

Leigh on Sea Town Council News

issue 01



Arts & Culture | Clubs & Societies | Business
Schools | Churches | Council Facilities & Outside Spaces
Council Reports & 2013-14 Accounts

Wow! In compiling the articles and features in this new publication I've been amazed to discover a whole lot more about Leigh that I had no idea existed.

I always knew Leigh was special but goodness me, there really are some incredible people making things happen. I'm sure I have only tapped the surface too, so if you feel you've been missed out, do get in touch and I'll see what I can do for the next edition.

The main reason we are funding this is to let you know what the councillors are up to on your behalf. It's our attempt at transparency. You might be surprised at all that the council does for the Town and people of Leigh. If you want to be more involved, as a volunteer or future councillor, drop into the Community Centre or email us - we'd really appreciate your ideas and comments on anything that can help make Leigh the best it can be. We can only do this with your support.



*Thank you,
The Editor
Jane Ward.*

01702 716 288

ltnnews@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk
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Calendar

MAY

15th
Farmer's Market
Leigh Community Centre
22nd
Under 5's Charity
Inflatable Fun
Leigh Community Centre

JUNE

6th-13th
Leigh Art Trail
Various locations
7th
Island to Island
Mud Run
Old Leigh
19th
Farmer's Market
Leigh Community Centre
25th-28th
Folk Festival
Various locations

JULY

17th
Farmer's Market
Leigh Community Centre

AUGUST

2nd
Leigh Maritime Festival
Old Leigh
22nd
Farmer's Market
Leigh Community Centre

SEPTEMBER

12th
Buzzlefest
Leigh Library Gardens
18th
Farmer's Market
Leigh Community Centre
20th
Leigh Regatta
Old Leigh

OCTOBER

16th
Farmer's Market
Leigh Community Centre

NOVEMBER

20th
Farmer's Market
Leigh Community Centre
27th
Night of the Lights
Leigh Town

DECEMBER

12th
Carols
Strand Wharf



Our programme of 2015 events began in March with the annual **Easter Family Fun Event**. There was magic, music, messy play as well as arts, crafts and bouncy castles to name a few. Hope you all had fun!

Next up is the **Leigh Maritime Festival** on Sunday 2nd August. As with all our events, it is free and open to all Leigh residents and visitors. We move to the Old Town for this event and hope to build on the success of last year's inaugural event. Attractions this year will include a special exhibition of the **London Wreck** - the local major nautical archaeological find, **Kids Zone** on Strand Wharf, Scott & Stapleton **Maritime Marquee**, **TS Implacable Sea Cadet Corps** and the historic **Endeavour** along with other vintage and working boats. Being August, even if the Maritime element does not interest you, come along for the **Holiday Italia** within the food market.

Planning will be starting now for our annual **Night of the Lights** on Friday 27th November, although entries for its major attraction, the **Yuletide Parade** started rolling in at the beginning of the year! Once again the parade will start from Kings Road and finish in Broadway West. It is the biggest family event we organise and we hope even more traders will wish to be involved this year to keep it family orientated. Don't forget to put **Carols** on Strand Wharf, Saturday 12th December in the diary. The backdrop of the Old Town with the twinkling lights in the Estuary help to make this a truly special occasion.

As with all our events we try to keep them fresh, so look out for the planned new features. We are hoping to bring you another community pantomime this year at Leigh Community Centre in conjunction with Principal Girl Productions - details in our next issue.

In 2014 our events helped raise over £4,500 for a variety of local charities and will be doing the same this year, so we do hope you will be able to support and enjoy as many events as possible.

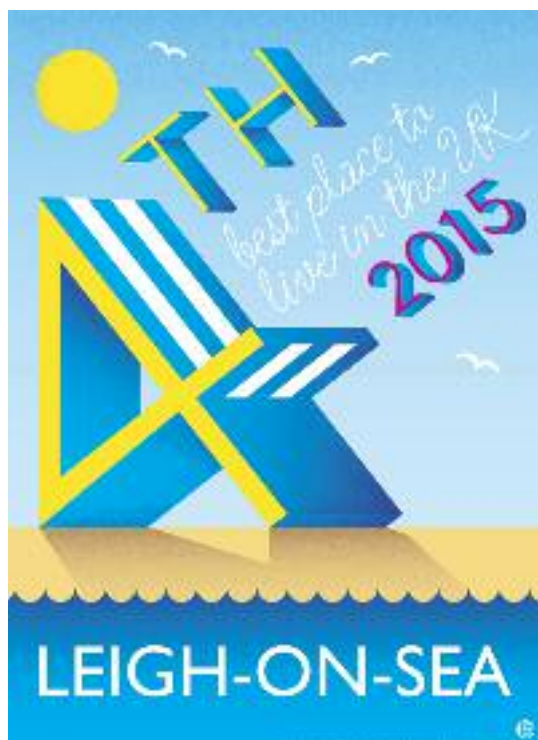
If you would like to be involved in any way, from taking part to being a volunteer, please feel free to contact our Events Officer Helen Symmons - she will be delighted to hear from you.
helen.symmons@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk

Welcome to the first ever Leigh on Sea Town Council News

We are delivering this to all households and businesses in the Leigh Town Council area. Our aim is to be transparent in all that we do and to create a dialogue with the Leigh community so that we can better represent you and your views. This will be a twice yearly newsletter distributed in June and December.

Leigh on Sea has been described as an undiscovered jewel, it is listed as one of the best places to live in the country, young families are flooding into the Town and the quality of life here and the community spirit is a major attraction. It is a vibrant and successful Town and the Town Council is proud to play our part. We work hard to support that, by campaigning to keep our library (and all the libraries), fighting to save services for the young and elderly, and fighting local issues for our residents.

© Joanne Holbrook



We provide a wide range of services which make this Town better - supporting the local economy with encouragement and involvement with many groups - and supporting the community with our programme of events.

These last four years have been a period of great change and advancement by Leigh Town Council. We have taken over and now run the Community Centre which is going from strength to strength and is fast becoming a focal point for the community. In addition, we help and support the local allotment societies, review local planning applications, have a programme to help the elderly with community transport, we have capital projects at Strand Wharf and the Bonchurch Park Outdoor Gym, as well as supporting the Skate Park and paddling pool. We also provide for a school crossing patrol, bus shelters and hanging baskets of flowers too. I think you'll agree that the Christmas Lights event was really well attended as were the Carols on Strand Wharf. We work with many community groups and provide ongoing personal assistance to our residents, particularly on planning.

We have invested our time in bringing together and working with community groups such as the Old Town Community Group and the Leigh Road Traders.

Although it has taken some time to come to fruition, this year we finally see work commence on Strand Wharf providing a new resource for the Old Town.

Your councillors and the staff have worked hard devoting thousands of unpaid hours, we may have failings but it has not been a failure of effort. The Council has restructured with a new slim line programme of meetings, these will encourage involvement with the community as well release time and money to ensure the success of all our work. We continue to strive to improve our communications with a new interactive website coming soon and with this publication.

Chairman Cllr. Richard Herbert

In this issue



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Maritime Festival



Allotments, Manchester Dr.



Bonchurch Park

Allotments Sub Committee
Paul Lawrence

There are 3 allotment societies in Leigh; 2 within the Manchester Drive site and 1 at Marshall Close. Leigh Town Council holds a service level agreement with each of them with the societies handling most of the day to day running of their sites. This joint arrangement has proved positive all round. In addition many plot holders have volunteered and put in a lot of extra work to improve the conditions and facilities on their sites.

Three years ago we started a programme to renew the fencing around the large site at Manchester Drive. A further 40 metres of security fencing has been added to the south boundary of the Leigh site this year to complete most of the perimeter; we aim to strengthen any remaining vulnerable patches in due course. This has made a great difference to the security of the site and we would like to thank the societies and individuals for all their financial and 'hands-on' contributions which have helped to make this possible.

With greater security on the northern boundary, many more plots are being used at the top of the site. MDAS members have worked hard to put in some extra water troughs there to ease the burden of watering the crops. These were jointly funded by MDAS and the Council.

In addition the Council has recently installed a high security gate to give added protection on our smaller site at Marshall Close.

Both the societies run popular cafes which have been inspected this year and have received the appropriate health certificates. They have also held many successful social events and open days. These provide the opportunity for plot holders to meet socially, introduce other residents to the delights of the allotments and raise considerable funds for the societies and charity. Well done to all who organised and helped at these events.

The community orchard continues to thrive, thanks mainly to David Hammond - and his helpers received a tasty reward of a selection of different varieties of apples in the autumn.

We are very pleased, therefore, to report that our allotments continue to flourish providing healthy produce - and activity - for the hundreds of plot holders and their families.

31st March 2015

Council Committee Reports

Transport and Highways Committee Caroline Parker

The planting of a wild flower meadow has taken place at the junction of London Road and Eastwood Road. This should be quite colourful soon. As you are aware lots of items on our agendas come from the public; here are a few requests we've tried to address this year

Residents parking permits – Southend Borough Council declined stating they could not implement in just one or two areas but would have to cover the whole of Leigh. There is no funding available.

Hadleigh Road/London Road junction, confusion of vehicle positioning. Southend Borough Council reply there have not been any recorded accidents, so therefore does not need improving.

Tesco lorries in Broadway – Southend Borough Council informed me there was no ideal time for deliveries. Day time road busy. Night time it disturbs residents. Shops need delivery of goods. No solution from the Highways Department, I'm afraid.

Car parking in Broadway overnight – Traders requested "1 hour early morning" for vehicles as it affects their trade. Southend Borough Council's answer was cost again, as with resident's permits. No funding available. Fly tipping on Two Tree Island and rubbish dumped in alleyways around Leigh we bring to Southend's attention regularly, plus parking signs.

