



cover art: Howard Robinson

Leigh on Sea Town Council News

issue 17



@LeighTCevents

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The mornings and evening are getting lighter, the spring flowers are in bloom, and I can't quite believe how quickly the time has gone since I was elected as the Chairman of Leigh Town Council for the current Council Year and it's time to write the Chairman's contribution for the Annual Report.



Looking back over the year since I took over the Chairmanship we had moved on from the pandemic and things were getting back to a sense of normality (whatever normality is) and we then moved into a cost of living crisis with energy costs and inflation soaring. Once again, the spirit of community has come to the fore with individuals and groups pulling together in offering help and assistance to one another. We have been signposting people to the 'warm hubs' that are available in the locality as well as offering special deals in our newly named café, Cup of Leigh, at the Community Centre which also houses the community larder. Other initiatives have included the collection of unwanted coats and Christmas hampers which were distributed to residents in need.

As a community focused person, it makes me very proud to be Chairman of the Council and part of such a caring community.

In my previous contribution to the magazine, I gave an insight into some of the events I had attended on behalf of the Council which included the presentation of a LTC Good Citizen award to a pupil at Belfairs Academy, presiding over the flag raising ceremony on Strand Wharf for Merchant Navy Day, and presenting prizes as patron of Leigh Horticultural Society. In addition to these I have attended Civic services which included the Remembrance service at the Cenotaph, a Remembrance service at the Eastwood Memorial Hall and our own Act of Remembrance held in St Clements Church organised by the Leigh-on-Sea Branch of the Royal British Legion, who are great supporters of the Council. I also had the privilege of being invited to open Leigh Shops Through Time Exhibition held at the Community Centre by Leigh-on-Sea and Leigh Estuary U3A as part of the U3A movement's 40th Anniversary celebrations. This was particularly fascinating, though it aged me seeing and remembering the shops as they were!

I regularly attend the Over 60s Club that meets at the Community Centre, and I have had the pleasure to also drive the minibus for visits to Ingatestone Hall, Alton Garden Centre, the Palace Theatre, and to the pantomime at the Towngate Theatre, Basildon for the community transport at the Council which is eventful and a pantomime in itself.

The Community Centre is thriving with the staff working very hard all year round, either facilitating or organising a vast variety of activities, events, and clubs that all members of the community can participate in. These events are well publicised on social media and the Council's new Community Engagement app, or alternatively you can pop in for a coffee and pick up leaflets in the Community Centre.

Throughout the year I have met some amazing people and I have appreciated the support whilst I have been carrying out my duties in this role. As my term of office draws to a close, I hope that we will continue to look out and support each other, which makes Leigh such a special place.

Cllr Keith Evans



Note from the Town Clerk, *Helen Symmons*

Whilst I am writing this is January, it's a bit late now for those new year sentiments but am delighted that those 'not set in stone' Christmas activities I spoke about in the last edition proved to be a great hit. We finalised our plans shortly after edition 16 came out and the majority of you seemed to like our new Christmas lighting scheme, both the street decorations and the trees in Library Gardens. A huge thank you to those residents that joined in with our Advent Giving Hamper idea. It was really special to be able to donate over 100 hampers and help in a small way to make Christmas a cheerier occasion for those families amongst us finding it tough at this time. The community carols around our first Christmas tree in Library Gardens really made for some magical moments and we hope to expand on this again, but first let's enjoy some good weather.

Talking of good weather, there is a whole host of wonderful activities happening in our Town throughout Spring and Summer and this edition brings you further news of them.

On a disappointing note, in the last edition we spoke of taking over a building in Library Gardens to make another community hub. Sadly, our plans did not materialise as the 'goal posts' were altered making the project too much of a financial risk. I am not sure what the City Council will do with the building now but obviously we hope it won't sit idle for too long.

