



# Leigh on Sea Town Council News

issue 10

Cover Image by Malcolm Blake-Lawson





## Editor's Note



A familiar Old Town scene is the eye-catching cover of this edition of Leigh Town Council News. The original painting can be seen in the Leigh Community Centre and we were delighted to receive it as a gift from local artist Malcolm Blake-Lawson.

This is the 10<sup>th</sup> edition of Leigh Town Council News, which was the brainchild of a previous Chairman of the Council, Jane Ward. We are proud of our magazine and we hope you enjoy reading it as much as we enjoy producing it. It has been published twice a year with the assistance of local graphic designer, Julie Curtis who has worked on it with us from the outset and been instrumental in creating its distinctive 'look'. Special thanks also go to Francesca Smith, the Council's Marketing and Profile Officer, who, behind the scenes, works hard to collect articles from a wide range of contributors and make sure that we all meet the deadlines in the production process.

Leigh Town Council News plays an important role in communicating with the local community about Council activities. An over view of the Council's strategic plan appears on page 8 and this will shape the Council's activities until 2023. One of our initiatives is to engage with the young people of Leigh so that they can have a voice in decisions made by the Council. We have listened to their views in our monthly Youth Forum meetings, collaborated with the YMCA and have established two successful youth clubs. This work has not gone unnoticed - we have been presented with the Innovative Work Award 2019 by the Essex Association of Local Councils in recognition of our extensive partnership working projects and for the work we are doing with our young people. Read all about it in our exciting new 'youth centre-fold'!

*Cllr Vivien Rosier*

For any booking enquiries at Leigh Community Centre  
contact the Bookings Team  
[bookings@leighseatowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:bookings@leighseatowncouncil.gov.uk)

## SBC COUNCILLOR DETAILS

### BELFAIRS WARD

**Stephen Aylen** 01702 527747  
[cllraylen@southend.gov.uk](mailto:cllraylen@southend.gov.uk)

**Alan Dear** 01702 212889  
[cllrdear@southend.gov.uk](mailto:cllrdear@southend.gov.uk)

**Lesley Salter** 01702 432364  
[cllrsalter@southend.gov.uk](mailto:cllrsalter@southend.gov.uk)

### BLENHEIM PARK WARD

**Helen Boyd** 01702 212363  
[cllrboyd@southend.gov.uk](mailto:cllrboyd@southend.gov.uk)

**Laurie Burton** 01702 212862  
[cllrburton@southend.gov.uk](mailto:cllrburton@southend.gov.uk)

**Keith Evans** 01702 534260  
[cllrkevans@southend.gov.uk](mailto:cllrkevans@southend.gov.uk)

### LEIGH WARD

**Carole Mulroney** 01702 212890  
[cllrmulroney@southend.gov.uk](mailto:cllrmulroney@southend.gov.uk)

**Ashely Thompson** 01702 534171  
[cllrthompson@southend.gov.uk](mailto:cllrthompson@southend.gov.uk)

**Peter Wexham** 01702 711958  
[cllrwexham@southend.gov.uk](mailto:cllrwexham@southend.gov.uk)

### WEST LEIGH WARD

**Fay Evans** 01702 558657  
[cllrevans@southend.gov.uk](mailto:cllrevans@southend.gov.uk)

**Beth Hooper** 01702 534193  
[cllrhooper@southend.gov.uk](mailto:cllrhooper@southend.gov.uk)

**John Lamb** 01702 483908  
[cllrlamb@southend.gov.uk](mailto:cllrlamb@southend.gov.uk)

## USEFUL CONTACTS

Leigh-on-Sea Town Council	01702 716 288
Southend Council Switchboard	01702 215 000
Parking, Highways & Transport	01702 215 003
Planning, Development & Building Control	01702 215 004
Environmental Health, Trading Standards & Licensing	01702 215 005
Waste, Fly tipping, Fly posting & Graffiti	01702 215 006

## LTC STAFF DETAILS

### TOWN CLERK

#### **Helen Symmons**

[helen.symmons@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:helen.symmons@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk)

### ASSISTANT RESPONSIBLE FINANCE OFFICER

#### **Emma Stratton**

[emma.stratton@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:emma.stratton@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk)

### ASSISTANT PROPER OFFICER

#### **Abbie Cotterell**

[abbie.cotterell@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:abbie.cotterell@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk)

### FACILITIES MANAGER

#### **Graham Davison**

[graham.davison@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:graham.davison@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk)

### EVENTS & PROJECTS OFFICER

#### **Emily Dean**

[emily.dean@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:emily.dean@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk)

### MARKETING & PROFILE OFFICER

#### **Francesca Smith**

[francesca.smith@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:francesca.smith@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk)

### RECEPTIONISTS

#### **Liz Evans / Linda Mitchell**

[reception@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:reception@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk)

### APPRENTICE RECEPTIONIST AND ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

#### **Sophie Partridge**

[sophie.partridge@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:sophie.partridge@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk)

### SENIOR CARETAKER CARETAKERS

#### **Richard Flint**

#### **Mark Doolan**

#### **Graham Lock**

#### **David Skeels**

'MySouthend' is an online portal where you can manage your Council Services online:

**[www.southend.gov.uk](http://www.southend.gov.uk)**

Registering is quick and once signed up you can report issues online, receive Council news notifications and contact us with requests or comments on your services. Report, apply and pay for services, including reporting a missed waste collection or pothole; requesting copies of birth certificates; managing your Council Tax, Benefits and Business Rates online and much more.

## Note from Chairman, Jill Healey

Following the May elections, I was delighted to be elected as Chairman for this coming year. It is a great honour to be able to represent Leigh-on-Sea Town Council and I will endeavour to promote and support activities and events in Leigh at every opportunity.

We have some great events lined up this year including our wonderful Leigh Lights parade on 29<sup>th</sup> November. I really enjoyed the Youth Market on Strand Wharf in July and I hope those of you who were able to attend found it as inspiring as I did.

A project I am particularly interested in is our newest campaign to "Make Leigh Plastic Free". The aim is to reduce single use plastic in local businesses. At Leigh-on-Sea Town Council we are hoping to eradicate single use plastics in our office and at council meetings. You will find more detailed information about this project in this edition of the magazine.

Traditionally the Chairman chooses a charity for their year in office and I have chosen Age Concern Southend. I hope you will agree this local charity is a very worthy cause and I urge you to support them if you are able.

I hope you enjoy reading this edition. I would personally like to thank all those who have contributed to the content and especially to the editor and administration team who work so hard to make it such an excellent publication.



**BREAKING NEWS.... TOWN COUNCIL WINS INNOVATION AWARD** Leigh-on-Sea Town Council was awarded the Innovative Work Award 2019, presented by the Essex Association of Local Councils in their 75<sup>th</sup> Year.

The award, sponsored by A&J Lighting, was last won by the Town Council in 2017. This year the Council was recognised for its partnership working with outside organisations such as Southend YMCA and Age Concern Southend, and also for its work with the youth of the town, including its Youth Club, Youth Forum and Youth Market.

A £200 cheque was received as part of the award and the Council plan to use it for a Councillor engagement session with the public in March next year. The Council is very pleased to be acknowledged for the work it does within the Town.

## The Town Clerk and Council Team

*The Council year commences in May at the Annual Council Meeting and already it has been a busy one for myself and the team. We have welcomed 7 new Councillors, adjusted to a new Committee structure and ensured that we start to deliver the Strategic Action Plan set for the next four years.*

*We had hoped that the first phase of the Community Centre remodel would be complete by the end of Summer, but although we had commenced planning with our Landlord at the end of 2018 to obtain the necessary consents, the legal side has caused delays. We hope that by the time you read this some of the internal changes will already be in place to help make the Centre more welcoming and functioning more effectively for all our users and visitors.*



*The second phase, which will be the extension of the café area and moving of the ground floor gents' toilets, will now be planned for early 2020. In the meantime, there are lots of other essential refurbishments that we are tackling to maintain this 100+ year old building. In due course there will also be a significant redecoration programme.*

*The team is incredibly busy with planning for our Christmas Season which will commence with Leigh Lights on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November. Again we are trying to keep the event fresh by introducing some new elements. So look out for our promotional material closer to the time and stay in touch by following us on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram.*

*We have clearly raised our profile through using social media in the last year. For example our post in the summer about the "Blue Crab" drain incentive reached over 490,000 people - a significant sum considering there are only 22,000 in the Town Council boundary! Also, it seems it was read overseas judging by some of the comments.*

*Helen Symmons, Town Clerk*



The recent Council elections saw a lot of change for Leigh-on-Sea Town Council with 7 councillors ending their term, these included Jill Adair, John Duprey, Patrick Fox, Gerry Glover, Fr. Clive Hillman, Ron Owen and Valerie Morgan. Cllr Valerie Morgan officially stepped down from the Council on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May at the Annual Council Meeting. We would like to thank them for their time and service over the last four years.

# Councillor Profiles

## HIGHLANDS WARD

### Councillor Mark Bromfield

E: [cllrbromfield@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:cllrbromfield@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk)  
T: 01702 390602 Councillor since: 2011  
Committee Membership: Staffing (Chairman), Finance & Governance (Chairman)



### Councillor Emma Smith

E: [cllrsmith@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:cllrsmith@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk)  
T: 07967 086558 Councillor since: 2019  
Committee Membership: Finance & Governance



I live in Leigh with my husband and two young children. We are very lucky to love where we live and embrace the local community: the shops, the beach and the general way of life. I've spent the last 17 years working in advertising and marketing in London, and recently decided to improve my work/life balance by setting up my own marketing consultancy in Leigh. I've always dreamed of working for myself and now I can help small local businesses develop and grow while enjoying our home town every day of the week. I decided to put myself forward for Town Councillor as I am passionate about our area and everyone who lives in it. I have attended many community groups, classes and family events over the years and feel that more can be achieved if we work together and are as inclusive as possible.

### Councillor Vinice Cowell

E: [cllrcowell@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:cllrcowell@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk)  
Councillor since: 2019

Vinice Cowell is local to the area and has a background in social work, safeguarding and is a Branch Leader for the Women's Equality Party. She is passionate about the wellbeing of women and children alongside societal change and justice. "I care deeply about the area in which I live, and since moving here have sought to be as active a member of my community as possible, using what skills and knowledge I have to give something back to the area that is giving me and my family so much."



## THAMES WARD

### Councillor Keith Evans

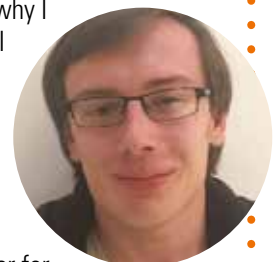
E: [CllrEvans@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:CllrEvans@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk)  
T: 07877 210184 Councillor since: 2018  
Committee Membership: Community & Culture, Staffing (Vice-Chairman)



I spent 26 years in the Army as a musician in the Band of HM Welsh Guards. On retiring from the Army, I was employed as a School Business Manager. I am currently Clerk to the Governors at a Primary School in Basildon and I also Clerk School admissions appeals on behalf of Essex County Council. I have the time to commit to the role and I feel that I have something to offer from the knowledge and experience gained through my various employments.