In conclusion to end on a positive note, painting of Broadway bollards is scheduled shortly, as I hope is the cleaning of some street signs (which are turning green in colour). A flagpole has been erected outside the Community Centre, we can now fly the nations flag. Leigh Station now has decent bus shelters for travellers/ commuters and a new seat/bench should be erected in Bonchurch Park any day now, all driven by the Transport and Highways Committee. We also supply funding for the crossing patrol for North Street School.

NB. THIS COMMITTEE'S RESPONSIBILITIES ARE NOW PART OF THE NEW PLANNING, LICENCING AND HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE

Allotment Rent 2014/15

	STARTER PLOT (A/B/C)			HALF PLOT (E/W)			FULL PLOT		
Tenancy Deposits	£15.00			£25.00			£50.00		
	Rent	Water	Total	Rent	Water	Total	Rent	Water	Total
Over 60's	7.00	2.00	£9.00	10.50	3.00	£13.50	21.00	6.00	£27.00
Full	14.00	2.00	£16.00	21.00	3.00	£24.00	42.00	6.00	£48.00

Key Charges

£5.00 for Leigh and Manchester Drive Sites, £10.00 for Marshall Close Site



Pensioners Day Out



Easter Bonnet Competition



Lower Thames Rowing Awards



Leigh Lights 2014

Environment and Leisure
Committee Carole Mulroney

The last year has been very exciting for the Council and for Environment & Leisure. We are a forward thinking Committee, we want to do projects and events which excite and enthuse our residents and we have achieved that in spades this year.

On Strand Wharf, a 'major project' has been granted, planning permission gained and the work will commence later this year, adding a fabulous new facility to the Old Town.

Working closely with the Borough Council, we opened the new outdoor gym in Bonchurch Park. Another new facility.

Our skate park continues to give pleasure to our young people who I am delighted to say are working with us to put together a scheme of improvements. Teenagers working with us - how great is that!

Our events go from strength to strength. The Easter event - ever popular and evolving each year.

Our new Maritime Festival was a huge success and will be better and better year on year.

What can I say about Leigh Lights other than if you weren't there what a night you missed! The extension along Leigh Road and the change of route was a real winner. A really sparkling start to the Christmas period.

We followed swiftly with Small Business Saturday, working with the Borough Council to promote our wonderful business opportunities in Leigh.

Rounding off the year with the ever popular Carols on Strand Wharf.

Hard work goes into all of these events and I am grateful to colleagues and staff for their efforts and time. I am especially grateful to Helen Symmons our Events Officer, her enthusiasm is boundless, her ideas never stop coming, so watch this space. Lastly to the people of Leigh who help and support our efforts. These are your events and we are open to your ideas and working with you in the Community spirit that Leigh has in abundance.

Planning, Licensing & Highways
Committee Pat Holden

Our Committee meets twice a month as applications have to be determined by Southend Borough Council within a strict time frame. We consider all planning applications within our parish, well over 300 in the last year. We then send our comments to Southend Borough Council Planning Dept. Since September we have considered 188 applications and objected to 64. We cannot make any final planning decisions, but make representation, with our local knowledge, sometimes highlighting issues that may not be apparent to Southend Planning Dept. We believe that the well-being of neighbours and the appearance of the street scene are as important as the aspirations of those submitting applications.

Leigh - with its attractive streets, conservation areas, open spaces and range of building sizes - offers an environment which provides residents with a sense of place which is both unique and worth defending.

Leigh Council are as keen as anyone to retain the special character and individuality of Leigh.

However, planning decisions are controlled legally by Government policies at the highest level and, within those, by Southend Council policies.

The Committee also responds to local licensing applications; these are far fewer in number, but also receive our consideration. We had success in persuading one applicant to reduce their requirements to a far more socially acceptable level than originally requested.

Recently the Committee has also taken on the role of responding to Road Traffic Orders.

For any of these applications, we welcome members of the public to sit in on our formal committee meetings and we give them the opportunity to put their views, either for or against applications. These, along with any letters and emails we receive, help us to appreciate each situation and inform our responses to Southend.

Please come along to see how we work. NB: we can guide and support members of the public if they have concerns about proposed developments that may impact them. equally Southend Borough Council produce guidance for home owners on extensions and loft conversions.

Community Centre Report
David Stanley

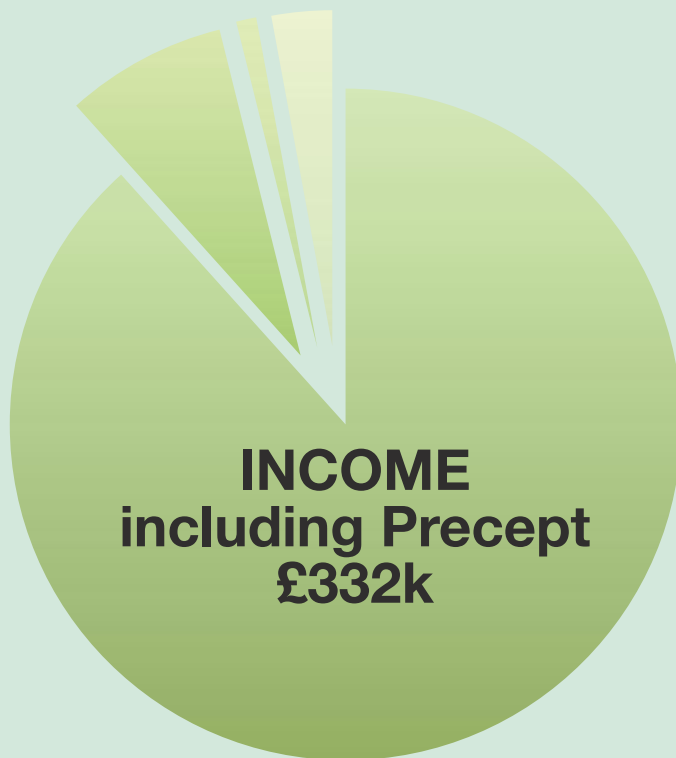
This year we celebrated 100 years of the Community Centre and this "beating heart" of our town has perhaps never been so treasured by the people of Leigh. How fitting that we have also recently negotiated a further 30 year lease with Southend Borough Council to ensure the future of this iconic building for us all. Demand continues to grow through extension of bookings by existing users together with a large number of repeat hirers. Weekends are now often just as busy as weekdays. This equates to just under a thousand more bookings in 2014/15 compared with the previous year.

We had five weddings and receptions here, including our first gay wedding and a pre-wedding mehndi celebration with 200 attendees. We also hosted a school reunion for a former councillor whose parents were married here in 1939!

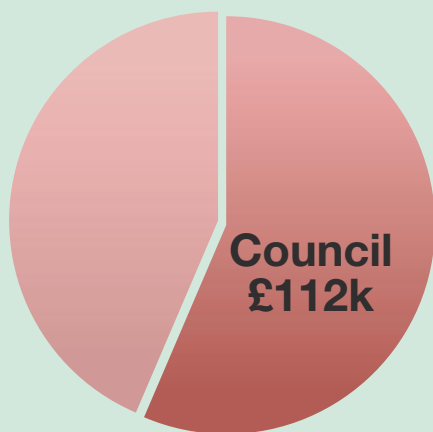
There have been concerts, quizzes and charity events but most demand has come from children's parties - even our caretakers can sing 'Let it Go' from Frozen! Perhaps the more memorable event was the fabulous "Cinderleigh" Pantomime which raised money for three local charities.

The Affordable Art walls go from strength to strength and we thank our resident artist Madelaine for all her efforts.

A building of this age comes with a great deal of responsibility. Leigh Town Council continues to ensure the Community Centre is safe and equipped for the 21st Century. The most visible examples are the repairs and repainting of the façade, and the new flagpole.



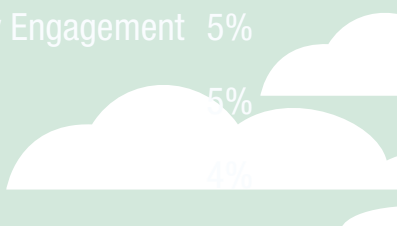
Precept	91%
Local Council Tax Grant	8%
Waste Sacks	3%
Interest	1%



Salaries	57%
Office Admin	44%



Capital Project Fund	56%
VAT Payment	12%
Elections	8%
Bursary Fund	5%
Community Engagement	5%
Renewals	5%
Intern	4%
Janitorial	3%
Annual Town Meeting	0.5%
Legal Costs	0.5%



Leigh on Sea Population 22,509 **Census 2011**

Staffing	82%
Skate Park	7%
School Crossing Patrol	6%
Highways	5.5%
Phone Box	0.5%



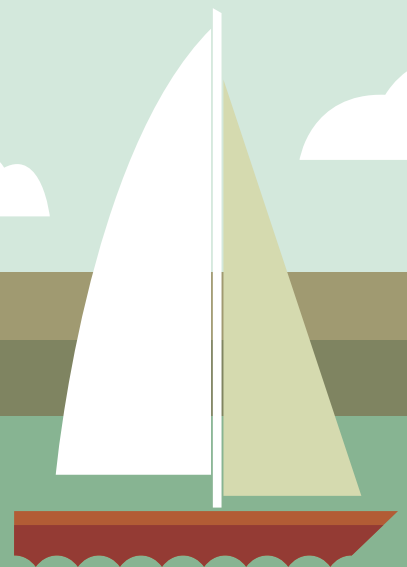
Leigh Lights	39%
Staffing	13%
Events	11%
Flower Baskets	10%
Allotment Staffing	8%
Community Transport	8%
Allot Capital Improvements	5%
Allotments	3%
First Aid Provision	2%
Farmers' Market	0.5%

Staffing	85%
Other	14%



Leigh on Sea Town Council ACCOUNTS 2013-14

All figures rounded to nearest whole numbers,
allow for some disparities.