This year, come April, I will have been your Town Clerk (officially) for 6 years and continue to be proud to serve you all. It also means that we approach my second set of full Council elections. These come round every four years and can mean that there is a big change in the Council administration as all councillor vacancies are up for grabs. The longer I work in the sector, the more I think Town and Parish Councils is the wrong name for the work we do and think my Welsh colleagues have got it right, for their councils are called Community Councils and it describes perfectly the ethos behind Town and Parish Councils. We are here for our communities, to

enhance the places we live in, and the mission set out in our Strategic plan still stands - 'Our mission is to represent the people of Leigh-on-Sea and to protect the heritage and identity of Leigh-on-Sea in order to preserve the town for current residents and to provide a legacy for future generations.'

There are 16 councillor vacancies come May and you don't have to be a member of a political party to stand, as you would be making decisions as part of a team (yes Jackie Weaver didn't have the power!) for what is best for all residents. If you would like to make a difference in our Leigh Community, then please do consider becoming a councillor. There are two publications available to view on our website www.leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk/council-vacancies and both provide a great overview. Further information can be obtained at www.nalc.gov.uk or please feel free to contact me. The chance to put your name forward will be happening imminently so keep an eye on our social media pages or community engagement app so you don't miss out.

STAFF DETAILS

All staff can be reached by telephone at 01702 716288, by post at 71-73 Elm Road, Leigh-on-Sea, SS9 1SP or email council@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk

- Town Clerk **Helen Symmons**
• helen.symmons@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk
- Assistant Responsible Finance Officer **Emma Stratton**
• emma.stratton@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk
- Marketing and Profile Officer *currently on maternity leave, please contact the Town Clerk*
- Facilities Team: **David Skeels, Luke Russell, Samee Khan and Paul Fitzgerald**

- Administration Assistants:
• **Rachel Cook**
• bookings@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk
• **Kristine Boicuka**
• bookings@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk
• **Maggie Dumanska**
• reception@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk
- Allotments Administration Assistant **Ingmar Lindberg-Jones**
• allotments@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk
- Community Transport Officer (maternity cover) **Greta Smith**
• ctevents@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk



SERVE YOUR

COMMUNITY



**JOIN OUR
LEIGH TOWN
COUNCIL
TEAM!**




TOWN COUNCILLOR POSITIONS AVAILABLE

- Represent Leigh Residents
- Make a difference
- Training provided



**STARTING
MAY 2023
4-YEAR TERM
SIGN UP NOW**

Deadline for
nominations is
soon - apply to
www.southend.gov.uk





COUNCIL BUDGET 2023 – 2024

Precept for
Band D property
£50.58 (36p
reduction this
year)

£83k
management
& maintenance
of Leigh Community
Centre

Total
yearly net
budget
£462k

£60k
to fund full
refurbishment of
paddling pool at Bell
Wharf beach plus
dredging

£6k
hanging
baskets

£55k
for health &
wellbeing
community
projects

£35k to run
council office

£35k for
Christmas lighting
throughout the town
& in Library
Gardens incl the
Xmas Tree

£10k for
community
partnership
programmes

£17k for
community
engagement

£8k election
costs

£16k costs
to consult on
every planning,
licensing and
highways
application

£58k for
running &
maintaining
community
facilities

£11k to fund
allotment
sites

Council News and Updates

Most of our news is covered in articles elsewhere and mainly this time of the year is taken up with preparation for year end accounts and implementation of the new Council budget (highlighted on pg 5). We have to be careful with information we publish pre-elections about future plans so as to remain neutral for potential councillor candidates.

TARGET GAMES

With the good weather round the corner, we were going to highlight the target games the Council installed at the end of last summer – Street snooker at the multi-use games area at the Skate Park and Street Pool at Bonchurch Park. These fantastic games were installed to be used by all the family and focussed on throwing skills making them more inclusive and accessible. Alas though, at the time of writing both have been heavily vandalised over the winter period and we are doing our best to have them up and running asap. Sadly there seems to be a small minority in the town whose mission it is to destroy pleasure for others!