### Councillor Andrew Wilkins

E: [cllrwilkins@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:cllrwilkins@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk)  
T: 07714 631249 Councillor since: 2019  
Committee Membership: Community & Culture



Hello, I happen to find myself being the youngest councillor who has ever been elected onto Leigh-on-Sea Town Council. I'm often asked why I wanted to join and it's simply more I felt like it was a new challenge on offer to me and also a moral duty to take on to represent the people of Leigh. I've been involved in youth politics from the age of 6-18. Most notably and recently at Southend Youth Council where I was a member for 3 glorious and memorable years. Whilst commuting to and from the University of East London in the last year, I came to love my hometown more than ever before and it's that love that has brought back and ready to serve the people of Leigh for the next 4 years. Having also attended West Leigh Schools and Belfairs Academy within the last 15 years, I know how it is to be a young person growing up in Leigh and I plan on using that to benefit LTC and the town I love and continue to reside in. Please don't hesitate to contact me about any issues whilst I'm in office. All the best to you all.



The Council would like to welcome new councillors Alan Hart who stood unopposed in St. James' Ward and Mike Wells and Douglas Cracknell who won their positions in the Elms Ward election. Eight members of the public applied for the 3 vacancies available for co-option after the elections. The Town Clerk was thrilled to have so many local people eager to support and represent their community. The successful candidates were Emma Smith who filled Highlands Ward vacancy and Damian O'Boyle who filled Herschell Ward vacancy; the Council was also very excited to welcome

Andrew Wilkins, their youngest ever councillor, who at just age 19 will be representing Thames Ward. Leigh-on-Sea Town Council is pleased to announce their new Chairmen for the Council year 2019 – 2020. Previous Vice-Chairman Cllr. Jill Healey was elected as Chairman, with Cllr Vivien Rosier elected as Vice-Chairman.

The Town Council would like to thank Hattons Jewellers for their kind donation of the engraved pin for the Chairman's Chain.

## HERSCHELL WARD

### Councillor Declan Mulroney

E: cllrdmulroney@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk

T: 01702 475117

Councillor since: 2015

Committee Membership:

Finance & Governance

(Vice-Chairman)



### Councillor Damian O'Boyle

E: cllroboyle@

leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk

T: 07764 842802

Councillor since: 2019

Committee Membership:

Planning, Highways &

Licensing



## BONCHURCH WARD

### Councillor Jill Healey Chairman

E: cllrhealey

@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk

T: 07854 959389

Councillor since: 2016

Committee Membership:

Planning, Licensing &

Highways (Chairman),

Community & Culture,

Staffing, Finance & Governance,

Friends of Leigh Library Gardens



Jill has worked with communities throughout her career, both with the Department for Work and Pensions, and more recently with Norwich City council. She believes this experience gained will be useful to the Council and residents. She wishes to play an active role in Leigh's future.

## ST. CLEMENT'S WARD

### Councillor Carole Mulroney

E: cllrcmulroney@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk

T: 01702 475117 Councillor since: 2007

Committee Membership: Community & Culture

(Chairman) Staffing, Finance & Governance,

Magazine Group, Friends of Leigh Library Gardens



I have represented St Clement's Ward for 13 years covering the Broadway down to the Old Town. I have been Chairman of the Council twice during the period when we took over the community centre and campaigned against cuts to the Library service. For all those 13 years I have been immersed in the life of Leigh and working to improve our town. In 2014 and 2018 I was elected to Southend Borough Council working for Leigh in a wide variety of roles, particularly Licensing and Planning related. In 2019 I became Southend's Cabinet Member for Environment and Planning covering a vast range of issues from waste recycling to energy, biodiversity and the new Borough Local Plan as well as our parks and gardens, seashore and heritage. I am a member of the Leigh Society and Trustee of Leigh Heritage Centre and represent the Town Council on the Leigh Coastal Communities Team and the North Thames Fisheries Local Action Group, as well as being a Director of the Leigh Port Partnership, the Pier Museum Foundation Trust and the Friends of Southend Cemeteries.

### Councillor Vivien Rosier, Vice-Chairman

E: cllrrosier@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk

T: 01702 474252 Councillor since: 2015

Committee Membership: Planning, Licensing &

Highways, Community & Culture, Staffing, Finance

& Governance, Arts Group, Youth Group, Magazine

Group, Friends of Leigh Library Gardens



My family moved to Leigh from West Ham in 1955 when I was a 6-week-old baby. Apart from 4 years away from home when training to be a teacher, and a brief spell living in Sydney, Australia, I have lived in Leigh all my life. I attended Chalkwell Hall School and Westcliff High School for Girls. I have a daughter, a brother and other family members also living in Leigh. I became a Councillor in 2015 and am finding the role very interesting. My career has been in education and I have a particular interest in Special Educational Needs. My hobbies include reading, yoga and walking along our wonderful seafront. I have recently joined the U3A and am making the most of the groups running at Leigh Community Centre.

## LEIGH ROAD WARD

### Councillor Anita Forde

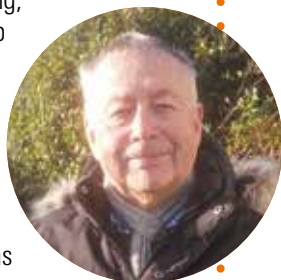
E: [cllrforde@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:cllrforde@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk)  
T: 07786 023941 Councillor since: 2016  
Committee Membership: Planning, Licensing & Highways, Community & Culture (Vice-Chairman), Finance & Governance, Arts Group, Youth Group, Magazine Editorial Group



I have been a resident of Leigh for over 40 years. I attended WHSG and completed a Hairdressing apprenticeship in Leigh. I then ran my own salon in Leigh for 20 years before moving into education. I taught History and RE, locally, at Secondary and A-level for 15 years but have recently returned to my previous occupation and now run a business within the Leigh Road Ward, as well as live there. I have 2 adult sons. One of my main interests is the well-being of our young people and following my re-election in May 2019, I will endeavour to continue to support residents and businesses in Leigh as well as promote the Youth forum.

### Councillor Paul Gilson

E: [cllrgilson@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:cllrgilson@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk)  
T: 07775 693225 Councillor since: 2018  
Committee Membership: Planning, Licensing & Highway, Arts Group



I am a fisherman who has lived in Leigh for over 45 years. I have fished from Leigh for 50 years and my family over 200 years before me. I served on the Southend Lifeboat for 30 years as Helmsman and was made a Freeman of the Borough in year 2000 for my services to Southend. I'm at present serving a second term as the Commodore of the Essex Yacht Club. I am also a member of the Endeavour Trust and skipper of the Dunkirk Little Ship Endeavour. I am the elected representative for the South East branch of the National Federation of Fishermens Organisations and I represent the fishing industry nationally and internationally. I'm passionate about the environment and want more protection for it. I was responsible for the introductions of marine conservation zones of the Rivers Crouch, Blackwater and Roach, eventually getting the River Medway as well. I was a founder member of the Strand Wharf and the Leigh port Partnership groups. I am a published author "Sole Searching" and have a second book about to be published. I have written many pieces for magazines and newspapers with numerous letters being published. I love Rugby and Cricket and played for Southend Rugby club for many years. I have 3 grandchildren, 2 of whom live in Leigh. I am passionate about Leigh and its people. I want to make a positive difference to all of Leigh.

## ST. JAMES WARD

### Councillor Alan Hart

E: [cllrhart@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:cllrhart@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk)  
T: 07903 900529 Councillor since: 2019  
Committee Membership: Community & Culture



My name is Alan Hart and I find myself a Leigh Town Councillor. We meet at the Community Centre and that represents my aims, to represent in turn the Community, that's all of you. I also have other axes to grind and have long campaigned against Companies and Authorities where injustice exists. I am Volunteer Co-ordinator for the SOS Bus and am always looking for volunteers to join that worthy project. Contact me on this or any issue that concerns you, no promises, but I will always do what I can.

## ELMS WARD

### Councillor Douglas Cracknell

E: [cllrcracknell@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:cllrcracknell@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk)  
T: 01702 474593 Councillor since: 2019  
Committee Membership: Planning, Licensing & Highways, Staffing



I have lived in Leigh with my family for over 25 years. I worked in the retail industry for many years until I took time out to look after our children as a "house husband" - quite a novelty back in 1992! With both boys at school I returned to work as a midday assistant at a local primary school and went on to train as a Specialist Teaching Assistant before eventually taking on the role of I.T. Technician. I continued working in local education for several years before taking an early 'retirement' so I could spend more time in my shed! I served as a Special Constable for Essex Police for 15 years, stationed at the old Leigh Police Station, before retiring in 2012. I am now looking forward to continuing to support our local community as a member of the Town Council. In my spare time I enjoy walking football which I took up at the beginning of the year in an attempt to keep fit - and am also the family's regular dog walker to Monty, our 8-year-old Westie!

### Councillor Caroline Parker

E: [cllrparker@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:cllrparker@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk)  
T: 01702 477703 Councillor since: 2003  
Committee Membership: Planning, Licensing & Highways (Vice-Chairman), Community & Culture, Youth Group, Magazine Group



I have lived in Leigh for 25 years and joined the Council in 2003. During my time on the Council I have been chairman of the Council, chairman of Transport & Highways and chairman of Planning, Highways and Licensing. Among my achievements whilst on the Council are a school crossing, an outdoor gym and creating the "Easter Event". My interests include; history, travelling and the theatre. My large family keep me informed as to the wants and needs of future generations in our area.

### Councillor Mike Wells

E: [cllrwells@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:cllrwells@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk)  
T: 07768 703584 Councillor since: 2019  
Committee Membership: Community & Culture, Staffing, Magazine Group



# Council Committees

The committees have been restructured this year with new headings to better suit the work of the Council. These now include Finance & Governance instead of Policy & Resources, and Community & Culture; an amalgamation of the previous Environment & Leisure and Community Facilities Committees. The Planning, Licensing & Highways and Staffing committees remain as before.

## Full Council Meetings

- Tue 19th Nov 2019
- Tue 21st Jan 2020
- Tue 17th March 2020
- Tue 19th May 2020

## FINANCE & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

To develop, monitor and review Council policies and functions and review the Council's accounts and finances.

Cllr. Mark Bromfield - Chairman  
Cllr. Declan Mulroney - Vice-Chairman  
Cllr. Anita Forde  
Cllr. Jill Healey  
Cllr. Carole Mulroney  
Cllr. Vivien Rosier  
Cllr. Emma Smith

Tue 12th Nov 2019  
Tue 3rd Mar 2020  
Tue 5th May 2020

## STAFFING COMMITTEE

To consider and deal with all matters affecting staffing issues except where the overall staffing budget will be exceeded. In such cases the Committee will make a recommendation to the Finance & Governance Committee.