From Left to Right

Carole Mulroney, Fr. Clive Hillman, Paul Beckerson (Town Clerk) Mark Bromfield, Val Morgan, Patrick Fox, Vivien Rosier, Richard Herbert, Helen Robertson, Dec Mulroney, Jane Ward, Madelaine Hanman-Murphy, Alistair Hanman, Jill Adair, Donald Fraser, Caroline Parker and Ron Owen

The Leigh on Sea Town Council Membership 2015/16

Chairman of the Council Cllr Richard Herbert

Vice-Chairman of the Council Cllr Carole Mulroney

Planning, Highways and Licensing Committee

Cllr Patrick Fox
Cllr Donald Fraser
Cllr Richard Herbert*
Cllr Carole Mulroney*
Cllr Dec Mulroney
Cllr Ron Owen
Cllr Caroline Parker
Cllr Helen Robertson

Environment & Leisure Committee

Cllr Jill Adair
Cllr Mark Bromfield
Cllr Patrick Fox
Cllr Madelaine Hanman-Murphy
Cllr Richard Herbert*
Cllr Fr. Clive Hillman
Cllr Val Morgan
Cllr Carole Mulroney*
Cllr Vivien Rosier
Cllr Jane Ward

Policy & Resources Committee

Cllr Mark Bromfield
Cllr Donald Fraser
Cllr Alistair Hanman
Cllr Richard Herbert*
Cllr Carole Mulroney*
Cllr Dec Mulroney
Cllr Ron Owen
Cllr Caroline Parker
Cllr Jane Ward

Community Facilities Committee

Cllr Jill Adair
Cllr Alistair Hanman
Cllr Madelaine Hanman-Murphy
Cllr Richard Herbert
Cllr Val Morgan
Cllr Carole Mulroney
Cllr Caroline Parker
Cllr Helen Robertson
Cllr Vivien Rosier

The Chairman & Vice-Chairman of the Council
are ex-officio members of all Committees.*

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO:-

Know more about what the Council is doing?
Share your views or make suggestions?
Get involved in events or community support?
Involve Councillors in your groups or organisations?
Please drop in, call 01702 716288 or email
Council@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk
www.leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk

A café for the people in the heart of Leigh Community Centre **Elsie's Place** Jo Overfield

Since January 2014, Elsie's Place café has been serving the diverse community of Leigh-on-Sea. Whether it's new mums taking their baby to a music session, a student of the University of the Third Age (U3A) or simply a passing customer grabbing lunch on the go, there's something for everyone. Elsie's prides itself on using locally baked bread and fresh ingredients, with every lunch made to order. The home-made cakes are a special treat, but often include gluten free or dairy free options, and vegetarians and vegans are also catered for. In winter, fresh soup is made daily, and in summer there is a weekly special salad – both often including ingredients grown on local allotments. Then there's the coffee. Freshly ground from bean to cup, the delicious brew makes the perfect pick me up. Set in cute surroundings within Leigh Community Centre, here you'll find mismatched vintage crockery, antique furnishings, an Affordable Art Wall and even space to knit (needles and wool provided!) Elsie's Place is buggy friendly, bike friendly, and is also available to hire as a private space. Elsie's has been home to events such as afternoon tea parties, a book launch, live music gigs and baby showers.

The café is open Monday-Friday
9.30am - 3.30pm, and some
weekends for major events
within the Centre.



FOLLOW ELSIE'S PLACE
Twitter and Instagram @Elsies_Place
www.facebook.com/ElsiesPlaceLeigh

Art in Leigh



Madelaine Murphy is **Artist in Residence** at Leigh Community Centre, and has been actively involved in promoting the visual arts in Leigh and the Community Centre since Leigh Town Council opened its doors over two years ago. Madelaine makes ceramics, and with her husband Alistair Hanman, a chartered surveyor, they complete sculptural commissions and installations. "At the studio, I aim to have an open door policy - artists studios are always behind closed doors, so to see work being made, and being a part of the community, is important to me." Madelaine also teaches ceramics and sculpture at the studio and students also welcome visitors and enquiries about the arts in Leigh and beyond.

The Hanmans instigated the Affordable Art Wall, with artists, studios, groups and galleries brought together to provide a continually changing display of artworks to the Community Centre, representing the wide community of individuals and collaborations within the visual arts in Leigh and beyond. Artists participating in this initiative show their generosity in bringing the best of their work forward for exhibition and purchase to the wider public.

The Affordable Art Wall aims to show professional artists, gallerists, emerging artists and amateurs, brought together by affinity of location. Many of the artworks reflect artists' love of the sea, the local landscape and architecture, as well as travels further afield and subjects of interest to individual artists. Proceeds from the sale of artworks support those artists and Leigh Community Centre.

Also contributing an artistic installation as a record of her travels, Emily Stapleton-Jefferis completed a smaller scale residency with Madelaine over a period of months last summer, and provided ceramics workshops to youngsters in the Community Centre. Emily is currently travelling in Asia, and we hope that Emily will return from her travels to create further artworks for the Community Centre. Madelaine is currently developing a permanent collection of artworks at Leigh Community Centre. "We hope over the years that this collection will reflect some of our visual arts heritage, and the years of our culture to come."



QUERIES ABOUT THE
AFFORDABLE ART WALL
plumbeum@gmail.com

www.madelainemurphy.com
www.hanmanmurphy.com

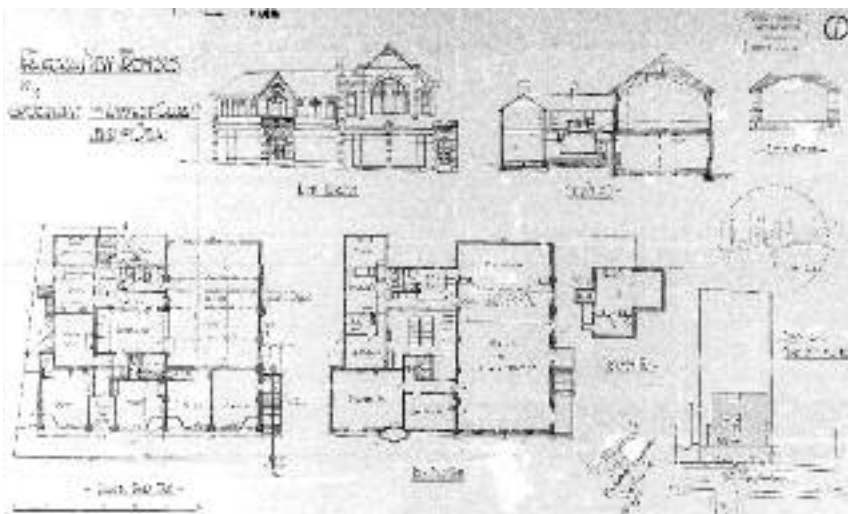


The Story of Leigh Community Centre

The Community Centre was built in 1914 and celebrated its centenary last year. It was originally built as the Conservative and Unionist Club and included a wide variety of rooms, from billiards room, buffet lounge, smoking room, a reading room and a large hall for political meetings. If you look at the front of the building you will see how it was originally planned to have shop units on the ground floor but alas this never came to fruition.

The Centre was designed by Percy R Fincher, a noted local architect who built a number of houses in the area but the Community Centre is by far his largest commission. He was the uncle of Janet Hammond, former Leigh Town councillor who set up the successful monthly Farmers' Market that takes place monthly which is now run by her husband David. The building was extended in 1923, when the Lower Hall was built.

For many years the Centre was run by Southend Borough Council as a venue for adult day and evening classes. Many people from Leigh will remember the theatre upstairs which hosted the Leigh-on-Sea Drama and Music Festivals particularly former students of Ridley Studios and Southend Technical College Saturday Morning Music and Drama Schools. LTC took over the building when Southend Adult Community College moved to Belfairs Academy in 2012. Rooms were remodelled and the new configuration makes the Centre an attractive venue for local hirers.



The Centre is currently used by a diverse mix of people on a commercial and non-commercial basis. There are a number of spaces available to hire out, one large hall, two mid-size halls and five small rooms together with the café space. The Centre covers events from cradle to the grave with a wide variety of classes for all ages from Burlesque to Sugar Craft, Baby Massage to the University of the Third Age and Meditation through to Zumba. Weekends are alive with both children's parties together with Craft Fairs and on Sundays a regular Evangelical Christian Church meets in the Lower Hall.



If you're looking for a venue to hold a class, meeting or party, have you thought of hiring a room at the Community Centre? Our rates which are detailed below are competitive and our service is highly regarded by our hirers. We have nine spaces for hire, ranging from a hall which holds 200 to smaller meeting rooms for 16. Elsie's Place, the Community Centre Café is open every week day providing teas and coffees for breaks or catering for your event. From flip charts to projectors, we can supply what you need to make your meeting go well.

Hourly Rates

effective 1 April 2015

	ROOMS			
	1,3,5,6 & 8	4 & 7	Lower Hall	Café (exclusive)
Community Week Day	£7.70	£11.00	£17.50	£17.50
Community Eve and Saturdays	£12.00	£18.75	£28.00	£28.00
Community Sunday	£14.00	£20.50	£31.00	£31.00
Commercial Week Day	£19.00	£18.75	£28.00	£28.00
Commercial Eve and Saturdays	£30.00	£35.00	£44.00	£44.00
Commercial Sunday	£33.00	£39.00	£48.00	£48.00

Why not come into the Centre and have a chat with our friendly staff to discuss your needs?