PADDLING POOL UPDATE

We were delighted that the paddling pool remained watertight after last year's temporary repairs. A complete refurbishment of the paddling pool on Bell Wharf Beach will be happening in April along with dredging of the pool. This will ensure that it can be enjoyed for many more years to come and should be up and running before summer.

STRATEGIC PLAN

At its meeting in March, Council will be approving its Strategic Plan taking us up to 2028. The first step of this will be to come out to you, the residents, to find out what you think and what your aspirations are for a shared vision for our Town. Council can then go about forming strategic actions based around the strategic objectives established and the results of the extensive community engagement.

Watch this space.



CHRISTMAS IN LEIGH LIBRARY GARDENS

Leigh Library Gardens was lit up again this year but in a totally different style. We were able to highlight the beauty of the gardens by lighting more trees and providing a beautifully lit and decorated Christmas tree which residents could enjoy right up to 5th January. Throughout December, we invited local community singing groups to sing carols around the tree which was a very popular addition. Santa also popped up to some sessions to the delight of many children.



WISHING TREE DECORATIONS WORKSHOP

The Art Ministry very kindly ran 3 decoration sessions for us in December. All children were invited to personalise a decoration and once complete, these were placed on our Christmas Tree in Leigh Library Gardens. A donation from each decoration was made to the Chairman's Charity – Gold Geese.



SANTA'S POST BOX

The Leigh Town Council Elves made sure Father Christmas received all of the children's letters that had been posted in the post box in the Community Centre, and we have been assured that he replied to each and every one.



WINDOW WANDER LEIGH

We asked local businesses to be involved by designing a festive window with lights and other materials. We then produced a trail map so that families could come together and enjoy beautiful night time walks viewing the different creations.



ADVENT GIVING HAMPER

Our hamper appeal was a huge success. The idea was to make up a hamper during the month of November with a suggested item from a calendar each day. We asked for the hamper/box to be wrapped in festive paper and brought in to the Community Centre. The response was overwhelming with over 100 hampers donated. It was a privilege to deliver these to local schools, churches and charities knowing that families in need benefitted from them during the Christmas period and we had some wonderful thank you's.



FESTIVE MARKET

The Market took place on Saturday 17 Dec with over 25 stalls selling Christmas gifts, crafts and food, and was enjoyed by all who attended.

WINTER COAT APPEAL

Our appeal ran from 1 Dec-31 Jan. We collected coats, hats, scarves and gloves which helped Southend's homeless and vulnerable stay warm in the winter months. We delivered 20 sacks to SVP just before Christmas and took the same again during the first week of January.

Leigh Allotments to Help Southend Food Bank

by Margaret Lane

We are very lucky to have a hidden gem of an allotment site here in Leigh.

I became the tenant of a plot a couple of years ago and am now totally hooked on growing my own fruit and vegetables. Admittedly it is hard physical work and requires getting either dirty, hot, wet or cold. Sometimes all of these on the same day! But so rewarding and a wonderful way of getting back to nature, improving one's physical and mental health and socialising with a great community.

Last year I noticed a neighbouring plot that had become disused and badly in need of some TLC. It gave me an idea ...

In these challenging economic times I am all too conscious of the of the cost of food and rising shopping bills. As someone who, as an allotment holder, is lucky to have access to organically grown produce I am acutely aware that the cost of this if bought is not an option for many people and particularly those struggling with escalating price rises and having to rely on food banks.



Leigh Town Council has therefore generously allowed myself and a group of volunteers to use the disused plot as a community project to grow fresh produce to donate to the food bank. Anything that is left will then go straight to the night kitchen to aid in the provision of nutritious meals for people in need. Anyone on the allotment site will be welcome to join in and I have already had many offers of help whether it be the donation of seeds/plants, the sharing of expertise and knowledge or much needed muscle in keeping the plot tended.

I have also been introduced to fellow allotmenteer - John Metcalf who as a permaculture designer is very kindly going to give up some time to design the plot and teach me more about composting.