Cllr. Mark Bromfield - Chairman  
Cllr. Keith Evans - Vice-Chairman  
Cllr. Douglas Cracknell  
Cllr. Jill Healey  
Cllr. Carole Mulroney  
Cllr. Vivien Rosier  
Cllr. Mike Wells

Tue 29th Oct 2019  
Tue 4th Feb 2020

## COMMUNITY & CULTURE COMMITTEE

To consider and develop all leisure, foreshore and environmental matters relating to the Council's business. Responsibility for all Council premises and assets and for supporting the operation of the Leigh Community Centre (LCC) and considering their further development and the development of other facilities.

Cllr. Carole Mulroney - Chairman  
Cllr. Anita Forde - Vice-Chairman  
Cllr. Keith Evans  
Cllr. Alan Hart  
Cllr. Jill Healey  
Cllr. Caroline Parker  
Cllr. Vivien Rosier  
Cllr. Mike Wells  
Cllr. Andrew Wilkins

Tue 8th Oct 2019      Tue 17th Dec 2019  
Tue 11th Feb 2020    Tue 28th April 2020

*Community & Culture Committee  
Chairman – Cllr. Carole Mulroney*

As part of its reorganisation and streamlining of committee work, the Town Council has created the Community and Culture Committee from the former Environment and Leisure and Community Facilities Committees. This brings under the one head all the facilities and events the Town Council provides.

The new committee has a heavy workload as you can imagine but it does make for better co-ordination and use of staff resources.

Since the last LTC news we have moved further forward with the renovations to the Community Centre, including new windows in Room 1. Our events go from strength to strength, utilising Strand Wharf and the Centre. The work with the YMCA and the Artist in Residence enhances the offer we make to our young people (not forgetting the recent Youth Market) and the part we now play in the arts and culture of Leigh.

New Councillors have brought new ideas and we look forward to even more good things in the coming year.

## PLANNING, LICENSING & HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE

To make observations where appropriate on all planning applications within the Council area and Government and Borough Council planning consultations and to make site visits where necessary. To make observations on any Licensing application within the Council area the Committee considers appropriate. To make observations on any relevant Highway issue referred from or being discussed by the Highway Authority.

Cllr. Jill Healey - Chairman  
Cllr. Caroline Parker - Vice-Chairman  
Cllr. Douglas Cracknell  
Cllr. Anita Forde  
Cllr. Paul Gilson  
Cllr. Damian O'Boyle  
Cllr. Vivien Rosier

Tue 5th Nov 2019      Tue 26th Nov 2019  
Tue 10th Dec 2019    Tue 7th Jan 2020  
Tue 28th Jan 2020    Tue 18th Feb 2020  
Tue 10th Mar 2020    Tue 31st Mar 2020  
Tue 21st April 2020    Tue 12th May 2020

*Planning, Licensing & Highways Committee  
Chairman – Cllr. Jill Healey*

Following the May elections, I was pleased to be elected as Chairman for Planning Highways and Licensing Committee for another year. I am delighted that this year the committee includes a combination of councillors new to planning and those who have many years' experience.

The committee have met 21 times and considered 420 planning applications in the last year.

Due to the volume of applications and deadlines for comments this committee has traditionally met every two weeks, however combined with other meetings this is a big commitment for councillors so this year Council agreed to us trying out holding meetings every three weeks. I'll let you know if it was a success in the next magazine!

All our meetings are open to the public so if you would like to see how it works then you would be very welcome to join us at one of our meetings.



## Seeing the big picture...

Leigh-on-Sea Town Council's

Strategic Plan 2019- 2023

By Vice-Chairman Cllr Vivien Rosier

Leigh-on-Sea Town Council's mission is to represent the people of Leigh-on-Sea and to protect and promote the heritage and identity of the town. On the surface, this sounds pretty straightforward but, in reality, the local community faces some complex and challenging issues and it is the Town Council's responsibility to make things as good as they possibly can be for our residents.

We had a series of meetings back in 2018 to establish a shared vision for Leigh-on-Sea. All councillors and staff took part and it was great to be able to re-affirm our values and talk positively about the future.

However, a vision is not much use without some ideas on how it is going to be achieved. We needed to come up with some firm objectives to frame our decisions and actions for the next 4 years. This seemed a bit daunting but we followed the advice of Stephen Covey and started 'with the end in mind' and things fell into place.

### **We knew what we wanted to achieve and came up with the following key objectives:**

*To be proactive in creating effective partnership working between Southend-on-Sea Borough Council and Leigh-on-Sea Town Council to ensure a shared vision for Leigh-on-Sea*

*To identify community facilities that will enhance the quality of life of local residents and to explore ways of securing the necessary resources with minimum impact on the precept*

*To raise awareness of local environmental issues and to create opportunities for residents to engage with Leigh-on-Sea Town Council in finding and implementing solutions*

We could see that much of what we were already doing would help to push these objectives forward but we were keen to explore other ideas and projects that would make things even better.

Having these objectives has really focused our attention and we have already embarked on a range of new projects – such as the Friends of Library Gardens and the Youth Forum that you can read about elsewhere in this magazine – all of which have an action plan that will be regularly monitored, reviewed and evaluated.

These are exciting times for Leigh-on-Sea Town Council. We are on track to achieve our overarching aspiration of 'improving the quality of town life' for all our residents. **You can find a copy of the Strategic Plan and up-dates on our progress on the LTC website.**

Quote taken from: 'Seven habits of highly effective people' Stephen Covey 1989

## Let's make Leigh, plastic free

By Cllr Damien O'Boyle

**Plastic waste is an international, national and local issue.** For wildlife, it can be deadly. Plastic can entangle, injure and drown animals; it can also be mistaken for food and starve animals to death by blocking their digestive systems.

For us humans it's not looking good either. At risk are our wild spaces and oxygen supply as well as our health. The chemicals that plastics leach into seawater have been linked to endocrine disruption and some cancers.

With 1 in 3 fish caught for human consumption now containing plastic, it's no longer a question of if there is plastic in our seafood, but how bad exactly that contamination is for us\*

### **But we can significantly improve things:**

Local Leigh-on-Sea resident, Amelia Slocombe, is working with Surfers Against Sewage and Leigh-on-Sea Town Council to make our town a plastic free community. This involves a series of steps to reduce single use plastics. A steering group is being established which, in the first instance, will be looking for local businesses to identify and remove at least three single-use plastic items.

Ultimately, should we be successful in achieving the objectives identified by Surfers Against Sewage, Leigh-on-Sea could become the first plastic free community in Essex!

In addition to town-wide initiatives, there is a lot we can do as individuals to reduce our plastic waste including:

**Carrying a reusable cup/bottle for drinks**

**Using reusable bags when shopping**

**Filling existing containers at refill shops**

**Switching plastic items for natural/longer lasting alternatives (eg. shaving razors, cotton buds)**

And as the kids go back to school consider some of the ideas for reducing plastic in classrooms below:

**Ensure pens, pencils and cases are as plastic free as possible**

**Use tubs, boxes, beeswax or paper wraps to store sandwiches, fruit etc.**

**Reduce consumption and reuse items (eg. uniform and backpack swaps)**

If you are a local business keen to get involved, or an individual or group keen to help with plastic reduction, please email [cllroboyle@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:cllroboyle@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk)

\*Surfers Against Sewage, 2019







# LEIGH-ON-SEA PARTNERSHIP GROUP GIVES LOCAL BUSINESSES A VOICE

By Katie Sogorski

A group formed to give local businesses a voice within the Borough will ensure Leigh-on-Sea continues to be a thriving shopping and leisure destination for residents and visitors.

The Leigh-on-Sea Partnership, made up of business representatives from across the area works with Southend Borough Council to secure funding and support for initiatives that will shape the town and experience for all who use it.

The group, established around 18 months ago, consults with businesses on the Broadway, Broadway West, Elm Road, Leigh Road, Rectory Grove, London Road and in Old Leigh. An in-depth survey distributed to these businesses identified their biggest concerns and frustrations and a list of five priorities are the focus for the group over the next two years. They are:

1. Marketing
2. Accessibility
3. Representation
4. Environment & Streetscape
5. Better Safety

Local businesses are invited to contact the group with questions and suggestions via email [hello@leighonseapartnership.co.uk](mailto:hello@leighonseapartnership.co.uk) or follow updates on facebook: LeighOnSeaPartnership

Most recently the group has secured funding from Southend Borough Council and had the go ahead to install new wayfinding signage in the town. The signs will give more visibility to the hidden gems, ensuring visitors and residents are exploring all that Leigh has to offer. Locations identified for clearer signage include Chalkwell Station, Leigh Station and The Grand/Leighton Avenue junction, where maps will be installed. In addition, finger posts highlighting the direction of places of interest will be installed in ten locations including Gypsy Bridge, Leigh Hill, Belton Hill / Marine Parade and Undercliff Gardens. The project is due to be completed in early 2020.

## Members of the Leigh-on-Sea partnership Group are:

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Alan Clary, Bubbles Petcare  
- Broadway - LOSITA

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David Elcock, Leigh Road Traders & Community Association  
- Love Leigh Road

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Elaine Gloyne, Pub Watch  
- The Broker Freehouse

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Helen Symmons, Town Clerk  
- Leigh-on-Sea Town Council

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Mike Wells, Councillor  
- Leigh-on-Sea Town Council

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Jaime Lawson, Space282  
- Leigh Road

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Katie Sogorski  
- ABOUT Communications

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Marzia Abel, Southend Borough  
- Council Town Centre Manager

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Philip Giles, Giles Wilson Solicitors  
- Broadway & London Road

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David Elcock from Love Leigh Road commented: 'it is no secret that the shape of the UK high street is changing. We are shopping differently and there is more pressure on businesses to stay ahead. The Leigh-on-Sea Partnership has been formed so that whilst local businesses concentrate on what is happening inside their shop, we can help with what goes on outside, whilst also making sure our town maintains that character, charm and sense of community we are known for.'