Weddings at the Community Centre



Ask Sharon Heighington what's the secret of organising a successful wedding and reception, she smiles and says "Lists and good open lines of communication. The more organised you are, the smoother the day will go and everyone will be relaxed, happy and able to enjoy every moment." Sharon, a wedding planner, shares details of the latest wedding she is organising;

BEFORE THE BIG DAY

- Set the date - you need to confirm that both the Registrars from Southend Registry office and the rooms at the Centre will be available at the same time. There are three rooms available at the Community Centre; The Lower Hall, Room 4 and Room 7.
- Choose your decoration theme - keep the ceremony room simple but go to town on the reception room, we have had 'Freda Kahlo', 'Maritime', the 'Enchanted Forest' and just good old fashioned 'bling' themes!

If you are really going to town on your decorating, book the room out the afternoon before to ensure you have plenty of time to decorate. The caretakers and staff at the Centre are really helpful and will advise you what is possible. However you are expected to do the hanging, sticking and decorating yourself. Start early, if you are decorating the venue yourself. Organise a 'making team' who work on the theme prior to the wedding and a 'decorating team' to dress the venue for the big day. Ebay and Gumtree are great websites for buying items you can't make yourself and local charity shops can be great to source other props (eg. different sized paper lanterns strung on fishing wire across the hall, mix and match vintage tea cups and pots to make lovely mini vases for tables, fairy lights will help to create a cosy, twinkly venue).

- Choose the music for the ceremony ... a minimum of three pieces. The first is to walk up the aisle to - try to avoid anything with a long introduction as you'll be standing with the registrar before the song starts! Next, a song for signing the register, this part always takes longer than you think and it is at this point your guests will be able to take pictures, so we generally recommend you have a couple of other songs depending on how many guests you have at the wedding. Finally, a piece of music for the happy couple to leave the room. We have had 'At Last' by Etta James as the entrance music, 'Signed, Sealed Delivered, I'm Yours' for the register signing and 'Bring Me Sunshine' by Morecombe & Wise for the exit - you can really use your imagination.
- Book the Bar - we outsource the Bar for weddings and parties to Neil Harding, who is very experienced at providing Bars for LTC and SBC, he will provide the wines, beers and spirits to your exact requirement. The Centre stays open until just before midnight and although the janitors will clear away tables and chairs they do expect the wedding party to remove all food from the venue. It's best to talk to the Centre Manager about overnight storage and arrangements for collecting wedding gifts in the morning.

THE BIG DAY

- The Registrars arrive about 45 mins before the ceremony
- The wedding couple are separately interviewed to ensure there will be no impediment to the wedding ceremony. These interviews, which take about 10 minutes are held in another room - the groom is interviewed first, after which he makes his way to the ceremony room.
- The Ceremony takes approximately 10 mins and it is good to have a representative from each family to do a short reading to extend the ceremony.
- The register is signed and at this point guests can take pictures of the newly married couple. The wedding group will often walk up to Library Gardens for photos or go downstairs to the café for a toast.





Leigh Library

18th July - 29th August Summer Reading Challenge "Record Breakers"

This year's Summer Reading Challenge has been designed to tie in with the 60th anniversary of Guinness World Records. On Pledging Day - 11th July - libraries across the country will be taking part in a Guinness World Records attempt to get the most number of pledges for a reading campaign! The Summer Read encourages children to keep up their reading skills over the holidays, while enjoying and sharing books with others.

Six Book Challenge

An on-going adult challenge to encourage adult readers to find confidence or simply to re-ignite their passion for reading. The theme this year is Read Anything. Read Anywhere. Pop into Leigh Library to discover your next read. Check out the Quick Reads if you want to gain confidence - their short format is perfect for new readers or those with limited time.

**SIX BOOK
CHALLENGE**

Reading Well Books on Prescription

Libraries across Southend are supporting a FREE reading scheme endorsed by health professionals and designed to help people better understand and manage dementia. "Reading Well Books on Prescription Dementia" recommends self-help books for people who may have the condition, care for someone with dementia, or just want to find out more. Titles are available for anyone to borrow or request free of charge from Leigh Library. Books can also be recommended by doctors and health professionals and cover information and advice, help after diagnosis, practical support for carers and personal stories.

**READING
WELL**

FOLLOW BOROUGH LIBRARY NEWS

Tel: 01702 212 573 Email:
libraryevents@southend.gov.uk
www.southend.gov.uk

FABULOUS FUNDRAISING

All of the pupils and staff of Leigh North Street Junior School have taken part in a number of fundraising events. Most of the events took place at the school in 2014 although some have already happened in 2015.

TOILET TWINNING

Can you imagine going to the toilet in a hole in the ground? These conditions would be unsafe and unhygienic, yet 2.5 billion people in the world don't have a toilet. For just £60 you can twin your toilet anywhere in the world and for £240 you can build a whole block of toilets. We managed to raise £262.30 and we helped people in Gaga, Chad to build a block of toilets for their community.

SLEEP-OUT

In the middle of October, last year, Mrs Scarnell and her husband spent the night in a sleeping bag on top of cardboard boxes in a school playground. Together, they raised £500 for HARP - Southend's charity for supporting homeless people.

CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

On the 12th December, we were all requested to wear Christmas jumpers and donate: every single person in the school donated at least a pound or more! When all the classes stood together, it looked like a beautiful Christmas collage. Some people had jumpers that played music, some that had moving characters.

FUNNY FOR MONEY

Leigh North Street Junior School have been raising money for Comic Relief ... Members of the staff had been assigned a task to be funny for money. Mrs Overton-Smith baked over 110 cakes for 2 classes and raised £40.00. Class teacher Mrs Moffitt agreed to paint her face funny for money. She painted her face as a minion and her class raised £34.00 for charity.

WHAT DO TEACHERS DO AFTER 3:15?

The school's staff created a humorous video for Comic Relief. Filming took place in and around the school. One of the teachers, Mrs Moffit, said "This is a great activity to show how dedicated our school is to fundraising for many different charities" The creator of the video, Mrs Bygrave, said "There was a LOT of laughing involved in the event." This video has gone viral and in five days it has had 1730 views. Some teachers didn't even know they were on YouTube!



Seussical Junior

The auditions were held and it was a tough job but the cast were selected after much deliberation. Then rehearsals got under way for this year's exciting drama production of Seussical Junior.

Having secretly watched some of the rehearsals, we knew it was going to be a show not to be missed.

The Cat in the Hat and all those much loved Dr. Seuss characters sprang to life on stage at Westcliff High School for Girls on Thursday 23rd, Friday 24th at 7pm and Saturday 25th April at 2.30pm and 7pm.

Seussical Jr was great fun to watch, for the whole family . . . well done to everyone!



Young Shakespeare

In February our pupils who had recently performed in the Shakespeare Schools Festival, got to meet their counterparts when the Young Shakespeare Company visited Year 6 to perform their amazing version of Hamlet. The company, who visit West Leigh every year, said they were blown away with the children's enthusiasm and they were thrilled when Sam, who played Horatio in the Shakespeare Schools Festival, got up to deliver the last line of the play. The children were mesmerised seeing the performance carried out with such emotion and expertise. Everyone had a thoroughly enjoyable day.

National Science

Back in November our Year 5 and 6 Science team had success in the area heats of the Science Quizclub and went on to the regional semi-finals which were held in Chelmsford in January. They were up against five other teams from Essex and Hertfordshire and managed to secure themselves a place in the National finals. So in February our 4 budding scientists from Year 5 and Year 6 travelled to Oxfordshire to take part in the Science Quizclub National Inter-School Quiz Championship Final hosted by Diamond Light Source. The competition comprised 40 science questions and the children were up against strong opposition from schools from across the country.

From questions 4 to 38 our children remained firmly in first place but lost the lead on question 39 and 40 where they were pipped at the post. The children should be extremely proud of their achievement, as indeed, we are! To have fought off stiff competition at every stage of the competition and to finish second overall in a national competition is an amazing achievement. The trophies have taken pride of place in our school recaption.

WestLeigh School Activities





LEARNING AT THE SEASIDE

Leigh Infant School are using the local beach for a variety of lessons. Whatever the weather, they walk down Leigh Steps and enjoy Maths, Science, History and Geography lessons. Recent trips have included the re-enactment of the Fire of London, team building games and a maths lesson on shapes. The environment is a perfect backdrop for first hand learning. We are so fortunate to have such a fantastic resource - right on our doorstep!



Belfairs Academy is divided into three colleges

Each college is named after one of the 'Little Ships' that went to Dunkirk during the Second World War. After lengthy consultation way back in 2013, it was finally agreed to use the following names: **Defender**, **Resolute** and **Endeavour**. These words also resonate with some admirable characteristics.



Defender : supports and protects

Resolute : has a decided purpose and is determined

Endeavour : works hard to accomplish something

Belfairs Academy's connection to the Dunkirk cockle boats

The Academy felt that the symbolic representation should have local connections, hence the nautical references traditionally associated with Leigh on Sea. When students join us they are inducted into their college as part of an aspirational programme called Shaping the Future. The culture of the colleges promotes healthy competition, the meeting and mixing of students across different year groups and consequent sharing of academic and non-academic interests. Over the last few years, students within the colleges have taken part in a variety of competitions and community projects which connect us with both our local community and a wider, national audience.

The historical stories about each of the Little Ships can be seen on a dedication board in our Academy foyer, along with a testimonial from a relative of one of the Dunkirk fisherman: 'My family would like Belfairs to know that we think it is wonderful that the Dunkirk Little Ships will be remembered in this way, and how immensely proud we are to be a part of the naming of the three colleges.' N Lewis, great niece of Leslie Osborne, sailor of the Renown.

