will be followed by a town-wide Spring Clean on Saturday 21st March and then Town Tidies on the first Saturday of the month.

For info, see Congleton in Bloom.

### CONTACT CONGLETON POLICE

There has been an on-going spate of thefts from cars and vans parked around Congleton. Please ensure your vehicle is locked. If anyone has footage from home CCTV cameras of people acting suspiciously around vehicles the Police would be interested in viewing it. Report online via [www.cheshire.police.uk](http://www.cheshire.police.uk) or call 101.

### VENUE FOR MEETINGS AND TRAINING

Congleton Town Hall has transformed one of its smaller rooms - the Spencer Suite turning it into a smart room for local organisations and businesses to hire. Room hire is from just £15 an hour including Wifi, smart screen, and space for up to 10 delegates. Contact the Town Hall on 01260 270350 for bookings or see:

<https://www.congleton-tc.gov.uk/town-hall/book-the-town-hall/>

### DEMENTIA FRIENDS UPDATE

1,000+ people in Congleton have attended a Dementia awareness session and 19 business/ organisations have been awarded Dementia Friendly stickers. The new quarterly Local Activities Dementia Friendly booklet is available from the Town Hall, library, many cafés and doctors surgeries and contains more than 40 gentle activities which are suitable for people with dementia and their carers. Leaflet can be downloaded at [www.congletonpartnership.co.uk](http://www.congletonpartnership.co.uk)

# Events to Look Forward To in 2020

Below are some of the key events that we have been made aware of for 2020. We know that there are more events being worked on by various organising committees.

For the most up-to-date list of events, please check our website... [www.congleton-tc.gov.uk](http://www.congleton-tc.gov.uk)

## JANUARY

- 23 CTC Council Cmt, Town Hall, 7pm
- 25 Conquer Fitness Wild Winter Warrior & Wildlings Challenge
- 30 CTC Community & Environment Cmt, Town Hall, 7pm (CE)

## FEBRUARY

- 1 Opera Prize, Clonter Opera, 7pm
- 1 Nantwich Shadow Seekers Paranormal Investigation, Town Hall
- 3 NHS Blood Donor Session, Town Hall
- 4 Diabetic Friends Group Mtg, St. Mary's Parish Centre, 7.30pm
- 4-8 Congleton Players "Steel Magnolias", Daneside Theatre, 7.30pm
- 6 CTC Planning Cmt, Town Hall, 7pm
- 7-8 **Congleton Rotary Swimathon, Congleton Leisure Centre**
- 11-13 Eaton Bank Academy Performance, Daneside Theatre, 7.30pm
- 13 CTC Finance & Policy Cmt, Town Hall, 7pm
- 20 NHS Blood Donor Session, Town Hall
- 20 CTC Council Cmt, Town Hall, 7pm
- 21 Charity Soul & Motown Event, Town Hall
- 29 Come & Sing Event, Congleton United Reformed Church, 2pm

## MARCH

- 1 **Congleton Harriers Cloud 9 Fell Race**
- 3 NHS Blood Donor Session, Town Hall
- 5 CTC Planning Cmt, Town Hall, 7pm
- 6 PAS Finds Day, Congleton Museum, 10.30am
- 6-8 **Congleton Unplugged**
- 9-14 Trinity Amateur Operatic Society "The Full Monty", Daneside Theatre, 7.30pm
- 11 Tea with Songs from the Shows, Clonter Opera, 3.30pm
- 11-31 East Cheshire Eye Society Exhibition, Congleton Museum
- 12 CTC CE Cmt, Town Hall, 7pm
- 15 Macclesfield Symphony Orchestra Concert, Town Hall
- 16 NHS Blood Donor Session, Town Hall
- 19 CTC Finance & Policy Cmt, Town Hall, 7pm
- 21 Congleton In Bloom "Keep Britain Tidy" Town Tidy, 10am- location TBC.
- 21 The Four Horsemen, Electric Picture House- Spindle Mill, 7.30pm
- 21-28 Centre Stage Youth Theatre Company "Hairspray", Daneside Theatre
- 26 CTC Planning Cmt, Town Hall, 7pm
- 28 Congleton Youth Orchestra, Town Hall

## APRIL

- 2 CTC Council Cmt, Town Hall, 7pm
- 3-20 **Hop Around the Shops Easter Egg Hunt, Town Centre**