# Did you know? Leigh-on-Sea Town Council...

*Employs*

**14**

members  
of staff

*Spends*

**£5k**

ANNUALLY IN GRANTS TO  
COMMUNITY GROUPS

*Funds*

**2**

YOUTH CLUBS  
IN PARTNERSHIP  
WITH SOUTHEND  
YMCA



*Welcomes*  
**+2000**  
visitors per week at  
the Community Centre

*Reviews*  
**+450**  
planning applications  
during the year



*Put up* **88**

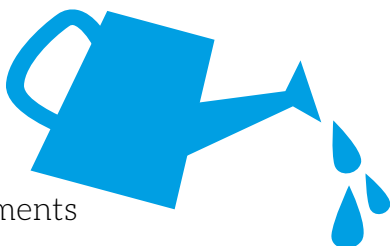
HANGING BASKETS  
IN THE SUMMER  
(11 SPONSORED)

**£47.70** paid yearly by  
average Leigh  
household for  
Leigh-on-Sea  
Town Council

**ORGANISES** THE LEIGH LIGHTS,  
COMMUNITY DAY, YOUTH MARKET,  
CAROLS ON STRAND WHARF AND  
CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAYRE

*Entertains*  
**1326** children at our  
Holiday Activities  
Programme

*Manages*  
**17**  
acres of allotments



**2018/19 WE SPENT**  
(for Leigh Community Centre)  
**£111K** on a new roof  
**£32K** for a new lift

**OUR BUDGET 2019/20**

**£421K** precept  
**£131K** from room hire  
**£30K** skate park extension  
**£132K** remodel of LCC  
**£13K** Xmas street decorations  
**£5.6K** on hanging baskets





## **“An early morning walk through Leigh Library Gardens raises the spirits”**

says Heather Swain who recently joined the Friends of Leigh Library Gardens volunteer group.

Heather always knew that she wanted to live in Leigh-on-Sea. She grew up in Westcliff-on-Sea and remembers happy times travelling by train with her parents to Leigh-on-Sea and walking up to The Broadway via Belton Hills and the Library Gardens.

Recently retired, Heather is an active member of Leigh Wesley Methodist Church and the Fisherman's Chapel Gospel Choir as well as having a part-time job. She volunteered for the first time last year at the Folk Festival and got the volunteering 'bug'. She found out about the Friends of Leigh Library Gardens from an article in the Leigh Times, bit the bullet and turned up for a volunteering session on probably the wettest morning of the year!

Heather describes herself as a “mad keen gardener” and she has always been interested in nature and wildlife. The idea of ‘re-wilding’ the Library Gardens really appeals as does the idea of ‘giving something back’ to the community. Being proactive feels good!

When asked why the Library Gardens are important, Heather said, ‘The gardens are like a green lung in the town - a bit like a village green if you like.

I took my own children there when they were little, and it is a great place to take my grandchildren. And of course, there are also the benefits of being outside in the fresh air and being active. I like the historical connections that the gardens have with the library building (which used to be the rectory in times gone by) and see it very much as part of the heritage of the town.’

I asked Heather if she thought that the volunteer group is a good idea. Her response? ‘Absolutely! Our local parks are so important and if we want to keep them looking good we have to care for them. It is a great way to meet new people and I can fit it in with all my other activities.

The way in which the sessions are organised means that you can stay for the whole session or as long as you feel able – you can do lots of weeding in half an hour and your efforts will be much appreciated!’

Details on the dates of the sessions in the gardens can be found on the Leigh-on-Sea Town Council website. People of any age or gardening expertise are welcome and all the tools and guidance you may need are provided.

## **Friends of Leigh Library Gardens**

The inaugural AGM of The Friends of Library Gardens took place on 26th July 2019. Cllrs Carole Mulrone and Vivien Rosier are the Town Council representatives from the Council's internal Friends Group. Officers have been elected and it was resolved to move towards forming a

charity (with founding Trustees) as soon as the foundation documents are agreed and a bank account is in place.

A draft plan for the various areas of the Gardens was presented to the group and a range of ideas was discussed. These discussions are in the

early stages and will continue on a regular basis to ensure that an agreed plan of action is established.

Volunteer recruitment was identified as a priority and a representative from SAVS has been invited to the next meeting to advise the group.

Involvement in this project links with all 3 of LTC's strategic objectives - working in partnership with SBC, enhancement of community facilities and raising awareness of environmental issues by creating opportunities for residents to get involved.





## Merchant Navy Day

By Francesca Smith

The Town Council continued their new tradition of celebrating Merchant Navy Day on Tuesday 3rd September. Vice-Chairman Cllr Vivien Rosier proudly raised the Red Ensign Flag in a small ceremony on Strand Wharf with a prayer from Father Clive Hillman from St. Clements to commemorate and celebrate the work of Merchant Navy Seafarers. Cllr Anita Forde also said a few words about her personal connection to the Seafarers charity.

Since 2000, Merchant Navy Day has honoured the brave men and women who kept our 'islandnation' afloat during both World Wars. It also celebrates our dependence on modern day merchant seafarers who are responsible for 95% of the UK's imports, including food, fuel and many products we take for granted.

Leigh-on-Sea Town Councillors were joined by representatives from Southend Borough Council, the Town Mayor and Mayoress of Canvey Island Town Council and local MP Sir David Amess.



## Community Day

By Francesca Smith

Leigh-on-Sea Town Council hosted its second annual "Community Day" in Bonchurch Park on Sunday 9th June. The free event had a focus of health and well-being in the community, with a variety of stalls from local charities and community groups. Visitors were given the chance to learn more about how to get involved with educational courses, children's groups, health and fitness classes and volunteering opportunities in the local area.

The day itself attracted approximately 800 visitors. There were 32 stall holders exhibiting, including Essex County Fire & Rescue Service, RNLI, Leigh

Society, West Leigh Baptist Church, The Royal British Legion, Leigh Lions, Southend Adult Community College, Southend YMCA, Broadway Belles WI, Yoga4all, Talking Tots, Seaside Circus and many more. Performances took place throughout the day from local dance and drama groups, Leigh Starlite Majorettes, N-Act Theatre Schools, PS Dance, Leigh-on-Sea TheatreTrain and the Feel-Good Choir.

Official guests included the Mayor and Mayoress of Southend and MP, Sir David Amess. The general feedback and response on the day was incredibly positive and the increase in numbers was noticed by all. The Town Council would like to thank everyone who attended and took part, and look forward to planning the event again next year.

## Volunteer Thank You Event

By Francesca Smith

Leigh-on-Sea Town Council invited local volunteers to enjoy a special afternoon tea at Leigh Community Centre to say thank you for the work they do in the community.

As well as the Council's own volunteers, helpers were invited from Leigh Heritage Centre, St. John's Ambulance, Leigh Lions, Leigh British Legion, Litter-Less Leigh, Friends of Leigh Library Gardens and the local churches.

A delicious afternoon tea was provided by local caterers "The Party Kitchen" and easy-listening entertainment was provided by "The Ray Miso Trio," a recently formed jazz group, comprised of local musicians, including Cllr Keith Evans.

The Town Council plan to make this celebration an annual event, to ensure local volunteers are given a deserved treat.

The event was part of the national celebration, Volunteers Week, which is held every year from 1st-7th June.





# Leigh Farmers' Market

By Sophie Partridge

Located in Leigh Community Centre, the Farmers' Market has been thriving since 2000, receiving an ever-increasing number of customers through its doors. Originally set up by Mrs Janet Hammond, followed on by her husband David, it is now currently managed by Leigh-on-Sea Town Council.

Our Farmers' Market provides a large array of goodies to suit everyone, from vegan cheese; soaps and skin products; beers and honey; organic vegetables; unique and handmade gifts; chutneys and jams; and even flowers and plants, all from Essex.

The Farmers' Market not only provides a great sense of community but is also a huge asset to Leigh, as it is a great reminder of what Leigh stands for in supporting our local independent producers to sell their fantastic products. The Farmers' Market continues to go from strength to strength as interest surrounding the event is plentiful. To date we have four new regular stall holders trading with us. The market is one of the longest running in the Essex area. It prides itself on delivering local produce to residents. Every third Friday of the month, the Donald Fraser Hall buzzes with enthusiasm and community spirit. With Christmas on the horizon, the special Christmas Farmers' Market on Saturday 21st December is not to be missed!

Lots of new stallholders have joined this year, including:

**Berry's Vegan** From Southend, originally started making vegan cheese and now make vegan fudge, trifles, cakes and more [www.facebook.com/berrysvegancheese](https://www.facebook.com/berrysvegancheese)

**Bight** From Rayleigh, have a small bakery/coffee shop where they sell a range of homemade cookies [www.bightuk.com](http://www.bightuk.com)

**Lovely Bread & Stuff** From Leigh-on-Sea, specialising in handmade gluten free products

**Nat & Co** Provides delicious, natural hand-crafted snacks for optimal health and wellbeing by founder Natalie King [www.natand.co.uk](http://www.natand.co.uk)

Pre-existing stallholders:

**Bean & Boy** - Handmade Soaps

**Box Boy** – Handmade wooden boxes

**Boxes Honey** – Local honey

**Bradfield's Farm Diary** – Dairy produce

**Elixirs of Life** – Natural skincare items

**Flour and Spoon** – Local bakery

**Gambardeli** – Vegan Deli

**Highfield Farm** – Beef and eggs

**Hoppily** – Craft beers

**Hugo's Pantry** – Local cakes and sweet treats

**My Choc O' Leight** – Artisan chocolates

**Rhyne Park Farm** – Pork and lamb

**Sarah Green's Organics** – Organic Vegetables

**Sharpening Solutions** – Mobile knife sharpening

**South East Essex Organic Gardeners** – Local plants

**The Food Beaver** – Spice mixes and seasonings

**The Perfect Pudding Company** – Chutneys, pickles and Christmas Puddings

## UPCOMING DATES

Fri 18 Oct 2019

Fri 15 Nov 2019

Sat 21 Dec 2019

Fri 21 Feb 2020

Fri 20 Mar 2020

Fri 17 April 2020

Fri 15 May 2020

Fri 19 June 2020

Fri 17 July 2020

Fri 21 Aug 2020

Fri 18 Sept 2020



**David and Sophie**

# Leigh-on-Sea Town Council Apprentices Career Development Opportunities for Young People

## **David Skeels – Facilities Management Apprenticeship**

"I chose to do an apprenticeship because I am more hands on and like to learn things by physically doing them rather than studying through books and computers. As soon as I looked into the option of doing an apprenticeship, I knew it was the right option for me as you can learn on the job and really gain yourself vital experience in the world of work."

My time at Leigh Community Centre has taught me a lot including leadership skills, teamwork, problem solving, communication skills and working with the public. I've really enjoyed working here as you get to know different members of the public and every day is different in terms of what jobs you get to do."

## **Sophie Partridge – Level 3 Business Administration**

My apprenticeship experience at Leigh-on-Sea Town Council has been highly rewarding, I have taken part in various new experiences, learnt a large amount about business administration, reception work and the Council to list a few.

I have also met some amazing people and made many new friendships along the way. I applied for the apprenticeship as it offered a chance to learn valuable skills and experiences whilst also earning a wage.

I would recommend anyone to do an apprenticeship as it provides great insight of being in a workplace, I feel very much supported by my colleagues and am grateful for their continued guidance and support.