If you are interested in finding out more about Belfairs Academy, please visit our website www.belfairs.southend.sch.uk or follow us on Twitter @BelfairsAcademy

BELFAIRS WOODLAND CENTRE AND THE ESSEX WILDLIFE TRUST

Greg Borgartz Centre Manager



The Visitor Centre is open every day (except Christmas Day and Boxing Day) and since we opened we've been privileged to welcome over 65,000 visitors through our doors!



From Domesday to the present day Belfairs Woods have been a place for work, rest and play!

Belfairs Woodland Centre is set at the gateway to the Belfairs & Daws Heath Living Landscape, where Essex Wildlife Trust and Southend Borough Council are working with a number of partners and local people on education and conservation projects. Our stunning new visitors centre has been open since September 2013 and attracts a lot of local interest. The landscape in which it is set comprises some 1160 acres, of which a third is woodland, and is home to some nationally threatened species including Hazel Dormouse, Song Thrush, Heath Fritillary Butterfly and Wild Service Trees. Wild Service Trees are known to be a key indicator of ancient woodland, indeed parts of the wood are mentioned in the twelfth century 'Domesday of St. Paul's' and was referred to as being partly owned by the Sutton (Knights Templar) and partly by Prittlewell Priory. Following the dissolution of the monasteries much of the land was owned by the Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's. During this period much of the woodland was leased with rent paid at the Great West Door of the cathedral. St. Paul's had first refusal on any timber crop and indeed could order the felling of specific trees. Some of the timber from Belfairs may still be in the cathedral today!

Today the woodland is available to everyone and encompasses a wide range of activities. Essex Wildlife Trust has reinstated some traditional woodland management techniques to restore the woods for people and wildlife. Coppicing has been taking place in the Nature Reserve and in Belfairs Wood and this has resulted in a proliferation of small invertebrates such as Stag Beetles and butterflies. The increase in food has also led to some wonderful bird sightings with Woodcock, nuthatch, tree creepers, black caps and chaff all being seen here. We have also had several nesting pairs of Sparrowhawks.

Belfairs Woodland Centre has become a hub for children in the area with a large number of schools visiting. A whole range of ages have become involved from our preschool "Squirrel Squad" which meets every other Thursday morning to our "Green Bunch" volunteers. This is a group of 11–16 year olds who work on conservation projects around the woods.

Some have come for our talks and walks, some for our range of craft days and more still have come for tea and cakes or a spot of light lunch. Whatever reason you choose to visit Belfairs Woodland Centre our wonderful team of volunteers will make you feel welcome and answer any questions you may

have about the site or the Centre. If you would like to join them please let us know either in person or by calling us on 01702 477467. Alternatively you can e-mail us: Belfairs@essexwt.org.uk

There is also a smartphone App which is available for download on Apple and Android, containing detailed routes around the park.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
www.essexwt.org.uk/belfairs-app
www.essexwt.org.uk
www.facebook.com/EWTBelfairs

From 1066 to 2015 Leigh has been making history

Let's keep it that way

If Leigh really turns you on, then you are not alone. The Leigh Society and the Heritage Centre in the Old Town could literally be right up your street.

We are not a load of old fossils (although we have some for sale in the shop) but we are people who love Leigh, its history and just being part of the community and caring about what happens to it.

Just take a leisurely walk down Church Hill (save your breath for the climb back up later) and feel the pull of the water, the cry of the birds and drift back in time to a little old cobbled street, sandwiched between the water and the railway. All Leigh life used to be here for nigh on a 1000 years.

Years of boat building, fishing, cockling, white weeding. Years when a call to arms sent the sailors of Leigh beyond the Estuary to bring back tales of foreign parts and harrowing stories of war.

Step back in time and see how and where they lived and read their stories.

Learn about their skills, their lives and their love for this little town.

See how Leigh grew when the chug of the steam trains pulled people in for their summer holidays and they decided they liked it and stayed - with their houses climbing the hillside until they breached the crest and spread into the farmland beyond. How they built a bustling and thriving town full of character and charm.

Then look around you, much has changed, but at its heart Leigh is timeless, we are making tomorrow's history everyday.

The Leigh Society *An eye to the future,
An ear to the past, In the heart of Leigh*

**Come and visit the Heritage Centre and
Plumbs Cottage for a step back in time**

www.leighsociety.com





Blooming in Leigh for 90 years

2015 is an important year for Leigh Horticultural Society as it marks the 90th anniversary of its founding, on the warm summer evening of Thursday, 4th June 1925. A small group of local gardening enthusiasts gathered in Elm Hall, the former name of the Community Centre, and established a gardening society for the people of Leigh.



LHS Autumn Show at St. Clement's Hall in the 1980s

The first chairman was Cranley Perry of Vernon Road, a keen chrysanthemum grower who is remembered by the Perry Cup, awarded at the winter shows. Many other members have donated trophies over the years, including Walter Fitch, who resurrected the Society following the end of the Second World War. He presented the LHS with the Fitch Bowl - in this time of equality, bizarrely awarded to Men Only in the Flower Classes! Other names that stand out include Harry Smith, who taught science at Westcliff High School. A gifted plantsman, he played a leading role in the fortunes of the Society until his sudden demise in 1974. And the avuncular radio actor and keen gardener Fred Yule of I.T.M.A. fame, President in the 1980s, delighted members with his displays of chrysanthemums, grown in his garden at Park Road.



The photograph shows from left to right Hattie Jacques, Lind Joyce, Diana Morrison, Tommy Handley, Fred Yule, Deryck Guyler and Joan Harben

These stalwarts of the Society followed a strong horticultural ethos that is as robust today as it was in 1925. Their enthusiasm has been the foundation of the Society for the past 90 years, and still flourishes in the passion and dedication of the management committee, ably chaired by Julia Tetley.

Members enjoy four flower shows a year, together with interesting talks in the winter months and an impressive choice of coach outings through the summer.

You can join the LHS at the Summer Show on 20th June, or by contacting the Membership Secretary on 01702 479222.



The Leigh Port Partnership

The Leigh Port Partnership (LPP) sounds very grand but in fact it is a small group of people who have Leigh at their heart and want to ensure that the fishing industry and everything else that spins off from it is able to continue into the future.

Fishermen are busy people and the need to keep businesses thriving doesn't leave much time for dealing with the red tape surrounding the industry. So the LPP is stepping in to help. We are not doing it alone, the Thames Estuary Partnership are

helping in a massive exercise to get extensive funding to improve our port facilities, dredge the creek and ensure that the fishing industry which has been here for 1000 years continues for another 1000. A tall order it may be - but we think its

worth it, not just for the benefits to Leigh but in the bringing together of the community in all its shapes and forms be they artistic, cultural or business - working together for a better Leigh.

Peter Wexham
*Chairman,
Leigh Port Partnership*

Leigh Farmers' Market

David Hammond



The first market in June 2000 Donald Fraser and Janet Hammond

Several of the major suppliers to the Market have been with us for many years and along with the other stallholders look to the people of Leigh for their continued support.

It is now nearly fifteen years since Leigh's Farmer's Market was born. The late Janet Hammond, newly installed as a Leigh Town Councillor had been campaigning for some time for a local farmers' market and had travelled throughout Essex to gain appropriate knowledge and contacts. Her efforts came to fruition in June 2000 with the holding of the first Market which took place, with enthusiastic support from Council chairman at the time, Donald Fraser, at the now demolished St. Clements Church hall.

That venue proved too small for the enterprise and from 2001 the market ran on a monthly basis from its current location in the Community Centre. The market was the first of its kind in this part of Essex although it was soon followed by others in a similar vein. The main aim of Leigh Farmers' Market from day one has been to

offer top quality food and, in contrast to some other markets, has resisted the trend to widen the scope from food to craft based products and it remains basically farm based, with the main concession being for a maker of plant based skincare products. The market as far as possible follows a set of guidelines by which stall holders are directly involved in the growing or production of the products for sale and the emphasis is on being as local as possible. All stallholders must have insurance cover and, where appropriate, health and hygiene certification.

The Market generally takes place on the third Friday of each month (except January), but this year there will be three Saturdays, in April, August and December. A recent innovation has been the addition of a ramp to the market hall which greatly improves access for pushchairs and wheelchairs.



So who exactly are the SE Essex Organic Gardeners?

We formed SEEORG back in 1994 and are affiliated to two national charities, Garden Organic and the Soil Association. We hold regular public meetings, attend two local farmers' markets in Rochford and Leigh and exhibit at shows and open days such

as the Southend Apple Day at St. Laurence Orchard in Eastwood. In addition, we also organise outings and give talks. We organise 6 meetings a year, in January, March, May, July, September and November on a Monday evening, starting in

When the last tree has been felled and the last crumb of soil has been paved over will we realise that we need local food and wildlife habitat

January at **Growing Together** Westcliff, 47 Fairfax Drive, Southend, SS0 9AG (corner of Fairfax Drive and Prittlewell Chase). Our speakers start at 8.00pm, but Growing Together is always open from 7.00pm to allow members to browse our Library. SE Essex Seed Potato Day in February is our principal event, in partnership with Trust Links, where we sell approx. 40 varieties of seed potato (some organic) and all sold individually. You can find details of all these events on our website and non-members can attend for a small charge. New members are always welcome, whether or not they have a garden or allotment.

To join SEEORG, or for other enquiries, please contact our Secretary, Carole: caroleshorney@hotmail.com
www.seeog.org.uk



Know your apples?
Answers on right of page

1



2



3



4



5



6

1. Queen
2. Grey Pippin
3. Rosy
4. Braintree Seedling
5. Edith Hopwood
6. D'Arcy Spice

Leigh Allotments Orchard

David Hammond

It is a generally accepted fact that 70% of UK orchards have been lost since the end of World War 2. This sad situation was discussed informally more than once by a group of allotment plot holders who then involved members of Leigh Town Council and eventually persuaded the Council to allow two unused allotment plots to be used to create a new orchard. The chosen plots were on what is known as the Leigh site, adjacent to the main Manchester Drive site and at that time only about 10% of the Leigh plots were being used.

