



# The History of our Bear

"What's the connection between Congleton & Bears?"



# Colour me in!

Choose your favourite pattern & colours!



# Bears

Tick off the Bears when you find them!

If you are new to Congleton or visiting, you may be wondering what the importance of the bear is to the town, which has the nickname 'Beartown'.

You will see around the town centre sixty five, 5 foot tall decorated bears painted by local schools, organisations and businesses. 'Bearmania' is a Community Arts Festival running from May to October 2011.

Let's learn a little about the legend of the bear...

Bear baiting was fashionable in the medieval period and at least on one occasion the town enjoyed the King's Majestys' bears that remained in the town for a week after Whitsuntide.

The legend or perhaps the truth as to why Congleton got its nickname relates to a crisis in the 1660s that occurred because the bear died just before the Wakes holiday. Reluctant to miss the opportunity for bear baiting, the Corporation allegedly sold the Town Bible to buy a new bear.

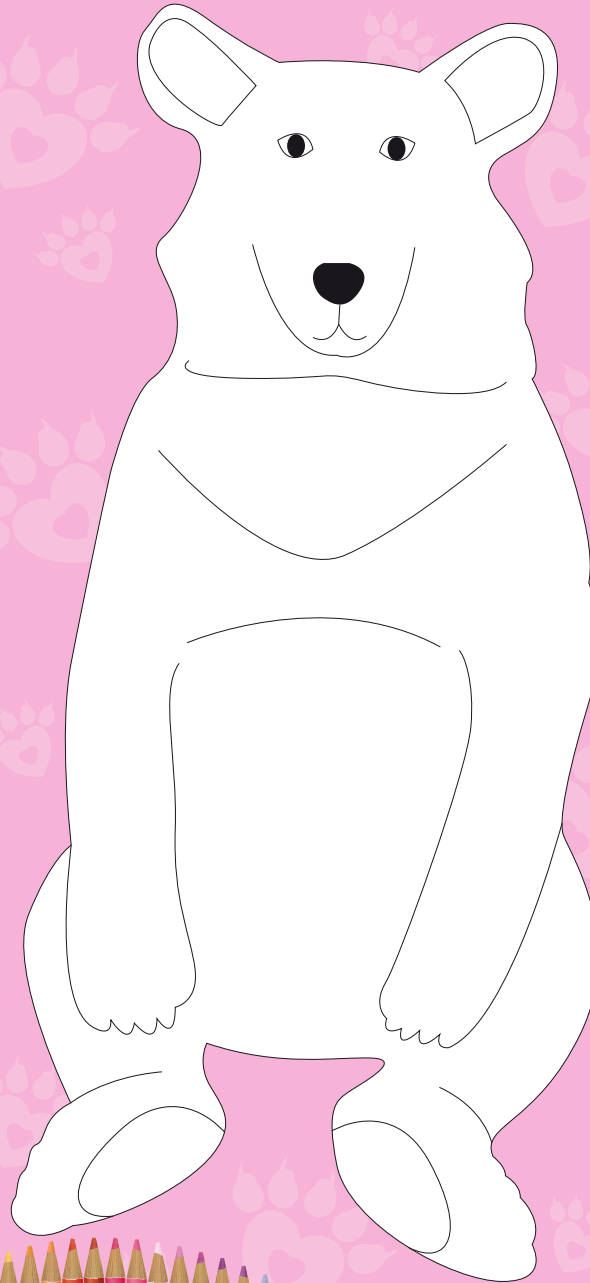
A less discreditable alternative tale is that faced with a possible resentful populace, the Corporation lent the Bearward (bearkeeper) 16 shillings to get a bear. This money was taken from the Town Chest which contained money saved to purchase a new Bible. This incident has given rise to the following rhyme:

**Congleton rare,  
Congleton rare,  
Sold the Town Bible  
to buy a new bear**

(With permission from Congleton: History & Guide by Joan P Alcock)

Many local sporting clubs have adopted the bear for their logos and it appears on the Town Crest.

The 'Bearmania' festival is aiming to change the concept of bear baiting and dancing to a modern one of friendliness and caring by sending some of the proceeds of the festival to support Animals Asia which rescues moon bears from bear farms, where they are held in cruel captivity for their bile which is used in traditional Asian medicines.



- 5. Justice (Micah 6 v.8)
- 6. Mayor Bear
- 7. Mercian Bear
- 8. Robert Ted
- 9. Jiggy Bear
- 11. Annie - 40th Anniversary Bear
- 13. Barely Midnight
- 26. Animals Asia
- 28. Beau
- 33. Henry Ford
- 37. Silky Bear
- 38. Doodle Bear
- 55. Rainbow Bear



- 2. Flower Power
- 3. Astro Bear
- 4. Fleur Bear
- 10. Beanie Bear
- 12. Our Town
- 14. Bear Truth
- 15. Paws for Thought
- 16. Bluebell
- 17. Louis Tattooie
- 18. Bear Force
- 19. Biggys
- 20. Paws for Floors
- 21. X-Ray Ted
- 22. Traeh - the Bear with the big heart!
- 23. The Visyon Bear
- 24. Scarlet Pearmain (1883)
- 25. Inspirational Bear

- 27. Burnie D'Wood
- 29. Pulsington Bear
- 30. Rucking Grizzly
- 31. Bear NeceSESities of Life
- 34. Messy Bear
- 35. Welcome Bear
- 36. Magnus Bear
- 39. Alpha Bear - 1st for Road Safety
- 40. Bearlicious
- 41. Bob
- 42. Bernard
- 43. Johnson
- 44. Baloo
- 45. Sandy



- 32. Hair Bear
- 46. Teach-a-bear
- 47. Bejewelled Bear
- 48. Hands for Hope Bear
- 49. Well Read Bear
- 50. Willbearham
- 51. Out of this World Bear
- 52. Grrrrrover
- 53. Respect a Bear
- 54. Ratabam
- 56. Savannah
- 57. One World Bear
- 58. Bubble Bear
- 59. Bosley Bear
- 60. Cheshire Bear
- 61. Marton Bear
- 62. Eaton Banksy Bear
- 63. Care Bear
- 64. Bearglar
- 65. Teddy Bear