## **Abbie Cotterell – Level 2 NVQ Diploma in Business & Administration**

I chose to do a level 2 NVQ Diploma in Business & Administration to enable me to learn whilst on the job. I had very little experience working in an office, so felt an apprenticeship would be the best option for me. I have now worked at the Town Council for 4 and a half years. The apprenticeship was just the beginning of my learning experiences and since I have been here, I have attended a number of internal training sessions including first aid at work, defibrillator training and fire marshal training.

A year after completing my apprenticeship I signed up and completed the Level 2 ILCA (Introduction to Local Council Administration) qualification. This course is aimed specifically at council officers, so allowed me to further my knowledge in my current role.

After completing my ILCA I then signed up to CiLCA (Certificate in Local Council Administration). This is a Level 3 Foundation Qualification covering 5 topics including; Core Roles in Local Council Administration, Law & Procedures, Finance, Management & Community Engagement. I have learnt a lot since working towards this qualification and it has given me a better understanding of all aspects of the Town Clerk's work.

I feel doing an apprenticeship with the Town Council has given me a number of opportunities to further my career and personal development, proving that Leigh-on-Sea Town Council supports the training and further education of its staff members.



**Abbie**



# YOUTH FORUM



Do You Want Your Voice Heard About Local Issues?

You Can Have The Power To Make A Positive

Change.



Every Second Thursday Of The Month

5pm-6pm

For Ages 11-18 In Leigh-On-Sea.

Leigh Community Centre (Room 6)



**YOU HAVE THE POWER TO MAKE A POSITIVE CHANGE.**



**Greta Thunberg**, the Swedish teenager who launched the school strike movement urged MEPs to 'wake up and take action'. **Here are five of her most inspiring quotes:**

**1. Addressing COP24 in Katowice, December 2018**

Until you start focusing on what needs to be done rather than what is politically possible, there is no hope. We can't solve a crisis without treating it as a crisis. We need to keep the fossil fuels in the ground, and we need to focus on equity. And if solutions within the system are so impossible to find, maybe we should change the system itself.

**2. Addressing a special meeting of the European parliament's environment committee, April 2019**

Our house is falling apart and our leaders need to start acting accordingly because at the moment they are not. If our house was falling apart our leaders wouldn't go on like we do today. If our house was falling apart, you wouldn't hold three emergency Brexit summits and no emergency summit regarding the breakdown of the climate and the environment.

**3. Speaking to political and business leaders in Brussels, February 2019**

If you still say that we are wasting valuable lesson time, then let me remind you that our political leaders have wasted decades through denial and inaction.

**4. Rounding on the global business elite in Davos, January 2019**

Some people, some companies, some decision-makers in particular, have known exactly what priceless values they have been sacrificing to continue making unimaginable amounts of money. And I think many of you here today belong to that group of people.

**5. Addressing a special meeting of the European parliament's environment committee, April 2019**

It is still not too late to act. It will take a far-reaching vision, it will take courage, it will take fierce, fierce determination to act now, to lay the foundations where we may not know all the details about how to shape the ceiling. In other words, it will take cathedral thinking. I ask you to please wake up and make changes required possible.

**Instead of looking for hope, look for action. Then, and only then, hope will come . . . Greta Thunberg**

**Do you live in Leigh-on-sea and**

**Do you want your voice heard a**

**Do you want to have the**

**Do you want to collaborat**

**Do you want to help organise fun ev  
on issues tha**

**If the answ  
then why don't you c  
of Leigh-on-Sea's**

"I came to the Youth Forum to voice my opinion on Leigh and what we should change to create a better place for teenagers."  
Jackson, age 15

"I came in the first place because I've always felt that some adults make wrong decisions and so children need a voice too and they deserve to add their opinions."  
Maisie Allen, age 11



## Malala Yousafzai

The world could use more people like Malala Yousafzai - especially now. People who stand strong in their convictions, who value education, who believe in fighting for equality, and speak up for those who may not be able to speak up for themselves. Malala's activism, fighting for human rights and particularly girl's education, has earned her a Nobel Peace Prize - the youngest recipient in the award's history. For that, and countless other reasons, she is a person we could all aspire to be a little more like. **Malala Yousafzai quotes:**

“ We realize the importance of our voices only when we are silenced

One child, one teacher, one book, one pen can change the world

When the whole world is silent, even one voice becomes powerful

Education is education ”



the immediate surrounding areas?

about local issues that affect you?

power to make changes?

te with like-minded people?

vents for the community and/or events  
t matter to you?

ver is "Yes"  
come along and be part  
Open Youth Forum?

"I came along to the Youth  
Forum because the idea of  
giving young people a voice  
sounded interesting."  
Megan, age 13

"I care about the place  
I live in and I would  
like it to become a  
better place for every-  
one. Leigh would be  
great if you can  
consider opinions from  
different age groups."  
Nauren, age 16

## Jackson Evans, age 15

### How I See Leigh:

I see Leigh as a vibrant place full of different types of people. There is something to do whether it is getting a coffee, walking a dog or going to the park.

### What Difference Would I Like to See:

I would like to see more events or places that cater for teens, either something calm or something that has a goal or meaning to it.

**My Hobbies:** I really enjoy Art and Media - from taking and editing photos to making DIY clothes by painting and printing cloth and textiles. I am really interested in fashion and I collect skateboards.

**My Future:** In the future, I would like to see myself as an open, kind and outgoing person; constantly on the move, jumping from place to place, doing something related to my hobbies. I would really like to share my ideas and perspective on things.

**My Inspirations:** I see my friends and family as inspirations since they're all on different paths and going through different times and experiences in their lives, giving me advice and allowing me to be the person I am today. I also take great inspiration from the music industry for the same reason, however, they show it in a different way that can connect to everyone.

## XR Youth

### Our Principles and Values

This is what we believe in and what shapes our actions - you do not need to ask permission to join XR Youth, you simply need to understand and believe in these principles and values:

1. WE RECOGNISE THE URGENT NEED FOR SOCIETAL CHANGE: Creating a world that caters for the youth of today so that there can be those who come after us.
2. WE KNOW THAT OUR MISSION IS NECESSARY: We are uncompromising in our aims, and an understanding of the importance of success.
3. WE NEED A REGENERATIVE CULTURE: Creating a culture which is healthy, resilient and adaptable.
4. WE OPENLY CHALLENGE OURSELVES AND THIS TOXIC SYSTEM: Leaving the comfort zone of being blissfully ignorant to take action for change.
5. WE VALUE REFLECTING AND LEARNING: Following a cycle of action, reflection, learning, and planning for more action. Learning from other movements and contacts was well as our own experiences.
6. WE WELCOME EVERYONE, AND EVERY PART OF EVERYONE: Working actively to create more equal and safer spaces.
7. WE ACTIVELY CHALLENGE POWER: Promoting a truly representative voice of young people in a world built for and biased towards adults.
8. WE AVOID BLAMING AND SHAMING: We all live in and have inherited a toxic system and no one is free of its bias and socialisation.
9. WE ARE A NON-VIOLENT NETWORK: Using non-violent civil disobedience strategy and tactics as the most effective way to bring about change.
10. WE ARE BASED ON SELF-ORGANISATION AND RESPONSIBILITY: Things will only happen if we make them happen individually and as collective groups.

**Extinction Rebellion is an international apolitical network using non-violent direct action to persuade governments to act on the Climate and Ecological Emergency.** We have 3 demands in the UK:

### TELL THE TRUTH

Government must tell the truth by declaring a climate and ecological emergency, working with other institutions to communicate the urgency for change.

### ACT NOW

Government must act now to halt biodiversity loss and reduce greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2025.

### BEYOND POLITICS

Government must create and be led by the decisions of a Citizens' Assembly on climate and ecological justice.







## Youth Market

By Sophie Partridge

**Strand Wharf, Old Leigh, Sunday 14th July**

### Youth Market Aims & Objectives:

- To showcase the talents and entrepreneurial spirit of local people aged 16 – 25
- To provide a free platform for young people to sell their own items
- To inspire young people to launch their own business
- To promote small businesses in the area
- To offer a performance platform for young musicians

This is the second time Leigh-On-Sea Town Council has hosted a Youth Market promoting the very best local entrepreneurial talents on offer.

The Market transferred from the Community Centre to Strand Wharf this year with the extended hours of 11am – 4pm. On the day we had 19 stalls and 7 performers. General feedback from the public was highly positive proving the event was very well received and with bigger numbers than last year.

Many of the stall holders have already expressed an interest in next year's event with many generating good income and publicity. There was considerable Facebook and Instagram interaction regarding the event on the day which helped to increase awareness of the event. Overall, the Youth Market was a great success and made a positive impact illustrating our local youth, broadcasting their talents and encouraging the youth of Leigh to be more involved in our community.

The Council organised a vote on the day for the "Best Stall" which was won by Nothing is Real by Gus Burgess. Gus was awarded £50 for the charity of his choice, of which he chose Crohn's & Colitis UK. A local business was so impressed with the youngster that they matched this donation.



## Stall Holders

**Dozens of Buttons by Sian, 17**  
A selection of handmade gifts for all

**Emilie, 22**  
Art prints, cards and children's books

**F.A.B Designs by Faith**  
Handmade textile items including make-up bags, tote bags, cushions and prints

**Lois, 17**  
Typographical art & slogan prints and gifts

**Handmade by Abbie, 19**  
Personalised items such as glasses, mugs, water bottles and more

**Ghastly Creatures by Florence, 25**  
Weird & wonderful illustrations, prints and trinkets

**Makeup by KEB by Katie, 18**  
Glitter makeup, SFX and live makeup demos

**Mrs Wonderlands Emporium by Isabella, 23**  
Vegan, eco-friendly, natural products consisting of plastic free packaging

**Ruth Cook Photography by Ruth, 17**  
Handmade photographic cards

**Nothing is Real by Gus, 17**  
Screen printed clothing including t-shirts and hoodies



**A23 by Alfie, 16**  
Photography prints

**Bight by Austin, 25**  
Homemade cookies

**Rose Boutique x by Kelsey, 19**  
Affordable fashion for young women

**Bobby's Bandanas by Hannah Dowling, 16**  
Handcrafted dog accessories

**Vanilla Cakes UK by Amy, 18**  
Handmade cakes and other delicious nibbles

**Sock Bricks by Seth, 25**  
Colourful and well-designed socks

**Noscript Clothing by Joe, 18**  
Streetwear clothing for the younger generation



**No one is too small to make a difference . . . Greta Thunberg**

Southend YMCA Leigh-on-Sea Town Council  
In partnership with Southend YMCA

# YOUTH CLUB

Thursday's at Leigh Community Centre  
5pm - 7pm - 8 - 11 yr olds  
7.30pm - 9.30pm - 12 - 16 yr olds

**ACTIVITIES:**

- Air Hockey
- Table Football
- Team games and projects.
- Snacks & drinks available at on-site cafe Lorna & Lottie's
- Trips each term
- Dancing
- Arts & Crafts
- Chess & Board Games
- Indoor football, hockey & badminton
- Pool

## FREE ENTRY

Spaces are limited. Please book in advance at [bookwhen.com/southendymca](http://bookwhen.com/southendymca)  
For more information call 01702 746288 or email [council@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:council@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk)

## Youth Club By Francesca Smith

Leigh-on-Sea Town Council has been working in partnership with the Southend YMCA over the last year to provide a youth club for children aged 8-12. The relationship was formed after previous Council Chairman, Valerie Morgan selected Southend YMCA as her Chairman's Charity for 2018/19.