As you can see we have a lot of work to do but everyone involved is very excited about the project and we have funding for some initial plot preparation. As the whole idea is to grow produce that is organic and chemical free, this is going to involve quite a bit of manual clearance so thank you Leigh Town Council and my fellow allotmentees!

John and I are pictured on a miserable January day in what is hopefully a 'before' photograph. I will aim to report back in the next issue to show the progress we are making.



THE ART OF PERMACULTURE

by John Metcalf www.sowgrowregen.co.uk

'Permaculture', meaning permanent agriculture, is a solution to the destructive methods of industrialized agriculture. The ethics of Earth Care, People Care and Future Care form the foundations of the design principles. Bill Mollison, the man who coined the term 'Permaculture' (along with David Holmgren), after observing ancient cultures of the planet, created a set of ethics and principles in the 1970s that have been adapted over the years.

THE PERMACULTURE PRIME DIRECTIVE:

"The only ethical decision is to take responsibility for our own existence and that of our children. Make it now" Bill Mollison

PERMACULTURE, A DESIGNER'S MANUAL:

EARTH CARE is based around the connection that we have with nature. It means to respect and use natural resources in a mindful, cyclical and creative way. This creates abundance, resilience and health.

PEOPLE CARE

Human health depends on mutually beneficial and respectful interactions. When we use natural systems as our blueprint our physical and mental well-being improves and allows us to become more creative, understanding and appreciative of each other.

FUTURE CARE considers the legacy we want to leave. We can create natural systems that are built in a regenerative way to benefit the next 7 generations. Working together, celebrating our differences and having a shared goal, we can give the future the tools and mindset needed to continue to regenerate our planet Earth.

DESIGN PRINCIPLES

Through the Permaculture lens, using the design principles we learn how to be curious of and in awe of nature, helping us understand and respect all other life in a symbiotic and valuable way. An example of one of the design principles is 'capturing and storing energy'. This is one way of creating a 'closed loop system' (self-sustaining and regenerating system) it also allows us to mitigate against our changing climate e.g. flooding and droughts.

Permaculture's mimicking of natural ecosystems produces food, medicine, fibre and textiles in a way that is holistic and mutually beneficial for plants, animals and humans. We can use Permaculture to create natural cycles to reduce inputs and increase yields, leading to resilience, self-sufficiency, optimum health, abundance and bio-diversity.

Chairman
Cllr Keith Evans
Vice-Chairman
Cllr Dr. David Bowry

FINANCE & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Cllr David Bowry*
Cllr Vinice Cowell
Cllr Doug Cracknell
Cllr Keith Evans*
Cllr Anita Forde
Cllr Paul Gilson
Cllr Jill Healey
Cllr Carole Mulroney
Cllr Andy Wilkins

COMMUNITY & CULTURE COMMITTEE

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Cllr Vinice Cowell
Cllr Keith Evans*
Cllr Anita Forde
Cllr Paul Gilson
Cllr Emma Mills
Cllr Carole Mulroney
Cllr James Preston
Cllr Andy Wilkins

STAFFING COMMITTEE

Cllr David Bowry*
Cllr Vinice Cowell
Cllr Keith Evans*
Cllr Anita Forde
Cllr Jill Healey
Cllr Carole Mulroney
Cllr Andy Wilkins

PLANNING, LICENSING & HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE

Cllr David Bowry*
Cllr Vinice Cowell
Cllr Doug Cracknell
Cllr Keith Evans*
Cllr Anita Forde
Cllr Paul Gilson
Cllr Emma Mills
Cllr James Preston
Cllr Rory Windass

*Council Chairman and Vice-Chairman are ex-officio members of all Committees and Sub-Committees.

At the Annual Council meeting on May 24th, all the Committee's will be elected

COMMITTEES



Keeping in Touch with our Community

The Council added another tool to its communications processes recently – the Leigh-on-Sea Town Council Community Engagement app.