Pat Holden and Janet Hammond from the Council were actively involved, with essential help and advice from Ron Bates. It was decided straight away to concentrate on varieties of apples and pears that had originated in Essex and an initial order was placed for eight apple trees, which, once the meadow grass had been cut, were planted in Dec. 2003.

Anyone interested in getting involved can contact David Hammond through Leigh on Sea Town Council.

There were trials and tribulations to follow, (of which more in a later article perhaps), but over the next six years the collection built up to include all currently available Essex varieties of apples and pears (34 apples and 4 pears) with some duplicates. Adding in some extras such as a quince, a medlar and a couple of cherries brought the total of trees to over forty, all of which are on dwarfing root stocks to keep the ultimate size compatible with an allotment situation. To have this number of trees another two plots were incorporated which are rented in the normal way. This is possibly the only orchard with such a complete collection of Essex fruit trees.

The orchard is managed by David Hammond with help from Ron Bates; three or four work parties are held each year for maintenance, the work being carried out by members of the informal Leigh Allotments Orchard Group which mostly comprises plot holders and/or those that contributed to buying the trees. Their reward is a share of the crop in the autumn.

Clearing the site



Who needs Poldark?



Leigh Folk Festival

June 25-28 2015

The last weekend in June will once again herald one of the town's landmark annual events, and one of the jewels in its cultural crown. The Leigh Folk Festival is unchallenged as the UK's largest free folk gathering, and now takes place across more than 20 indoor and outdoor venues around the town.



Among this year's highlights will be a main concert marking the recent release by Topic Records of 'Voice & Vision', a double CD celebrating 'Songs of Resistance, Democracy and Peace', to be headlined by the legendary Scottish folk singer Dick Gaughan, ably supported by a number of Leigh Folk Festival regulars, including locals M.G. Boulter, Kiti Theobald and Jack Forbes, who also appear on this acclaimed collection. The concert will take place in St. Clement's Church on Saturday

June 27, and is one of the few ticketed, fundraising events at the festival, with the great majority of performances being free and open to all. Other highlights across the weekend will be performances by the veteran guitarist Wizz Jones, Senegalese kora master Kadialy Kouyaté, bluegrass from Sid Griffin's Coal Porters, as well as welcome returns to the festival for Scotland's Trembling Bells and London's highly rated Stick in the Wheel. And of course there will be much, much more besides.



For updates, information and tickets, go to the festival's recently re-launched website www.leighfolkfestival.com

At its best, music has the power to make us all feel part of something bigger than ourselves, while nurturing a true sense of community and local pride. The pastoral village fete atmosphere of the Library Gardens and the bustling Old Leigh waterfront are both fundamental to the spirit of the weekend, offering a natural, unpretentious welcome to visitors from all over the world.

We hope to see you there!

Here come the Gulls, Mark Taylor



THE LEIGH ART TRAIL 2015

Bronwyn Oldham Art Trail Director

Untitled, Laura Blaker



Model II, Natasha Kumburova



Back for an 18th year, the annual, week long, Leigh Art Trail takes place from Saturday 6th-Saturday 13th June 2015. Originally set up by a group of local artists, the Art Trail is a non profit making, community based art initiative which this year plays host to over 40 practising artists, ceramicists, jewellers, sculptors, painters and photographers. The trail is held in local shops, artist studios and for the first time, there will be a Group Show showcasing one piece from each of the artists in the Leigh Community Centre.

As always, it is completely free and with various events spanning over the two weekends, the trail is an opportunity to walk around and see the vast artistic talent that is crammed into this little area of SS9. This year we have some exciting new local artists joining us, such as painters Natasha Kumburova and Tom Staples, as well hosting a Spoken Word & Music evening, in conjunction with Sundown Arts. The free Children's Workshops take place on Saturday 30th May at Leigh Road Baptist Church and weather permitting, you can help the infamous Sandbanksy, create a live sand installation on Leigh Wharf on the last Saturday of the Trail.

Trail Guides with full listings of artist's venues and opening times are already dotted around the town and beyond. However if you can't wait check out the website or facebook pages:

www.leigharttrail.com

www.facebook.com/leigharttrail



We would like to take this opportunity to thank the generous and on-going support given by Clouders Accountants, Leigh Road Baptist Church, Leigh Town Council and Southend Adult Community College in helping the Leigh Art Trail continue from strength to strength...We look forward to seeing you!

Two Tree Island

The Jewel in the Leigh on Sea Crown

John Ford Essex Wildlife Trust



Two Tree Island is situated south of Leigh on Sea station and consists of 640 acres of grassland, scrub, reed bed and lagoons and supports a wide variety of bird life, particularly migrants. Historically, the island was reclaimed in the 18th century and used as pasture. A sewage works was built there in 1910 and from 1936 the entire island was used as landfill. The eastern half is now a nature Reserve managed by volunteers from Essex Wildlife Trust.

The island is a popular recreation site for dog walkers, joggers and birdwatchers as well as having a model aircraft club in the centre and a boat launching facility. With all of this activity nature seems to fit in very well as this is an important site for several migrating species of birds. In the spring every bush on the island usually has a resident Whitethroat singing out for a mate. Although in decline in some areas of the UK, we are normally very lucky to have Cuckoos breeding on the island and, with care, Stonechats and Skylarks can be seen and heard. On the western lagoon, provided the water levels are correct, a variety of waders and gulls can be found including Common Tern, Oystercatcher and Redshank. Earlier this year there were Curlew calling across the marshland and flying over the island while several Snipe were well camouflaged on the small lagoon islands. If you can keep still and very quiet near the Eastern lagoon you may be rewarded with the beautiful site of a Kingfisher hunting for food.

In late September we have the natural wonder of up to 100,000 Brent Geese (see picture above) making their way from North Siberia all the way to Two Tree Island. These birds migrate along the shorelines for 2,500 miles until they reach Leigh on Sea. Why do they come? Well, this part of the Leigh foreshore is a rich source of eel grass which the geese feed on before dispersing to other areas of Essex to spend the Winter before flying all the way back to Siberia to breed in late February.

Wrecked on the Intertidal Zone

‘Wrecked on the Intertidal Zone’ is an artist-led art and science project, uncovering and highlighting local knowledge about the changing ecology, society and industry of the Thames Estuary.

Spearheaded by local artists YoHa (Graham Harwood and Matsuko Yokokoji) and Andy Freeman with international artists Critical Art Ensemble and Fran Gallardo and The Arts Catalyst (a UK arts organisation), the plan is to work with local ecologists, fishermen, ex-industrialists, engineers, interest groups and the community in Leigh to create striking and unique animated and sculptural artworks on the shorefront and mudflats of the Estuary.





This work has already begun and over the past two years the group has been involved in some exciting public events and workshops, from a stall at the Maritime Festival where people were invited to taste and smell the Estuary from sweets made from local edible flowers and plants from Two Tree Island, to workshops including walks in the marshes with local botanist Paul Huxler, foraging for berries and cooking jam together, and with a serious purpose, flying drones to test and map water for toxins. During the summer of 2015 the Group will be continuing to stimulate local interest and participation in a range of activities, like making Leigh brewed beer or experimenting with local ingredients. The whole idea is to get everyone in Leigh involved be it through their stories, memories and historical knowledge about the industry, Two Tree Island or local recipes. So come and see us at the Leigh Maritime Festival (2nd August 2015) where we will be promoting our ongoing Free events.

If you would like more information about up and coming projects please contact Claudia Lastra:
Claudia.lastra@artscatalyst.org

Get in touch if you want to let everyone know about your community event in Leigh



Leigh Regatta

When in late July of last year, it was announced that the Old Leigh Regatta was being cancelled, the Lions Club of Leigh on Sea took up the challenge and with a little help from their friends

organized a massively successful one-day community event just six weeks later.

A core group headed by Tony Prior and Leigh on Sea Lions Club President, Kay Large got together with representatives from the local Scout Troops, Leigh Town Council and local volunteer groups to form a new Regatta committee and set the ball rolling. All manner of people offered help: bands waived performance fees, sound equipment was loaned, local churches, residents and other volunteers offered their services and Southend Council assisted in making the whole event a viable reality.

Although key elements from the Old Leigh Regatta were retained, the nature of the event was substantially altered so the new one day Leigh Regatta became an arena where local charities and voluntary groups could participate without payment of a site fee.

The new style event and community spirit that it generated gathered so much momentum that it was inevitable the experience would be repeated and Sunday 20th September has been chosen for the Leigh Regatta this year.

With a longer lead-time, the aim is to make the event bigger whilst retaining the local, community feel that so characterised the 2014 event. Alongside the traditional stalls and activities, it is hoped there will be more water-based attractions, including the chance to see the historic fishing boat Endeavour in action: 75 years ago in May 1940, she took part in the emergency evacuation of British and Allied forces from Dunkirk - Operation Dynamo - she is one of the few of the famed Little Ships to survive.



If you would like to be involved with Leigh Regatta in any way, contact Tony Prior 01702 715111



Essex Yacht Club

Nick Veitch *Commodore*

Founded in 1890 the Essex Yacht Club has now graced the Leigh foreshore for 125 years. Housed in its distinctive HQ ship, the ex-RN mine hunter Wilton, the world's first glass fibre warship the club now has over 650 members sailing a wide range of boats both inshore and further afield.

Wilton provides a comfortable and enduring base for the extensive sailing programme that the club provides with racing and cruising for dinghies, yachts and the unique Estuary one design class. Sailing goes on throughout the season, complemented by a busy social programme revolving around the excellent dining and bar facilities.