After the success of the Youth Club in the last academic year, the Town Council has recently agreed to increase the funding to allow for an additional youth club up to the age of 16.

The new Youth Club launched on Thursday 5th September and continues weekly at the times:

**5pm-7pm 8-11-year olds**

**7.30pm-9.30pm 12-16-year olds**

Each week the children and young people will have access to a variety of activities including board games, chess, indoor football, badminton & hockey, air hockey, table football, pool, arts and crafts, dancing, team games and projects.

The clubs meet at Leigh Community Centre and benefit from on-site cafe Lorna & Lottie's, providing hot and cold drinks, sandwiches, cakes and more. They are free to attend, but spaces are limited. To book your place please go to:

**[www.bookwhen.com/southendymca](http://www.bookwhen.com/southendymca)**

## Leigh-on-Sea Town Council's Citizenship Award

By Sophie Holmes, Belfairs Academy

Last year, Leigh-on-Sea Town Council launched a new award in partnership with Belfairs Academy, to recognise outstanding pupils at the school. The award is for "Good Citizenship", and each year we ask the staff at Belfairs to nominate their chosen students. A nomination is made for each of the schools' 3 colleges which are named after Leigh ships - Defender, Resolute and Endeavour and also a Sixth-Form nomination. This year's nominees were:

### Defender: Caitlyn Tippet

Sadly, Caitlyn's disabled brother passed away on 23 April 2019. Even with this tragedy hitting the family, Caitlyn continues to maintain her positive outlook on life, attend school and be her bubbly self. She is a role model to all.

### Resolute: Lily Cascarina

Lily has achieved excellent student status and is a model student. Her commitment to the academy is exemplary. We feel that all her achievements alongside her refreshingly mature attitude and warm, kind personality make her a prime candidate for such an accolade.

### Endeavour: Maddie Carter

Maddie is helping to run an art club at West Leigh School once a week after school. Maddie worked with Mrs Lilleker, discussing ideas and how best to deliver mini art lessons and has helped at West Leigh for 2 terms. Maddie hasn't always found school easy and it is fantastic to see her use her qualities in such a constructive way.



### Post 16: Sarah Bundock

Sarah Bundock has been an inspirational Student President at Belfairs Academy this year. She has endeavoured to organise whole school, sixth form and staff events which support our local community and those in serious need abroad. Sarah also conducts voluntary work outside the Academy with her Church and is a key member of their group. Amongst Sarah's greatest achievements in her tenure have been the Southend Food Bank collection for which we collected 130.84kg of food stuffs that ensured the poorest families in Southend Borough had something to eat on Christmas Day, and our Christmas Box collection for Mission Romania which sent toys, sweets and clothing to some of the most in-need communities in Europe.

**Maddie Carter was chosen by Leigh-on-Sea Town Council as the recipient of this year's award and was presented with a framed certificate by Council Chairman Jill Healey at the Belfairs End of Year Assembly in July.**





## Summer Holidays

By Francesca Smith

**Once again Leigh Community Centre opened its doors over the summer to families with their exciting line up of affordable activities.**

Around 600 children attended the 22 events held over the holidays. Prices started from just £3 and activities included; a magic show, princess party, bubble workshops, drama and dance workshops, animal handling events and more. Parents had fantastic feedback for our events saying that they were "great value for money and kept children well entertained for the hour."

We would love to hear suggestions from families in Leigh for future events at the centre, so please email any ideas to [enquiries@leighcommunitycentre.com](mailto:enquiries@leighcommunitycentre.com).

**If you would like to get prior notification for any of our children's events please email us to be added to our mailing list.**



## Summer at Leigh Community Centre is Wedding Season

By Hannah Mumford

The Community Centre has 3 rooms that are licensed for wedding ceremonies and with a capacity of over 100 people, The Donald Fraser Hall is the ideal venue for wedding receptions. We offer affordable venue hire for weddings and civil partnerships. We provide flexibility where you can implement your own vision for your wedding and stay in control of the costs. All of your catering and bar services can also be provided by the on-site café Lorna & Lottie's Cafe. And once the remodel programme is complete, the Council hope that the Community Centre will be a more desirable wedding venue for the couples of Leigh and surrounding areas.

For information about hiring for a wedding or event see the website [www.leighcommunitycentre.com](http://www.leighcommunitycentre.com)

## Anglian Water Blue Crab Campaign

By Rebecca Bromley



Under the terms of the EU Bathing Waters directive, beaches can be designated as 'bathing waters' if they receive a large number of bathers proportionate to their size.

The Environment Agency collect bathing water samples throughout the summer, between May and September, and analyse these samples for the presence of bacteria. Based on the numbers of bacteria over four years' worth of samples, bathing waters can be designated as 'excellent', 'good', 'sufficient', or 'poor'.

Anglian Water meet throughout the year with Southend Borough Council and the Environment Agency to review bathing water data and come up with ways to investigate any problems and tackle any issues that arise, in order to have a positive impact on water quality. This year we decided to carry out and promote our "blue crab" campaign in Leigh-on-Sea. This campaign aims to raise public awareness of the problems associated with improper disposal of waste substances. Surface water or rain drains are designed to take excess rain water away from roads and pavements and put it directly out to sea, but any waste substances wrongly put down them could pollute beaches and watercourses. We hope that our "crabs" will act as a visual reminder to people, companies and contractors that these drains are connected directly to the sea and meant for rainwater only.



The crab spraying was carried out in August by staff from Anglian Water and the Environment Agency, and was followed up with an event where we were joined by Southend Borough Council staff. Leigh-on-Sea Town Council supported the campaign online with a Facebook post that was seen by over 500,000 people.

The blue crabs themselves carry an important message, but carrying out events such as this gives us a great chance to speak to local people, learn more about the local area, and share information about the other work that we do to improve water quality. Anglian Water's main focus this summer has been identifying misconnections; where foul drainage from a property has been incorrectly connected to a surface water sewer. Alongside the Environment Agency we have carried out frequent monitoring of surface water outfalls around Leigh and throughout Southend, and used the data to identify a number of misconnections in the area.

Bathing water classifications are published in November, and we hope that our work will have led to an improvement in water quality at Leigh-on-Sea.



# hoasis

## Leigh Rock Is Almost The Real Thing



By Martin Wood

'Leigh Rock', a monthly live tribute band gig at Leigh Community Centre, is coming to the end of its very successful second year and already has the first six months of next year booked, including another fantastic 2-day Rock Festival for charity.

Three years ago, Martin Wood, who owns Martin Wood Events on the London Road in Westcliff, developed a series of monthly tribute band concerts under the banner of 'Almost The Real Thing', following his success at staging several once-a-year tribute band festivals with a national franchise.

Martin had the idea that he'd only use the best local tribute bands, plus other local bands as support acts, and create a new live music venue in the area. After trying several premises in Southend and Rayleigh Martin finally found the perfect place – Leigh Community Centre, with its well-equipped hall with tables and chairs, separate bar, easy parking, and very helpful staff. And so 'Leigh Rock' was born.

Martin said, "Leigh Community Centre is just right for 'Leigh Rock'. There's a great atmosphere and camaraderie amongst the audience, the bands are always willing to speak with the fans, there's room for dancing, and those who want to sit can do so."

Martin has been around the music scene in Southend for many years, fronting 'The Contra Band' as lead singer, and as half of the duo 'Smudger'. He also sings with the all-male acapella group 'Take Note' and with 'The Show Choir', a mixed community choir.

Using his extensive contacts and reputation for fair dealing Martin has built a list of bands eager to perform at 'Leigh Rock', and a growing band of loyal fans.



The final four acts for this year are tributes to Oasis, The Beatles, Fleetwood Mac, and Led Zeppelin plus a great 60's cover band who are performing all the old rock 'n' roll music. The charity special in October is a tribute to Pink Floyd by 'Any Colour You Like' in aid of The Danny Green Fund, a local charity supporting children affected by brain cancer.

For this year, Martin introduced pre-booked seating, which has proved very successful, with all seats bookable online. Martin's biggest worry is that with a maximum capacity of 200, 'Leigh Rock' will outgrow Leigh Community Centre!

Recently Martin has branched out and has started 'Revolver Records', selling vintage vinyl and CDs from his shop.

Tickets for all events are available from Leigh Community Centre Café, and from Martin Wood Events / Revolver Records shop at 785 London Road, Westcliff (opposite Chalkwell Park main gate) and online from [martinwoodevents.co.uk/almost-real-thing](http://martinwoodevents.co.uk/almost-real-thing)

Contact details: Call 01702 315278 or 07767376176 or email [martin@martinwoodevents.co.uk](mailto:martin@martinwoodevents.co.uk)

Find Martin on Facebook: [facebook.com/MartinWoodEvents/](https://facebook.com/MartinWoodEvents/) and at [facebook.com/Almost-TheRealThing/](https://facebook.com/Almost-TheRealThing/)  
Revolver Records: [facebook.com/vintagerecordshop/](https://facebook.com/vintagerecordshop/)





## The Mother of all Outings

By Nicola Vansteenland

You may have heard about the local lady who's been telling everyone where to go over the summer. Let me introduce myself, I'm Nicola, also known as The Mother of All Outings. Adventurer to the core. Mother of three young (and extremely energetic) kids. Essex girl born and bred.

I have always loved to explore, and having young kids has made me realise just how much there is to see on our doorstep. Not only do we live in the happiest town in the UK, I'd like to argue that we live in one of the best counties too.

I am continually discovering new places and hidden gems to keep my super active kids entertained, and keep my itchy feet in check. And last October, after some encouragement from friends I launched my Instagram page to share all of my adventures with other local parents.

Getting out of the house is hard enough with young kids, let alone deciding where to go, and finding out if you can take the buggy, or change the baby, pay for parking etc. I have taken out all of the stress of researching places and give you all these details FOR FREE in my reviews.

So far, I have shared over 200 places to visit in posts and stories, and I am always receiving messages from parents thanking me for some great days out. I've recommended a real mix of parks, forests, theme parks, cookery classes, theatre, sports, climbing, miniature trains, arts and crafts - even some holidays too. And there is still lots more to come so stay tuned. So many of my ideas don't cost a penny, some its just parking and others are for a special treat, whatever the budget, I've got you covered.