It's a step between our website and social media pages and brings you all the Town Council and Community Centre information in one easy to use method.

New features on the app include details of road closures happening in the Leigh Town Council area as well as up to date information regarding Cup of Leigh (the café within the community centre) and all the community news and events at your fingertips. You'll also be able to read the latest magazine edition on the app so you will never miss out.

To download the app, go to your app store and search Leigh-on-Sea Town Council (in the Lifestyle section) and away you go.



Magazine – hard copy editions

At the time of writing, Leigh Times had changed its delivery process so the Council made the decision that now was the time to look at the cost and environmental factor of delivering a hard copy of our magazine to every resident. Since June 2015, we have printed 11,000 copies of each edition of the magazine which the Leigh Times has delivered. But with soaring paper costs and considering the effect of sustainability going forward this number will now be 3,000. Hard copy editions of the magazine will be available from Leigh Community Centre (and a few other outlets TBA) but we are always happy to deliver to any Leigh Town Council resident that cannot get to the Community Centre and prefers a hard copy. Just ring or email your details over.

Digital copies of the magazine will be available on our website www.leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk/ltc-council-news-magazine and the Leigh-on-Sea Town Council Community Engagement App

STOP PRESS: Just prior to the magazine deadline we were delighted to hear that following the cancellation of Leigh Times, there will be a new paper for Leigh, 'Leigh-on-Sea News'. We will no doubt review the question of magazine hard copies again in the near future.



Over 60's Social Club

The Over 60's Social Club takes place at Leigh Community Centre on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month from 12-1.30pm and includes an activity or talk.



The club is a friendly group and we always aim to make people feel welcome. We run different activities at each session, so you will get the chance to learn something new and try new things!

You can join us for lunch and the cost is £5. Places must be booked in advance and we just need to be made aware of any dietary requirements. If you don't want to eat lunch with us or you want to bring your own, you can still come along at a cost of £2, with no advance booking. Hot drinks and biscuits are available to all at every session.

If you would like to book, please call 01702 716288 or email council@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk

In December we held two Christmas events. The first was a Christmas crafts session which included personalising a decoration which was then hung on the Christmas Tree in Leigh Library Gardens. We were also lucky enough to hear a 40 minute joyous session by the year 5 and 6 Leigh North Street School Choir which was enjoyed immensely, some saying it had made their Christmas. Our second event was a Party for over 50 people. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon which included a festive afternoon tea, some live music by The Ray Miso Trio, a quiz and a raffle. All members were also given beautiful handmade cards made by Chalkwell Hall Junior School, which were greatly appreciated.

OUR UPCOMING SCHEDULE:

01 Mar	Ladybirds Song Group
15 Mar	Essex Therapy Dog Group
05 Apr	Art Ministry Easter Crafts WI
19 Apr	Broadway Belles

Volunteer with us

We are looking for volunteer drivers with a D1 entitlement on their license who would like to help with the monthly trips. If you are interested, please get in touch with us by emailing

ctevents@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk



Community Transport Trips

The Community Transport scheme is run by the Town Council for over 60's and disabled residents living within the Leigh Town Council boundary.

We have organised some great trips in recent months including a lunchtime concert at the Civic Centre, a trip to Ingatestone Hall, an afternoon at the theatre to see Oliver plus the obligatory trip to the Panto.

We always have positive feedback from our existing members who all love the convenience that the scheme provides. The scheme provides friendship and social interaction for many that might not get out very much, and allows them to socialise and enjoy fun, and entertaining activities.

If you or someone you know would benefit from joining the scheme, please get in touch for more information by calling 01702 716288.



Herd In The City Set to Stomp into Leigh-on-Sea

A herd of majestic elephants will be stomping their way into Leigh-on-Sea this summer for a free, family art trail that is bound to leave an impression.