As a family club we have a strong cadet fleet, whose highlight is their annual 'Cadet Week', when well over 100 young people from 6 to 18 come together to learn to sail and hone their racing skills, as well as taking part in a wide range of social events.

Whether you are new to sailing or new to the area our club members have a wealth of knowledge and are always on hand to share experiences, recommend training or boat choice for you and your family. New members are always welcome to join and to contribute to the sailing and social programme the club provides.

Find us on the water or at
www.essexyachtclub.co.uk
 or email **mail@essexyachtclub.co.uk**

The Lions Club

Tony Prior



Leigh on Sea Lions Club, part of Lions Clubs International, the largest service clubs organisation in the world consists of about forty men and women of all ages who devote their time and energy to the local community on a voluntary basis. Every penny profit raised through the many Lions' activities goes to worthy causes and this has resulted in over £250,000 being donated to local charitable organisations and individuals since the Club was formed.

Although you may see members of the Lions Club in action at the Annual Charity Duck Race or with the Lions' celebrated charity barbecue at The Folk Festival, Maritime Festival, Leigh Lights or Regatta the main source of income has more recently been derived from the Lions

Charity Shop by Thames Drive in London Road.

Over the past couple of years almost £100,000 has been raised in the Lions' Charity shop, thanks to the generosity of the shop-owner and the public and with minimal expenses and no salaries to pay, these funds are made available to local worthy causes through the Club's active welfare team.

If you would like to give something back to the community and want to enjoy the company of others who feel the same, come along to The Estuary Club at 8pm on the second Wednesday of the month and meet the Lions.
Contact: Tony Prior
01702 715111

Leigh-on-Sea Sailing Club

The Leigh-on-Sea Sailing Club is an active friendly club that promotes amateur sailing and racing in both dinghy and cruiser classes. The club actively support Leigh Town events, running the dinghy racing events at the Leigh Regatta and providing the sailing spectacle at the Maritime Festival with our parade of sail.

Dinghy racing is well supported with handicap as well as the club Solo class racing. The Solo dinghy is popular with a club fleet where restrictions on boat age are in place to keep costs low, this ensures competitive racing on a minimal budget. Cruiser sailing is also active with organised cruises in company and local port to port racing held in conjunction with other clubs on the shore.

Our clubhouse is situated in the heart of 'Old Leigh' adjacent to the beach, from the club bar and sun deck you can experience panoramic views of the Estuary.

We offer extensive facilities at the water's edge, with storage and slipways for dinghies and drying moorings for cruisers. Car parking and winter cruiser storage are also available on the club grounds.

New members are always welcome and encouraged to get involved in our full programme of sailing and social events throughout the year. Coaching and sail training opportunities for both children and adults are available, as well as use of club boats for those with sailing experience.

If you have an active interest in sailing and would like more info on our competitive membership rates visit www.leighsailingclub.org send us an email Leighsailingclub@gmail.com, or come down and meet us at the clubhouse, regular opening Friday evenings, Sunday lunchtimes and on race days.



what is he up to?

You know those lines of multicoloured dinghies, bobbing on the tide, just along from Leigh Station, toward the Old Town? A Green Hut with a balcony? Rather unkempt blokes holding bits of boat; or drinking tea? Mostly drinking tea; planning we call it! Sometimes trying to move a small yacht onto or off the moorings ...always good for a laugh! And it's strange how it only works when nobody is looking. Getting stuck on the Leigh Creek mud because the tide is now going out ...oh well, put the kettle on! Rowing out to a boat so as to check on something nautical or just sit aboard away from everything and everyone; sorry, I left my phone in the car. But heavens forbid that we should go to sea. They say there be Dragons beyond the Pier. Anyway, the tide is out most of the time, only coming back when one has walked the other side of the creek. No dinghy of course. Well, the tide was out! Walk wet footed into the Hut

where a bunch of the 55 members are chatting, being experts ... maybe I'll paint my dinghy another colour tomorrow, unless the sun is out. That would mean time to sit on the balcony; watch the ebb and flow. **That's The BELTON WAY SMALL CRAFT CLUB.** A collection of people from all walks of life with a love of boats in common. And as much knowledge, as many skills and as much experience as you'd find anywhere.

www.beltonwaysmallcraftclub.co.uk

Dunkirk 75 years on

Paul Gilson Endeavour Trust



Endeavour, Fairy Nyph ("rescued her when she fished from Holehaven as Shepard Lad") and HMS Severn



In the third week of May, the Endeavour, one of the original six boats from Leigh to go to Dunkirk, set off for Ramsgate to join up with 75 other veteran little ships for a return to Dunkirk - escorted by the Royal Navy.

They will be there to commemorate the successful evacuation of the British Expeditionary forces from the clutches of the advancing German army.

This will be the Endeavour's fourth time crossing the English Channel, thankfully the last two and this one will be safe and lacking in excitement. As skipper I would dispute the words lacking in

excitement, every time we take Endeavour out it is a saga with fun and excitement often with a tinge of danger. We can only guess at what the first trip was like but I have had the opportunity to talk to some that did go and

the things they got up too. I had first-hand stories from my father-in-law Harold Joscelyne who went with his two brothers Sonny and Vincent, all from Leigh. I have also spoken to several soldiers, now veterans, who fought on those very beaches. Sadly many have now joined their fallen colleagues. I have recently listened to a recording made of Alf Leggett of his trip to Dunkirk, a fisherman from Leigh who skippered the Reliance, he just "went" and in his own words "did his bit". He described watching bombs dropping so close that they could see German writing on them. He watched the destruction

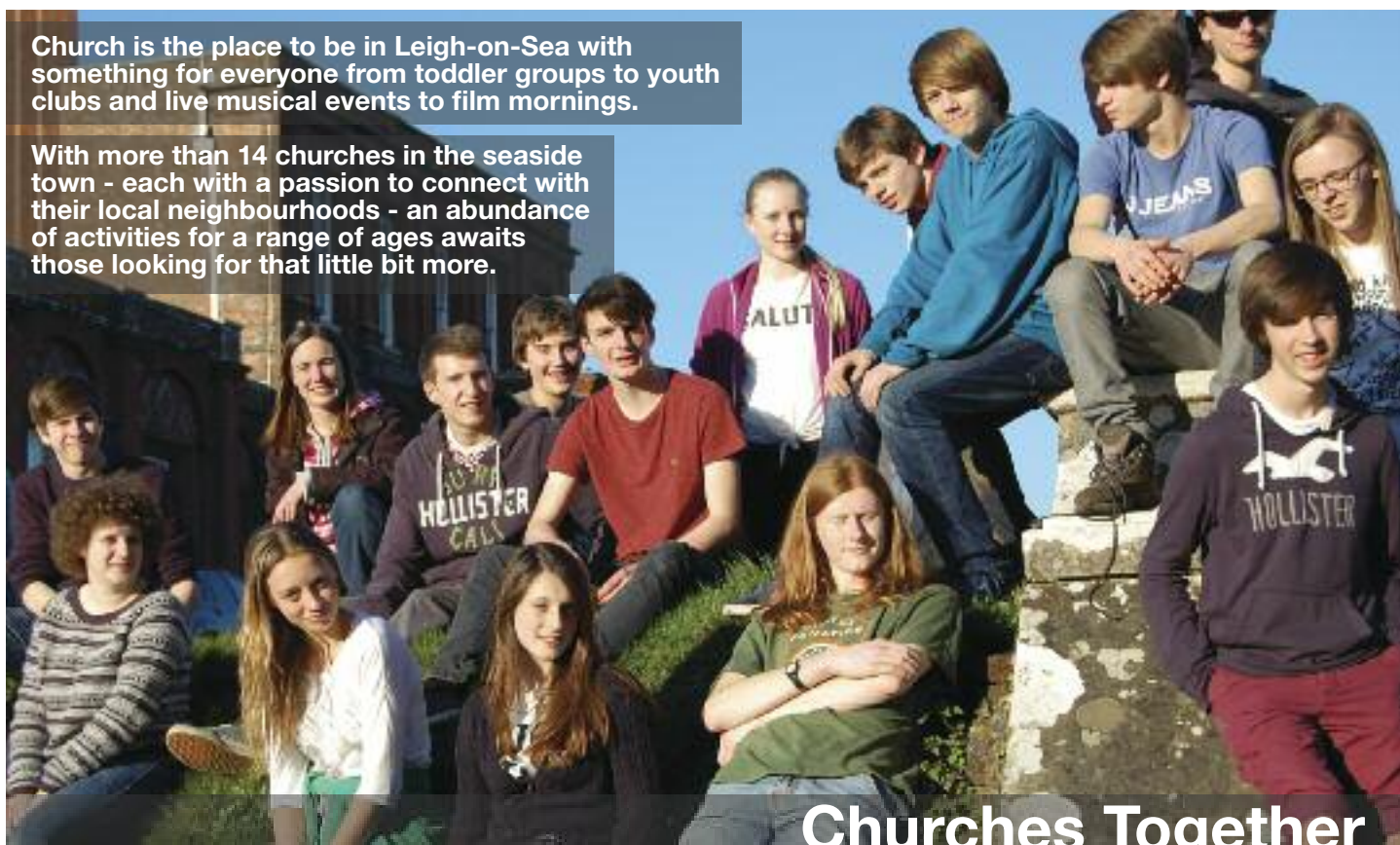
of some of the smaller vessels one could well have been the Renown that was lost with all hands. As a young man Alf was one of my heroes because he was a good fisherman and he always had time to talk to me. I did not know of his involvement.

This event will take place every five years until the boats fall to bits . . . it should never be forgotten.