If you're not already following my adventures, check out Instagram and take a look at some of the fantastic days out I've suggested - let me take you on @themotherofalloutings

### Ideas for October Half-Term

This October half-term why not try a Treasure Trail in Southend. You can download the trail or order one to be posted and you can do it any day or time you like- perfect for groups and really, I'd say it's suitable for any age. Parents enjoy it just as much as the kids. The Southend trail takes you on a lovely walk along over the cliffs and along the seafront, don't worry it's buggy friendly. Whether you've lived in Southend all your life or are new to the area, you'll absolutely love it. Visit [www.treasuretrails.co.uk](http://www.treasuretrails.co.uk) to download yours today.

If you want to try something a little bit further, I'd recommend Leisure Island Theme Park in Canvey. Located right on the seafront opposite The Monaco, it is absolutely perfect for young children. My boys were able to go on all the rides by themselves, and some rides have no height restriction at all so babies can go on too. Its £5 for a wristband - unlimited rides all day. This is excellent value for money and we have a lovely little walk on the beach afterwards too. You can enjoy a nice hot coffee while you watch the kids do all the rides- perfect!

We are very lucky in Leigh-on-Sea to have several fun venues offering kids events and crafts during the holidays. Stax of Creations and Create 98 are fantastic for their classes so be sure to check out their schedule. Don't forget the Community Centre has a great line up of events too.

 @themotherofalloutings



# Grant Award Scheme

By Francesca Smith

Leigh-on-Sea Town Council runs a Grant Award Scheme which allows individuals, community groups or charities in the local area to apply for up to £500 funding for projects and events that are a benefit to the people of Leigh-on-Sea.

Grants can also be awarded in the form of room hire bursaries at Leigh Community Centre, which many groups utilise for fundraising events or meetings.

There are two opportunities to apply for a grant per year in March and September. At the last round of applications, a total of £1915.20 was awarded to 6 different recipients.

Our most recent recipients include:

## **SABUG** SOUTHEND AREA BUS USER GROUP

A group that liaise with local bus companies dealing with issues and complaints.

The award is used for committee meetings.



## **ROYAL BRITISH LEGION** LEIGH-ON-SEA

The Legion have regularly booked Leigh Community Centre for their Annual Coffee Morning which launches the Leigh-on-Sea Poppy Appeal.



## **HAVENS HOSPICES**

The fundraising team at Havens have planned a Pamper Evening at the Centre taking place in October. By having the room hire covered by a grant allows the event to generate more profit for the charity.



## **LEIGH FOLK FESTIVAL**

The Leigh Folk Festival is one of the Town's biggest events of the year and attracts many visitors. As it is run purely by volunteers, funding is essential to keep the event going.



## **LEIGH ART TRAIL**

As proud supporters of art in the local community, Leigh-on-Sea Town Council regularly support the Leigh Art Trail and funds received go towards the running of this wonderful community event.



## **LEIGH LIONS** LEIGH REGATTA

Another family favourite event for the local area is the Leigh Regatta, the Lions took over the running of this event in 2014 and the Council funding goes towards children's activities and entertainment at the event.



**The deadline for the next round of applications is 31 March 2020.** For more information about our Grant Award Scheme contact [council@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:council@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk)



**October half-term**  
at Leigh Community Centre  
will be full of family fun  
with a comedy magic and puppet  
show from Professor Rainbows  
**TUESDAY 29 OCTOBER**

Under 5's will also be treated to story  
and rhyme sessions with games  
and crafts based on  
"The Tiger Who Came to Tea"  
**FRIDAY 1 NOVEMBER**

**Parental supervision and  
advanced booking is required  
Call 01702 716288**





# Leigh-on-Sea Town Council Arts Group

By Francesca Smith

Leigh-on-Sea Town Council was recently featured in a special report in the Local Government Chronicle highlighting the work of innovative local councils.

The report, entitled "Points of Light 2019," was sponsored by NALC (National Association of

Local Councils) and focused on Town Councils across the country that are leading the way in various sectors such as funding, youth services, education, economic development and health and wellbeing. It was published and communicated to 1400 primary leaders and chief executives of principal authorities.

The Town Council was recognised for its innovations in Art and Culture within the Town. By providing the attic space in the Community Centre

for an Artist in Residence, and also dedicating a space for community art exhibitions, as well as highlighting the work we have carried out promoting and supporting local artists and bringing art closer to the local people.

Town Clerk, Helen Symmons told NALC, "I believe it's an example of how Town Councils can help enrich local communities. I think the biggest misperception from District and Borough Councils is that we haven't got any powers. They're

never quite sure what we can and can't do – and actually there's lots we can do."

Going forward, the Group aims to continue to build on the recognition we have already garnered so far this year with more Art Wall exhibitions and continued support for our Artists in Residence.

You can keep up to date with all of the Leigh-on-Sea Town Council's art news on Instagram **#leightowncouncilartsgroup**

## Artist in Residence

By Kerry Doyland



One way and another, I've been involved in Art and Design since starting school, but it wasn't until I was nearly 40 that I was introduced to the wonder of drawing the human body.

Life drawing is one of the best ways to switch off from the stresses and strains of modern life and enter that blissful state of calm that we access when we are using the right lobe of our brain. We slow our breath; we slow our brainwaves and we drop into Theta state. The physical body and conscious mind take a back seat and our healing (parasympathetic) nervous system kicks in. What a wonderful feeling that is!



Because of this, and because my Artist's Residency was the perfect platform for me to do so, I've introduced a scholarship for students to come and experience life drawing at a younger age than I did.

Each month a new student joins me in the attic studio for an introduction to life drawing and then, with an armful of art supplies, we go downstairs to Room 4 and join Susan Allen and her wonderful model for the last-Friday-of-the-month life drawing session. Two hours of blissful, creative calm.



## The Art Wall

The Art Wall initiative is part of Leigh-on-Sea Town Council's commitment to promote the provision of accessible social, recreational, educational and cultural facilities within the town for the benefit of the community and visitors. We had a fantastic line up of exhibits last year, which spanned a whole range of styles, from student shows, classic watercolours and psychedelic acrylics, that is set to continue, here is what we have planned until Spring 2020...

### Mon 21 Oct - Sun 1 Dec 2019 The -5 Community Collective "Unity in the Community" Exhibition

The -5 Community are a new group of local artists of different levels of skills and experience who want to share their knowledge and passion and promote art in the local community. They bring different mediums and diverse ideas together, often working collaboratively - sharing their individual passions and inspiring others to create. The group aims to inspire the local community, whatever their skill level, to come together to create and share ideas.

The collective intends to create a community piece of art during the show whereby visiting members of the public are invited to have quick photographic portrait taken which will be printed and immediately become part of a community photo wall for others to see, enjoy and be inspired by.

Proceeds from any sales during the exhibition will be donated to Age Concern Southend.

### Mon 2 Dec - Sun 19 Jan 2020 "Leigh Community Centre Christmas Exhibition"

Leigh Community Centre aims to add to the creative life of the town, which is why we are so pleased we attract so many arts and crafts groups wanting to hire space to work on their craft. This collaborative exhibition will display the creative talents of those who attend classes at Leigh Community Centre, from a range of levels and art forms and give our groups the chance to showcase what they have been working on within the Centre.

**You can keep up to date  
with all Leigh Town Council's  
Arts news on Instagram  
#leightowncouncilartsgroup  
or website  
[www.leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk/  
community-art-wall](http://www.leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk/community-art-wall)**

### Mon 20 Jan - Sun 1 Mar 2020 "Nicola Osborne and Amanda Westbury Floral Exhibition"

"My stimulus is nature, in particular shape and form. Circles are my obsession. Painting ephemeral Dandelion clocks and alliums has allowed me to investigate nature's design. The gossamer like seed heads have promoted the examination into washes of colour describing their transparency and texture. Circles have a dynamic sense of movement, continuity and change. My work as a result has become semi-abstract.

I am still, however, interested in formal qualities, trying to depict the natural world around us." Nicola Osborne

"My ceramic artworks are inspired by nature and the British countryside. I am currently creating artworks which reflect the delicate sculptural forms of indigenous plants, flowers and seedheads, and experimenting with natural oxide colours to bring out the richness of an earthy palette." Amanda Westbury





## Age Concern Southend Events

at The Haven Community Hub

**18th October 7.30pm**  
**Barn Dance**  
**£12 including buffet**

**29th October 3.30pm**  
**Afternoon Tea £8**

**30th November 11-3pm**  
**Christmas Craft Fair**

To donate  
directly to  
Age Concern  
Southend  
visit  
[www.acsos.co.uk](http://www.acsos.co.uk/donate)  
/donate

### Chairman's Charity

By Claire Slack,  
Age Concern Southend

Age Concern Southend is a small, independent charity (registered charity number 1160916) who have been operating across the Southend borough for almost 50 years. The team (made up of 9 staff and 220 volunteers) work tirelessly to make Southend a better place to age through services, advice and support from community transport and befriending to community clubs. The charity has no connection to any national charities such as Age UK and every penny it receives goes directly to helping older people across the Southend community.

The charity currently works with over 1000 older people from all around Southend to help them get where they need to, get help and support, make new friends, learn new skills and live life to the fullest and this number gets bigger every day!

Age Concern Southend is currently befriending around 300 people, some face to face in their homes, some over the phone and some in their residential homes. We receive around 50 calls a day for advice and support and 50 people attend our weekly community clubs in Leigh and Rayleigh.

In 2016/17 we provided 600 community transport lifts, but by 2018/19 this had grown to over 4,700 with just 20 volunteer drivers on the team. This service helps older people get to medical appointments, to visit friends and family and to get involved in their community and there are no restrictions as to who can use our transport service (except being over 60 years old). Age Concern Southend receive no funding from external sources to help fund DBS checks for our volunteer drivers or to pay for maintenance or insurance on our minibus or 7-seater vehicle.

We rely on the kind donations of our supporters to keep our community transport and other services going, be it ten pence in a charity box, £200 from a sponsored walk or a legacy donation of thousands, it all helps to prevent isolation in our community.

Two years ago, Age Concern Southend submitted a planning application to launch our biggest project yet, a new community hub aimed at older people located in the ex-Havens department store on Hamlet Court Road. This hub was to offer a safe and welcoming space to keep fit, meet new people, learn new skills, get help and assistance and enjoy older age to the fullest.

The Haven Community Hub has been a huge undertaking with almost £470,000 needed to complete renovations and refurbishments but thanks to the help and support of community fundraisers, local trusts, groups such as the Leigh Lions, Thorpe Bay Rotary and St. Leonard Masons, the Architectural Heritage Fund, Fowler Smith and Jones, ROSCA Trust and other local funders plus a legacy gift of over £100,000, the charity has now opened the first floor as the new home of Club 50+, an over 50's social club where the club's 230+ members enjoy activities from tai chi and belly dancing to carpet bowls and whist.