- 4 **Congleton Town Mayor's Ball**
- 7 **Easter Treats Day, Town Centre, 10am**
- 7 Diabetic Friends Group Mtg, St. Mary's Parish Centre, 7.30pm
- 10 **Easter Service, Town Centre**
- 14 NHS Blood Donor Session, Town Hall
- 15-17 **Hidden Talents Theatre Workshops (7-12 yrs), Electric Picture House- Spindle Mill**
- 18 Congleton Choral Society, Town Hall
- 23 CTC Town Hall, Assets & Services Cmt, Town Hall, 7pm
- 25 Northern Soul Charity Fundraiser, Town Hall

## MAY

- 1-2 Street Dance Academy Annual Showcase, Daneside Theatre, 7.30pm
- 2 Elizabeth's Group Community Event, Town Hall & Town Centre
- 8 **VE75 Day**
- 9 **Hidden Talents Theatre Performance, Electric Picture House- Spindle Mill**
- 14 **Congleton's Annual Town Mtg, Town Hall**
- 15 NHS Blood Donor Session, Town Hall
- 16 Beartown Boxing, Town Hall
- 16 Spring Opera Showcase, Clonter Opera, 7pm
- 21 **Congleton's Annual Council Mtg & Mayor Making, Town Hall**
- 23 **Congleton Paddling Pool Opens**
- 28 Elizabeth's Group Talk, Town Hall
- 29 NHS Blood Donor Session, Town Hall
- 30 Green Fayre, Town Hall

## JUNE

- 2 Diabetic Friends Group Mtg, St. Mary's Parish Centre, 7.30pm
- 5 PAS Finds Day, Congleton Museum, 10.30am
- 6 Jazz in June, Clonter Opera, 7pm
- 9-14 Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella, Clonter Opera
- 9-13 Congleton Players "Blue Remembered Hills", Daneside Theatre, 7.30pm
- 14 **Food & Drink Festival, Twn Centre, 10am**
- 15 NHS Blood Donor Session, Town Hall
- 21 **Brass on the Grass Pt1, Congleton Park, 1.30pm**

## JULY

- 4 Congleton Youth Orchestra, Town Hall
- 5 **Brass on the Grass Pt2, Congleton Park, 1.30pm**
- 10 NHS Blood Donor Session, Town Hall
- 14 NHS Blood Donor Session, Town Hall
- 18 **Congleton Pride**

**Congleton In Bloom taking part in North West and Britain In Bloom Judging.**

## AUGUST

- 2 **Brass on the Grass Pt3, Congleton Park, 1.30pm**
- 4 **Play Day, Town Centre**
- 4 Diabetic Friends Group Mtg, St. Mary's Parish Centre, 7.30pm
- 14 NHS Blood Donor Session, Town Hall

## 29-30 Jazz & Blues Festival

**August / September weekends - Congleton Youth In Bloom Back2Back Gardens, Community Polytunnel, Congleton Park, 2-4pm.**

## SEPTEMBER

- 4 PAS Finds Day, Congleton Museum, 10.30am
- 5 Congleton Horticultural Society Show, Town Hall
- 6 **Annual Congleton Lions Duck Race, Congleton Park**
- 6 **Congleton Paddling Pool Closes**
- 11-20 National Heritage Open Days
- 12-27 **Congleton Heritage & Antiques Festival**
- 13 **Opening of new Congleton Cenotaph**
- 17 NHS Blood Donor Session, Town Hall

## OCTOBER

- 4 **Congleton Harriers Annual Half Marathon**
- 6 **Community Wellbeing Fayre, Town Hall, 10am**
- 6 Diabetic Friends Group Mtg, St. Mary's Parish Centre, 7.30pm
- 9 NHS Blood Donor Session, Town Hall
- 31 **Green Fayre, Town Hall**

## NOVEMBER

- 6 PAS Finds Day, Congleton Museum, 10.30am
- 7 **Congleton Bonfire, Congleton Park**
- 7 Congleton Choral Society, Town Hall
- 8 **Remembrance Sunday**
- 21 **CONGLETON CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON EVENT, TOWN CENTRE**

## DECEMBER

- 1 Diabetic Friends Group Mtg, St. Mary's Parish Centre, 7.30pm

**Congleton Makers Market:** Held on the last Saturday of every month from 10am - 4pm.

**Congleton Museum:** Look out for Museum Talks on the last Tuesday of the month starting at 2pm and Museum Walks on the first Sunday of the month at 2pm- both from March onwards. More details at [www.congletonmuseum.co.uk](http://www.congletonmuseum.co.uk)

**Congleton In Bloom Town Tidies:** Scheduled for the first Saturday of each month, from March onwards. 10am-12noon, locations TBC each month- check the Town Council website and Facebook page for updates.