Herd In The City – created by Havens Hospices and Wild in Art - will see 45 large elephant sculptures dotted around the City of Southend-on-Sea, including Leigh-on-Sea and Shoeburyness from the middle of July to September, each one sponsored by a local business and painted by a professional artist in varying styles.

Alongside these will be ‘mini herds’ of baby elephants, adopted and decorated by a school or community group, making art accessible to all.

Visitors will be able to navigate the route using the Herd In The City app, collecting rewards along the way, which will be available from the App Store and Google Play from the start of July. A map will also be available, which can be purchased from the Havens Hospices Charity Shops in Leigh-on-Sea, Shoeburyness and Southend-on-Sea.

At the end of the trail, the elephants will be sold at auction, raising money for Havens Hospices.

The decision to focus on elephants was made by colleagues working and volunteering at Havens Hospices, as they felt that elephants depict many of the values of hospice care. They never forget, much like the families making treasured memories together and saying goodbye to loved ones at Havens Hospices. Elephants are also sensitive, caring and nurturing, much like the Care Teams who work tirelessly, ‘Making every day count’ for the hospices’ patients and families.

Two elephants have already been decorated to give a flavour of what’s to come, ‘Duke’ and ‘Rock ‘n’ Glow’. ‘Duke’ is a vibrant patchwork decorated by Essex business Surfex, whilst Essex artist Neil Fendell created ‘Rock n Glow’ as a homage to Southend-on-Sea’s iconic seafront.

Rachel Hawksworth, Project Manager for Havens Hospices, said: “We are so proud to bring our parade of elephants to nestle amongst the charming and historic streets of Leigh-on-Sea, bringing colour and fun to the town.

“Herd In The City will offer everyone a great day out, exploring parts of the town that they may not have visited before, as well as raising thousands of pounds for the free, specialist hospice care Havens Hospices provides for local adults, children, and their families.”



To keep up with the herd, visit **www.herdinthe.city** or follow on social media **[#herdinthe.city](https://twitter.com/herdinthe.city)**



LEIGH TOWN COUNCIL'S

YOUTH FORUM

DO YOU WANT YOUR VOICE HEARD
ABOUT LOCAL ISSUES THAT AFFECT
YOU? AND HAVE THE POWER TO HELP
MAKE POSITIVE CHANGES?

FREE REFRESHMENTS
LEARN NEW SKILLS
THROUGH OUR
MONTHLY GUEST
SPEAKERS

MONTHLY MEETINGS
@LEIGH COMMUNITY
CENTRE 5PM-6PM

• 9th March

for more info
call 07786 023941
or email
cllrforde@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk



SOUTHEND YMCA 11-16's YOUTH CLUB

Music Drums
Guitar Basketball
Ping Pong Football
Badminton Pool
Art Games

EVERY THURSDAY
5pm - 8pm

LEIGH COMMUNITY CENTRE
71-73 Elm Rd, Leigh-on-Sea, SS9 1SP

INFO: SACHA EDWARDS - 07854 790925
ALLINMUSIC@SOUTHENDYMCA.ORG.UK
www.bookwhen.com/southendymca
www.southendymca.org.uk

AIM
YOUTH MUSIC
ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND



If you'd like to become involved with The Old Leigh Regatta or The Old Leigh Shanty Weekend or just want further information about these activities, call Tony Prior on 07805 641797 or email tony@priority.ms.



It's all happening in The Old Town!

The sad passing of her Majesty Queen Elizabeth led to the cancellation of many local festivals and fetes, including the combined Regatta and Shanty Festival which was due to be held in Old Leigh Town last autumn but thankfully, preparations are underway to ensure both these popular events do take place in 2023.

Over the weekend of 19th/20th/21st May, The Leigh on Sea Lions Club, together with The Hoy at Anchor Folk Club will be coordinating The Old Leigh Shanty Weekend. There will be a host of local folk artistes, bands and pirates, together with several seasoned shanty crews from Essex, London, Milton Keynes and even the Netherlands, all performing for free. The entertainment will take place on Strand Wharf in the Old Town of Leigh on Sea. No charge will be made to the public but any funds collected during the event will be for the benefit of RNLI and The Endeavour Trust.