Work to the ground floor is ongoing with a hope to complete by October 2019 once an additional £85,000 has been raised. The ground floor will house a community café, dementia day centre, services such as bereavement counselling, dementia support, hairdressing and podiatry as well as meeting space that will be available for the whole community to make use of.

**To find out more about the work that Age Concern Southend do please visit [www.acsos.co.uk](http://www.acsos.co.uk), call on 01702 345373 or email at [enquiry@acsos.co.uk](mailto:enquiry@acsos.co.uk). You can also visit the Age Concern Southend at 134 Hamlet Court Rd.**

## Strand Wharf Family Puppet Show By Francesca Smith

A free family event was held on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> August in the beautiful surroundings of the Leigh Estuary to celebrate the end of the Summer Holidays.

Leigh-on-Sea Town Council hosted the "Dinosaur Rocks" puppet show performed by the Imagination Station on Strand Wharf. Watts Face Painting attended and refreshments were available from the Treat Stop and The Pop Stop.

The event was free but donations were collected on the day for Age Concern Southend. A total of £71.42 was raised at the event.

A big thank you to Councillors Vivien Rosier, Emma Smith, Andy Wilkins, Alan Hart and Doug Cracknell who assisted at the event.

*Excellent feedback was received from parents on the day, and everyone was delighted to have such beautiful weather!*



## Community Transport Scheme

Leigh-on-Sea Town Council operate its own Community Transport Scheme for residents who live within the town council boundary who are over 60 or disabled.

The Council has now launched a new partnership with Age Concern Southend who are providing the use of their minibus for the scheme. Recent trips include:

*A talk at Belfairs Woodland Centre*

*A visit to Central Museum, Southend*

*Shopping at Summer Hill Garden Centre*

*A driving tour of Old Leigh*

*Rodgers & Hammerstein's Cinderella at Palace Theatre*

*Christmas Lunch at The Sarah Moore*

To become a member contact 01702 716288 or visit Leigh Community Centre Reception

## Over 60's Social Club

**By Francesca Smith**

Leigh-on-Sea Town Council organises a monthly social club open to anyone over 60. The sessions are held at Leigh Community Centre on the second Wednesday of the month from 10-12pm.

Each session has a different planned activity and so far over the year we have held musical performances, talks, crafts, a quiz and exercise session. There are also board games available and unlimited tea, coffee and biscuits, all for just £2 per person.

The group is very friendly and everyone is welcome to attend. The aim of the club is to provide an affordable activity for older residents in the town who may be suffering from loneliness or social isolation.

The Council is working with Age Concern Southend, who were nominated as our Chairman's Charity for the year, to help improve our services for the elderly in Leigh-on-Sea. Come the new year, we have some exciting plans for our Social Club so keep your eyes peeled for updates!

### UPCOMING SESSIONS

13th Nov – Autumn Arts & Crafts with the Art Ministry

11th Dec – Christmas Party with live entertainment, games and more

**If you would be interested in volunteering at our Social Club, please contact Francesca on 01702 716288 or email [francesca.smith@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:francesca.smith@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk)**





# Leigh's Silver Badge Cinema



By Cllr Carole Mulroney

***The Armistice may have been signed in 1918 but of course the War was not officially over until 1919 so this little snippet of Leigh's history should not be forgotten.***

The Silver Badge was originally issued to officers and men who were discharged or retired from the military forces as a result of sickness or injury caused by their war service. It was later to include civilians serving with the Royal Army Medical Corps, female nurses, staff and aid workers.

Around the rim of the badge was inscribed "For King and Empire; Services Rendered". It became known for this reason also as the "Services Rendered Badge". Each badge was also engraved with a unique number on the reverse and about 1,150,000 badges were issued.

The badge was made of Sterling silver and was intended to be worn on the right breast of a recipient's civilian clothing. It could not be worn on a military uniform.

On 30 September 1918, The Daily Mirror reported that Leigh had a novel cinema theatre which was owned and managed entirely by Silver Badge men. From the managing director down to the attendants every man had been invalided from the forces and even the bioscope operator and the orchestra had the badge. The lady attendants were widows of men killed in action.

The paper also reports a novel innovation in the cinema in the form of a café where patrons could have light refreshments and see the pictures at the same time.



***If you had a relative from Leigh who received a Silver Badge could it be that they helped man the cinema, and where was the cinema?***

Could it have been the Empire Palace (later the Empire) which stood on the land now a temporary car park behind the Grand and latterly Overton's Garage and was opened in 1910. During the Great War the cinema was used for free shows for soldiers. This seems like a good candidate - but do you know better?







## Marshall Close Allotments

By Phil Major

2019 has, so far, been a good growing year for vegetables and fruit. Whilst we had a dry spell from April to June, since July we have had lots of showers, and a few really good downpours for hours on end, (particularly since the School holidays started!) which really get down to the roots and promote rapid growth.

This has meant bumper crops of most things but especially potatoes, which most people grow, obviously the weather has really suited them. Other staples such as Runner Beans and onions have also done very well. The allotment site is looking very green and lush, and we have a new shed so that members can shelter from showers and sit down and have a cup of tea.

One of the forgotten areas of produce is fruit, but we have a wide variety of it grown on site, including gooseberries, blackcurrants, red currants, raspberries, blackberries, strawberries, apricots, peaches, apples, and pears. It is great to pick the fruit and eat it straight away, you cannot have it any fresher than that. Though much of it ends up as Jam, sorbet, or ice cream, or maybe just stewed and put in the freezer, to be enjoyed months later as a reminder of summer days.

You are constantly reminded of the seasons and the year progressing as an allotment holder. Currently I'm picking lots of tomatoes but it seems no time at all since spring when I planted the tiny plants that are now 5 feet tall, and I know that in around 6 weeks' time I'll be pulling up the spent plants and putting them on the compost heap, to rot down and supply nourishment for future plants.

**We keep reading in the media of studies that say how good gardening and growing your own vegetables is for you both physically and mentally. You may not believe everything you read, but this time it's true!**



# Christmas in Leigh

By Francesca Smith

## Winter Fayre

Saturday 7th December 11-4pm

Our Christmas shopping event is back with a bang for 2019 at Leigh Community Centre. This year we will be focusing on supporting local businesses that make and craft creative, unique and beautiful gifts and Christmas items and will have over 50 stalls to browse on the day across the whole centre. There will also be a "community" room featuring stalls from local charities for visitors to support. Revelation Art will be taking over Room 8 in the centre with a pop-up ceramic painting studio, giving shoppers the opportunity to stop in and design their own creations to give as gifts, perfect for personalised presents from the children! We will also have some festive entertainment and Lorna & Lottie's Café will be open serving mulled wine and mince pies.

Entry to event is free! So, save the date for the best local Christmas shopping event of the year!

## Carols on Strand Wharf

Saturday 14th December 5-6pm

Come take a stroll down to Old Leigh and join us for a mulled wine (or two!) on our beautifully lit Strand Wharf. Leigh-on-Sea Town Council will be hosting an evening full of pure Christmas cheer. All are welcome to join in with the carol singing alongside the Salvation Army Band, or you can just listen!

Refreshments will be available with free mince pies kindly donated by local supermarkets. Beforehand, families are welcome to pop in to the Fisherman's Chapel in New Road from 3.30pm to make and decorate a lantern to help light up the event.

Dress warmly and remember to bring a torch along too!

## Winter Fayre

Saturday 7th December  
Leigh Community Centre  
11am - 4pm



Over 55 stalls across the whole building

Handmade gifts, cards, decorations, homewares, clothing, jewellery & more

Paint your own Ceramic Gifts

Charity stalls

Free Admission

## LANTERN MAKING

AT THE FISHERMEN'S CHAPEL  
NEW ROAD SS9 6EA



BRIGHT AND COLOURFUL LANTERNS

SATURDAY  
14 DECEMBER

COME AND JOIN US FROM 3.30PM AND MAKE A LANTERN BEFORE THE CAROL SINGING ON STRAND WHARF. SUGGESTED DONATION £1. WE'LL ALSO HAVE HOT CHOCOLATE AND GOODIES IN OUR CAFE. OR YOU CAN TAKE THEM TO THE CAROLS!



FISHERMENSCHAPEL.ORG.UK



## Farmers' Market

Saturday 21st December 9-1pm

Our popular Christmas Farmers Market will be held at Leigh Community Centre. You can expect to find all of our usual stalls as well as exciting festive additions so you can pick up all of your supplies for a yummy yuletide!

Orders can be placed at the November market for collection just before Christmas. Or remember to pop in to grab some last minute fresh, festive fayre for your Christmas dinner.

## Leigh Lights By Abbie Cotterell

Friday 29th November, 5 – 8pm

Leigh Lights returns to ring in the Christmas season and the elves at the Town Council have been busy at the workshop getting all the entertainment together.

The festivities will begin at 5.00pm and the town will be lit up as visitors arrive.

Our popular Yuletide Parade, supported by Stibbards & Sons, features joyful fundraisers who will keep crowds entertained - departing from Kings Road at 6.30pm and travelling along Leigh Road, Broadway, and finishing in Broadway West. **Last year, the yuletide parade featured 32 entrants raising a massive £1876.62 for 11 different charities.**

A new feature for 2019 includes a camper stage set-up on Elm Road as a performance area. You will still be able to listen to your favourite choirs around the town as usual, but this staging area will showcase smaller groups and soloists. Various other festivities will line the streets including tasty food and treats and street entertainment. A free parade programme will be available from Leigh Community Centre and other shops around the Town which includes a map of the festivities, timetable and special offers from participating traders to add to the night's enjoyment.

For children's pre-event fun, stop by Leigh Community Centre from 4 - 6pm where there will be a whole host of activities including performances, crafts and stalls. Thanks to Leigh Round Table you can have your picture taken on Santa's sleigh and they will also be selling reasonably priced glowsticks. This is the perfect opportunity for younger children to enjoy the event, whilst avoiding the crowds and cold weather outside!

If you are a vehicle owner, then the advice is to stay clear of the area from 5pm as the Broadway and Broadway West will be closed. Parking restrictions will be in place from 4.30pm around town (3.30pm in Elm Road) and there will be no traffic movement in Leigh Road and roads leading onto it from 6.15pm. Please see the advertised Traffic Management Order for full details.

The Town Council has appealed to traders around the Town to sponsor a lighting column to help reduce the cost of the Christmas Lights on the Town's precept. We hope that many businesses will support this initiative and wish to thank in advance every business in the Town that donates to the event.







# Christmas in Leigh!

Join Leigh-on-Sea Town Council  
for the Festive Season!

*Leigh Lights*

Throughout Leigh

Friday 29th November

5pm - 8pm

*Winter Fayre*

Leigh Community Centre

Saturday 7th December

11am - 4pm

*Carols on Strand Wharf*

Saturday 14th December

5pm - 6pm

*Christmas Farmers Market*

Leigh Community Centre

Saturday 21st December

9am - 1pm