# 2022: Celebrating 750 Years of Congleton!

In 2022, Congleton will celebrate the 750th Anniversary of Congleton and the signing of the Charter allowing men of the town the right to hold land through the payment of rent rather than by personal service to the Lord of the Manor. It also gave the inhabitants of the town the right to elect a Mayor. (and an ale taster!). In 1972 Congleton's 700-year charter celebrations were legendary, and still fondly remembered by many residents. Now it is our turn to put on new and exciting events worthy of the town's 750 year anniversary.

Congleton Community Projects and Congleton Town Council are keen to hear from local groups, organisations, businesses, schools and residents about what they would like to see and do in 2022 and how they would like to get involved with Charter Year 750. The more time to prepare - the better the event and more opportunity to raise funds?

To get involved or register an interest, please contact [jo@congletoncommunityprojects.org](mailto:jo@congletoncommunityprojects.org) or [info@congleton-tc.gov.uk](mailto:info@congleton-tc.gov.uk) Alternatively, you can call 07833 742200 or 01260 270350.



Can you help make 2022 as memorable as 1972?

## Have You Ever Wanted to be a Dragon, a Unicorn, a Space Traveller?

**Come and join the team at The Electric Picture House to create a play about whatever you like!**

EPH are once again offering 7-12 year olds the opportunity to take part in Hidden Talents 2020. This exciting theatre project is an opportunity for young people to experience every detail of theatre performance and allows them to be in charge of the performance they create with guidance from the workshop facilitators. This involves writing the play, character development, costume and set design, producing, directing, poster and ticket design, stage craft and set dressing to name a few of the skills involved. Workshops begin in the Easter holidays - 15th, 16th, 17th April - from 10.30-3.30pm. Further workshops will be decided once the group has formed. No skills are required but commitment to the project is essential.

The group will perform their created piece to an audience on Saturday 9th May at the Electric Picture House in Spindle Mill.

Hidden Talents promises you'll have lots of fun, through imagination, getting messy and learning plenty of stuff along the way.

For further details and to book your place, email [electricpicturehouse@gmail.com](mailto:electricpicturehouse@gmail.com) or 01260 270908 (10am-4pm).



## 'The Full Monty' Comes to Daneside!



Trinity Amateur Operatic Society will be performing 'The Full Monty' at the Daneside Theatre from 9th - 14th March. The Americanised musical stage version of the 1997 British film sees six unemployed Buffalo steel workers, low on both cash and prospects, decide to present a strip act at a local club after seeing their wives' enthusiasm for a touring Chippendale company. A story of overcoming fears, anxiety and growing camaraderie.

Tickets on sale from the Visitor Information Centre and on-line.

## Macclesfield Symphony Orchestra



Music lovers will be in for a treat on Sunday 15th March when the Macclesfield Symphony Orchestra (formerly KEMS) will give a concert of popular music, in the Town Hall, starting at 7.30pm. This will include the Strauss Horn Concerto No 2, Rachmaninov Symphony No 1, Wagner Overture and Glinka Valse-Fantasia. Tickets cost £12 or £2.50 (under 18s) available online at [www.kems.org.uk](http://www.kems.org.uk) or from Congleton VIC or StoneHammer Music in the High Street.

## Congleton Choral Society Spring Concert

Congleton Choral Society's Spring Concert will take place on Saturday April 18th in Congleton Town Hall, when it will perform Haydn's mighty Creation Mass along with Beethoven's much-loved Mass in C Major. The Choral Society will be under the direction

of Christopher Cromar and it is a great opportunity to hear sublime singing supported by professional soloists and orchestra. Tickets will be available from the Visitor Information Centre. For additional info, see [www.congletonchoralsociety.org.uk](http://www.congletonchoralsociety.org.uk)

## Easter in Congleton

There will be plenty of Easter Fun to be had in Congleton this year!

The annual 'Hop around the Shops' Egg Hunt will run from 3rd - 20th April and there will be fun, games and entertainment in the Town Centre on Tuesday 7th April. Congleton churches will hold a service in the Town Centre on Friday 10th at 12 noon.