No greater gift shall a man give than to lay down his life for his friends.

Church is the place to be in Leigh-on-Sea with something for everyone from toddler groups to youth clubs and live musical events to film mornings.

With more than 14 churches in the seaside town - each with a passion to connect with their local neighbourhoods - an abundance of activities for a range of ages awaits those looking for that little bit more.



Churches Together

Leigh Elim Church

holds regular live music events which have featured musicians from all over the country, including Philippa Hanna (Supported Lionel Richie and Collabro), Cenacle (Supported Funeral for a Friend) and Chip Kendall (Former lead singer for The Band With No Name).

Highlands Methodist

has a vibrant parent and toddler group with over 50 children in attendance from the local community. This group meets every Monday term time only starting at 9.30 £2.50 for your first child and 50p for each additional child refreshments are included.



Wesley Methodist holds a youth group during term time only called Synergy, which is held every Thursday from 6-7.30pm for children in school year groups 5-7. Enjoy games and sport and the evening ends with food and a short christian talk. Admission £1. Through the holidays there are free movie mornings for children of all ages and they must be accompanied by an adult.

West Leigh Baptist Church have a Girls Brigade company that meets from 6pm for primary school girls and from 7pm for secondary school girls on Tuesday evenings. The church also runs a youth group for secondary school children called Extreme on a Friday night from 7.30 until 9.30.

Leigh Road Baptist Church For teenagers looking for a cool time then head for Space - school years 10-13 youth group. The group meet on Wednesday evenings at a leaders home in Leigh, from 7.30pm to 9.30pm, to explore and discuss the Christian faith. Space also organise socials which have included film nights, ten-pin bowling, badger watching, ice skating, live bands and fireworks. GAP school years 7-9 youth group meet on Sunday mornings at the 10.30am LRBC service with biscuits and drinks thrown in for free. And on term-time Thursdays, Energize at The Stables, Chalkwell Park Drive, is most definitely the place to be where around 50 young people get together for table tennis, pool, 5-a-side football, games, craft, bible exploration and much more. Cost: £1 per session. For school years 1-2: 6.30-7.30pm and 3-11: 6.30-7.45pm.



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We send out free monthly newsletters and run quarterly business briefings so you can hear about the news, events and issues that affect Southend, and possibly your business.

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T 01702 215022 @BUSINESSONSEA



Southend Borough Council's Economic Development Team

We are Southend Borough Council's first point of contact for businesses, offering a range of expertise and advice. We work closely with a wide range of business support providers in the area and can put you in touch with the right person to help your business succeed.

What can we do for you?

BUSINESS SOUTHEAST GROWTH HUB

Business Southend helps businesses to realise their growth potential. It offers access to business grants, innovation vouchers, business support activity and events. It can provide advice on everything from how to expand into new markets to how to use social media to generate sales.

Businesses of all sizes, from innovative young enterprises to growing SMEs and established firms, can register with Business Southend to make the most of the support available.

THE HIVE BUSINESS CENTRE

The Hive; Southend Victoria opened in May and is looking to develop its own unique “SMEcosystem”. If you are interested in using this space to grow your business please contact Mark Kass at mark@markkass.com for more details.

SOUTHEND BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP

With a network of over 1500 businesses across Southend, the Partnership brings together businesses from all sectors, sizes and backgrounds.

The Partnership meets every quarter for a breakfast networking session and to hear from business leaders on locally relevant subjects. Latest news and opportunities are also made available to partnership members throughout the year via monthly e-newsletters. To join the partnership for free please contact **economicd@southend.gov.uk**

Please get in touch to discuss your business needs:

Chris Burr – chrisburr@southend.gov.uk

Nicola Mason – nicolamason@southend.gov.uk

Chris Lawes – christopherlawes@southend.gov.uk

Emma Crampton – emmacrampton@southend.gov.uk

You can also find us on Twitter and Facebook
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Information, resources and advice for your business. Including: finance, grants, skills, workforce development, premises, news, events and Supply Southend, a new means for you to win local contracts.

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Love Leigh ROAD

Locals Love Leigh Road . . . a real gem for local shopping, leisure and dining that shouldn't be missed. Walk on from the Broadway or across Chalkwell Park or up from Chalkwell Station and you'll find the bustling Leigh Road.

It's home to a superb and eclectic mix of lovely little shops and bistros supplying a wide range of items, gift ideas and places to socialise. Businesses offer services from hairdressing to graphic design, jewellery design to courses on interior design and wine tasting. There are three very active churches, Leigh Road Baptist, Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Michaels and All Angels - all very involved in the vibrancy of the neighbourhood.

Most of the shops are owned and operated by local people who put Leigh-on-Sea at the heart of everything they do. The Traders and Community known as Love Leigh Road are often found planning events to add to the wonderful atmosphere of the shopping district's activities based around Valentine's Day, Easter, Boo Fest, Leigh Art Trail and of course the superb Leigh Lights evening around Christmas when the businesses are open in to the evening. Keep up to date with all that is going on including offers and promotions online by visiting our website and follow us on Facebook and Twitter.



Car parking is free along Leigh Road for up to 2 hours, and this gives you time to shop and grab a coffee (or something stronger!) Love Leigh Road is what we do and we want to encourage locals and visitors from further afield to do the same - you won't regret it.

www.loveleighroad.co.uk

FOLLOW LOVE LEIGH ROAD

Twitter @LoveLeighRoad

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© Anne Hinton van't Hof

Leigh Camera Club

Established in 1929 and still going strong, Leigh Camera club meets during term time from September to May at the Leigh Community Centre on a Thursday from 7.45pm to 10pm.

We currently have over 50 members from GCSE photography students, through all of the age ranges, with a good mix of men and women, but always keen to welcome new enthusiasts.



© Linda Paul

Our evenings consist of monthly colour, monochrome and digital projected image competitions. We also enjoy entertaining and informative programmes with high quality speakers and evenings when our own members give talks. We also hold workshops where the more experienced photographers hold practical sessions, such as studio portraiture, macro photography and photoshop tutorials. Regular field trips are also arranged to various locations which are fun socially as well as being able to improve our photography techniques by sharing knowledge and expertise.

Our annual exhibition, where examples of our best work are displayed, takes place this year at the Forum Southend from Wed 24 June - Tue 14 July. The projected images entered into the annual exhibition will be available to view on the website . . .

www.leighcameraclub.co.uk

where there are details of our programme, latest news and member's albums.

It doesn't matter how experienced you are or what camera equipment you have, there is no obligation to enter competitions or to show your work, but the knowledge you will pick up by attending talks, speaking with other photographers and listening to the critical appraisal of judges will ensure that your photography will improve at a rapid rate... so come and join us!



© Anne Hinton van't Hof



Inflatables

Blow-up toys and airbeds are designed for pools, not the sea where you can easily be swept out. If you must use them at the beach then:

Ensure children are closely supervised

Never take out in big waves



For Safety and Advice

If you need non-urgent assistance, you can always ask one of the Beach Inspectors who patrol the Foreshore. They can help you with everything from Beach Safety to First Aid advice. If there isn't one nearby you can call them on 01702 215 620 (ext 83)

In emergencies . . .

If you need emergency assistance on the beach - or anywhere along the seafront - dial 999 and ask for the coastguard from one of the 18 yellow, emergency-only telephones positioned along the seafront. First Aid Posts are located at Leigh Bell Wharf, Marine Parade and Shoebury East Beach



Drinks

Drink as much fluids as possible. Cooler weather can mean a flask of tea or soup, but on any day make sure there is plenty of water for everyone, as the wind and sun can easily dehydrate you even when it isn't very hot. If you are planning on physical exercise you must drink half a litre of fluid at least half an hour beforehand and continue to replenish your fluids after exercising



Agree a meeting point

Children are safest when supervised. As soon as you're at the seafront agree a meeting point in case you get separated from each other.

If your child goes missing: Calmly check your surroundings, ensuring other children remain monitored. Contact one of the Foreshore Inspectors who can often be found patrolling the beach (foreshore inspector huts are located at various points along the seafront), Seafront Police or the Visitor Information Centre. Let all searchers know once your child is found

Staying safe at the beach this summer

DON'T FORGET TO READ THE SAFETY SIGNS found on all Southend beaches



Get your SeaSmart Wristband

Southend's Visitor Information Centre which can be found at the Pier entrance operates the SeaSmart scheme in cooperation with the coastguard, which gives your children a wristband that can help identify them if they become separated from you - in turn, giving you the peace of mind to enjoy your visit to the beach!



Picnic Time

While you'll probably take cold food with you or buy refreshments nearby, you may bring your own food or even consider a BBQ. Not all beaches permit the use of BBQ's - BBQ's are only permitted on Shoebury East Beach in the designated BBQ area

If you are having a BBQ, ensure that all BBQ's are completely extinguished before disposing of them

Always dispose of your rubbish in the bin (there are specially marked recycling bins along Southend Seafront) or take it home so the beach is clean for other users and the local wildlife doesn't get injured



Watch out for...

Slippery rocks
Strong currents
Man-made structures (breakwaters, the pier!, etc)
Offshore winds (don't get blown out to sea)
Other water users (parts of the seafront are used by kitesurfers, canoeists and windsurfers and powerboats)



Check the tide times

A beach is a brilliant playground but remember the tide can come in surprisingly quickly. Don't walk too far out - many lifeboat rescues are made to people getting cut off by the rising water. To prevent this from happening to you, get a Tide Timetable from the Visitor Information Centre at the Pier or take a look at our tide times section on the website before you visit. Always keep a look out for the tide's direction while on the beach!



Stay in the Shade

The sun is at it's most dangerous between 11:00am and 3:00pm. Always apply sunscreen (factor 15+) and wear a t-shirt, hat and sunglasses