The origins of The Old Leigh Regatta are lost in the mists of time but there is photographic evidence that this popular family event has formed part of Old Leigh's calendar for over a hundred years. In recent years the Regatta has been organized by The Lions Club of Leigh-on-Sea. This year's festivities are due to take place throughout the Old Town on Sunday 10th September and local organisations are invited to apply for the facility to showcase their services and offer their wares at this traditional celebration of Essex culture and talent.



The owners of Lorna & Lottie's Café, which is within Leigh Community Centre, have retired on December 2022. We truly hope that they are enjoying their retirement.

The Café has not disappeared. To support local business, we were delighted to announce its rebranding to Cup of Leigh in January.

Cher and the team are happy to welcome everyone for breakfast and serve your favourite treats so you are still assured a warm welcome with prices cheaper than elsewhere.



Make sure that you pop in and try their delicious homemade bakes...

**Café and Community
- a perfect combination.**

CAFÉ OPENING HOURS:
Monday - Saturday 9:00-15:00
Sunday - Private function only

Makaton - making the world more accessible



My name is Jo Reece and I'm on a mission to make the world more accessible.

In 2017 a health visitor recommended using Makaton to help my son Joseph, who has Down's Syndrome, to communicate. I found a course at Southend Adult College and got stuck in. I was so passionate about Makaton that I completed all four levels and then went on to become a qualified Tutor.

What is Makaton?

Makaton is a unique language programme that uses symbols, signs and speech to enable people to communicate. Being able to communicate is one of the most important skills we need in life. Everyday tasks such as learning at school, asking for food and drinks, sorting out financial and domestic affairs, making friends and having fun. These all rely on our ability to communicate with each other.

For those who have experienced the frustration of being unable to communicate meaningfully or effectively, Makaton really can help. Makaton can help people in many different circumstances, including children and adults with a wide range of physical, sensory and learning disabilities including Autism, Down's Syndrome and people living with Dementia.

My Vision:

Now you know a bit about me and what Makaton is, I'd like to tell you about my vision, and that is to have Leigh Town accredited as Makaton Friendly. More recently, I've been working with local businesses in Leigh to help train their staff to learn Makaton. This means anyone with learning or communication difficulties who uses Makaton can access those services with confidence, dignity, and the respect they deserve just like any other person.

How does it work?

In order for the Town to attain Makaton Friendly status-first we would need to identify the services and businesses that Makaton users already access within the Town. Then depending on what type of organisation it is and their head-count, they would need to attain the Makaton Friendly Award each individually for that sector which is already set out by the Charity. Even businesses that aren't currently used by Makaton users can apply for the award but as a Town we would require a minimum of 30 businesses to be accredited in order for Leigh to become a Makaton Friendly Town. It is of course a badge of honour but to the user of Makaton and those who share their lives it is so much more!

For more info or if you would like to be involved in making our beautiful Town more accessible, please email:

joanne@makatontutorjo.co.uk

LEIGH-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL



2023 ANNUAL COMMUNITY MEETING

FRIDAY 24TH MARCH | DOORS OPEN
6.30PM | LEIGH COMMUNITY CENTRE

**FREE REFRESHMENTS
COMMUNITY DISPLAYS
GOOD FOR LEIGH AWARDS
& MORE**

HAVE YOUR SAY AND ASK
QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR
TOWN

01702 716288 | COUNCIL@LEIGHONSEATOWNCOUNCIL.GOV.UK



Endeavour News by Rob Everitt

Leigh-on-Sea's iconic Dunkirk Little Ship Endeavour had a 2022 full of highlights! However, the year began solemnly with the unexpected death of trustee and former chair, Mike King, in March. Mike was instrumental in raising the funds to purchase Endeavour and her restoration. Mike would want nothing more than for Endeavour's work to continue, to which end, the Trust committed to giving Endeavour a more prominent profile locally, including visiting local schools and organisations to deliver talks.

