

Jolly Boys Outing - Congleton - 4th. January 2018

Congleton is a town and civil parish in the unitary authority of Cheshire East and the ceremonial county of Cheshire, England. It lies on the banks of the River Dane, 21 miles (34 km) south of Manchester and to the west of the Macclesfield Canal. At the 2011 Census, the parish had a population of 26,482.

Congleton is not the easiest place to reach. Trains are from Manchester, Stockport, Macclesfield and Stoke on Trent. Into town is a fairly long walk downhill, about 20 minutes, from the station or by 94 bus to the bus station. Bus stop is on the opposite side of the road to the station bus is hourly xx36.

The Pubs

1. Counting House, 18 Swan Bank, Congleton, CW12 1AH. Wetherspoons town centre outlet converted from former bank. It is possible to drink at tables inside the former bank vault in the centre of the pub. Busy with a young crowd at weekends but also popular for lunchtime and early evening diners while older drinkers enjoy the range of beers and competitive prices throughout the week. Local beers such as Beartown and Titanic are stocked regularly. 1 on map
2. Bulls Head, Mill Street, Congleton, CW12 1AB. Next door to 1 opens 1030. Previously a Hydes Pub now run by Amber Taverns. **The rest of the pubs do not open until 1200 so may have to spend longer in 1 and 2. 2 on map**
3. White Lion, (also known as Olde White Lion), 22 High Street, Congleton, CW12 1BD. This white half timbered building dates back to at least the early 1600s and is reputed to have been the office where John Bradshaw (Congleton Town Mayor 1637-38, and whilst President of the Court the signatory of Charles I's death warrant) served as an apprentice attorney in 1620 (as attested by the plaque put up in 1997). Internally the building's age is apparent in the low beamed ceilings in the single room, well served by the bar running down the left-hand side. At the rear is a well appointed contemporary beer garden, with two large heated canopies providing a good-sized smoking area. The home-cooked lunchtime food (not Mondays) is good quality and exceptional value: the portion sizes are definitely not for those with smaller appetites! Changing beers. 3 on map
4. Olde Kings Arms, 1 High Street, Congleton, CW12 1BN. Very attractive white coloured half-timbered grade II listed building dates back to 1585 and is reputed to have been an office used by John Bradshaw, one of the signatories to Charles I's death warrant. There is local controversy that the pub may have previously been known as the Irish Tavern or as the Kings Head. Internally the building's age is apparent in the low beamed ceilings and range of floor finishes in stone, tile, wood and carpet. Apart from the main bar there are three other rooms, these being a small lounge with settees, a conservatory and a games room with billiard table. Taken over by Titanic Brewery in November 2014, the pub offers the usual Titanic range including their loyalty card which gives you 3% off any purchase. The pub will revert to Marstons after 31st August 2017. Had a food menu where all food was £5. 4 on map
5. Prince of Wales, (formerly Phoenix Tap), 4-6 Lawton Street, Congleton, CW12 1RP. A good revitalised pub for the town reopened in 2015 and is now owned by Joules brewery.

The pub sells three Joules beers plus three guest beers one often local. The pub has been divided into three areas creating snug corners with a real fire and interesting décor with green tiled walls and enamel signs, lots of artefacts adorn the rooms. There is a good sized outside drinking area to the rear of the pub. Food is served lunchtimes and evenings. 5 on map

6. Queens Head Hotel, Park Lane, Congleton, CW12 3DE. Independent free-house situated next to the railway station that markets itself as a "pub with personality" and caters for all types of pub users. The public bar area which includes a pool table and other pub games, is separate from the comfortable lounge area, whilst at the upper end is a restaurant style area, although the pub does good quality food without being a restaurant. Boules are played in the summer and darts, pool and crib throughout the year. There is a quiz on Monday, pool on Wednesdays and occasionally live music events. What Pub says opens at 1200 but it served breakfast and was open at 1100 when we went. 6 on map

A on the map is the railway station and b the bus station.

