



**Meeting:** Senior Forum

**Date:** 25.11.25 **Time:** 10:00 am **Location:** Zoom

**In attendance:** Suzy Firkin (Chair), Cathy Dean (Secretary), Kay Wesley, Glen Williams, Jonny Gribbon, David Morris, Diane Ritherdon, Catherine Sale, Kate Fallon, Sue Russell, David Thomas, David McGifford, Michelle Bailey.

**Apologies:**

<b>1.</b>	<p><b><u>Welcome</u></b></p> <p>Suzy welcomed everyone to the meeting. The minutes dated 26.08.25 were accepted as a true record of the meeting, with the correction of the Health &amp; Wellbeing Fayre Date.</p>
<b>2.</b>	<p><b>Outstanding Actions:</b></p> <p><b>A</b> - Ability Net Sessions – meetings are continuing at the Library and Bromley Farm Hub, Jonny to send over new poster. <b>(Completed.)</b></p> <p><b>A</b> – Arrange a session for the wider group to go through the information produced by the Lions dementia lead. Cathy/David to arrange a suitable time. <b>(Carry Forward)</b></p> <p><b>A</b> – Bring together community leads, event for services for the older community, Senior Forum Open Session, precursor to the Wellbeing Fayre? Generate renewed energy into the group and gather more ideas on how we can better work together as a community. <b>(Carry Forward)</b></p>
<b>3.</b>	<p><b><u>Introduction to the School Readers Project</u></b></p> <p>Michelle Bailey joined the meeting to introduce the school readers charity</p> <p>School readers volunteers are matched with a primary school that is local to them. They visit once a week for an hour or two and listen to children read individually to help develop the children’s reading and comprehension skills. Volunteers do not need any relevant prior experience or specific skills, but they do need to have good written and spoken English and be able to commit to visiting their school for at least a year, although holidays and appointments can be taken during this time.</p> <p><b>Website link</b> - <a href="https://www.schoolreaders.org/">https://www.schoolreaders.org/</a></p>

	<p><b>Application form link</b> - <a href="https://www.schoolreaders.org/volunteer-application-form">https://www.schoolreaders.org/volunteer-application-form</a> - we can post out a paper copy if someone would prefer that, they just need to get in touch with me or with the office <a href="mailto:admin@schoolreaders.org">admin@schoolreaders.org</a></p> <p>Flyers attached, see appendix.</p> <p>Huge benefit for both the volunteer and the children. Certainly something we would like to promote/develop in Congleton.</p> <p>A. Arrange another meeting to discuss in detail how we can promote/assist.</p> <p>A. CEC Team to forward to community development officers</p>
<p><b>4.</b></p>	<p><b><u>Dementia Friends Update</u></b></p> <p>Diane, David and Ian attended ‘Know Your Memory Event’ organised by CHOC on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2025. Held at the Town Hall, the Partnership sponsored room hire.</p> <p>Text messages to a select cohort from the 3 Congleton GP practices were sent out, 50 people registered, and 40 people attended. Diane gave a talk and shared the 10 commandments of how to prevent Dementia. A successful event.</p> <p>Diane will be providing training and support to U3A group leaders to spot early signs of dementia vs normal ageing. There is a need for more sensitive handling of people living with dementia, early intervention, where carers/friends/family can attend with the group member FOC.</p> <p><b><u>No Tier Snooker</u></b></p> <p>The group continues to go from strength to strength, successful grant application to Inclosure Trust. Snooker Hall has offered to hold a further 2 sessions in the new year.</p> <p>Christmas lunch with Steve Davis has sold out at Pecks Restaurant, and it should be a great event.</p>
<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b><u>Changing Lives Together Befriending Project</u></b></p> <p>The initial project ended after 4 years; overall, 196 residents were supported across Congleton.</p> <p>A successful grant application to the Healthy Neighbourhoods fund will allow us to continue the telephone befriending and launch a warm welcome group.</p> <p>A meeting with Changing Lives Together has been organised to discuss the new project with a view to starting in January 26.</p>

6.	<p><b><u>Health and Wellbeing Fayre 17<sup>th</sup> March 2025</u></b></p> <p>Lions has confirmed that they will be sponsoring their Dementia Lead to attend the Fayre with the 'dementia experience'. Perhaps we could organise a talk more aimed at professionals than the general public dropping in.</p> <p>Stall invites will be sent out in early January.</p> <p>A. Go out for business sponsorship</p>
7.	<p><b><u>Christmas Tea Dance 17<sup>th</sup> December 2025</u></b></p> <p>Invites to be sent to local groups and care homes etc</p> <p>Invitations are done, and help in canvassing areas is gratefully received. The invitation is attached in the appendix. Please share with your contacts. RSVP to <a href="mailto:cathy.dean@congleton-tc.gov.uk">cathy.dean@congleton-tc.gov.uk</a></p> <p>The Lion's Santa offered to make a special visit.</p>
8.	<p><b><u>AOB</u></b></p> <p>Congleton Ramblers now offer wellbeing walks on the first Thursday of every month, starting at Astbury Mere Car Park at 10 am. 60-90 minutes easy terrain at a steady pace.</p> <p>Contact Jo Morgan – <a href="mailto:jo@ashtree.farm">jo@ashtree.farm</a></p> <p>Community Litter Picks – Glen to discuss with Sue.</p> <p>Kate (CHOC) is launching a multi-generational place project. Primary schools are taking children into care homes</p> <p><b>Next Meeting Date.</b></p> <p>TBC</p>

**Schoolreaders**  
improving literacy • increasing life chances

**Volunteers  
Needed!**



One in four children leave primary school unable to read to the expected standard.

**This will have a negative impact on their secondary education and future life chances.**

Children's literacy charity Schoolreaders is recruiting volunteers in Congleton to listen to children read in primary schools.

If you have some time to spare, a good grasp of written English, and if you enjoy spending time with children, you could become a Schoolreader.

Volunteers are asked to listen to children read once a week in term time and to commit to a full academic year, though of course holidays and weeks off on occasion are no issue.

You can find out more on our website, or by giving us a call on 01234 924111.

If you can spare just an hour a week to listen to children read, you can help to change their life-story.

**To find out more about Schoolreaders please visit  
[www.schoolreaders.org](http://www.schoolreaders.org)**

Schoolreaders CIO Registered Charity Number: 1159157. Registered in England and Wales



YOU ARE INVITED

# Christmas

TEA PARTY

With

Singer Rich Hazlewood

WEDNESDAY **17** DECEMBER

12:30-2:30 PM AT

CONGLETON TOWN HALL

Includes afternoon tea of sandwiches, cakes and  
freshly brewed tea or coffee.

Free to attend!

Traditional and seasonal music

Presented by Congleton's Partnership

RSVP: [Cathy.Dean@Congleton-tc.gov.uk](mailto:Cathy.Dean@Congleton-tc.gov.uk)

M: 07977 065 647