Over winter at Leigh Marina, who are such great friends to Endeavour, she received a full exterior paint job, rejuvenated heat exchanger, and a new hold hatch cover. She returned to her mooring off the Peter Boat in early May. We identified a fuel leak in the port tank shortly after, but it was contained and will be fixed this spring. Thank goodness for two fuel tanks!

In June, Endeavour took 24 guests on three cruises to the pier and back in celebration of the Platinum Jubilee, dressed overall in bright bunting.

Sadly, high winds meant the Saturday cruise had to be cancelled, but all enjoyed their trips enormously.

In July, the 4th/6th Leigh Cubs plus leaders enjoyed a cruise along the river. August started with a well-attended quiz night to raise funds. Other highlights included Endeavour supporting Benfleet Yacht Club's 'Show the Flag' event with members joining the crew for a short trip up river. Later in the month, we were delighted to host MP Anna Firth and Southend Mayor Kevin Robinson for a trip to the pier in beautiful weather.

The cancellation of the Regatta due to the Queen's death was understandable but disappointing to local folks. People always love seeing Endeavour at Bell Wharf and learning her story. During the year, presentations on the history of Endeavour were given to 4/6th Leigh Cubs and West Leigh Infants, who all followed up with some excellent drawings of Endeavour.

We also went to Montgomery School and also made presentations to lots of other interested local groups - so we've been busy off the boat too!

Our final highlight was in October, when a crew of four took Endeavour sailing, which doesn't happen too often due to crew shortages. It took all four to keep Endeavour in check with heavy blocks being whipped through the air as she tacked. The sailing was magnificent and a fitting end to the year! Endeavour.

So, hopefully in 2022, more local people got to see Endeavour out and about.

We are, as always, indebted to our members who keep Endeavour afloat, and we are always interested in hearing from new members or people that want to help out, either on the boat, or behind the scenes. This year, we want even more people to get on board and learn more about Endeavour and the local fishing communities whose story she represents! **Please get in touch!**

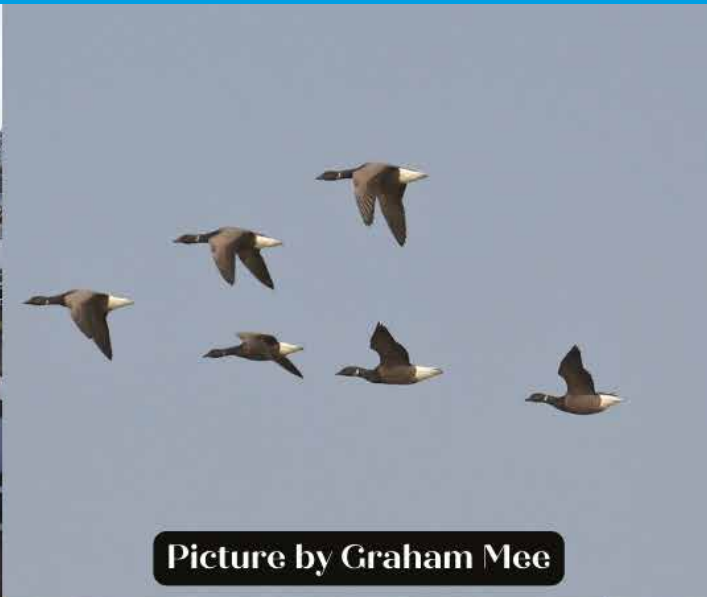
endeavourtrust.co.uk
email:
office@endeavourtrust.co.uk

What a success!! It has been a pleasure to involve Leigh community in creating our Leigh on Sea Town Council News issue 17. We would like to thank every single person who participated in our Magazine Cover competition. It has been decided to use Howard Robinson's sketch of the Grand Hotel. Nevertheless, we would like to share some photos of the local artists who took part in this competition.

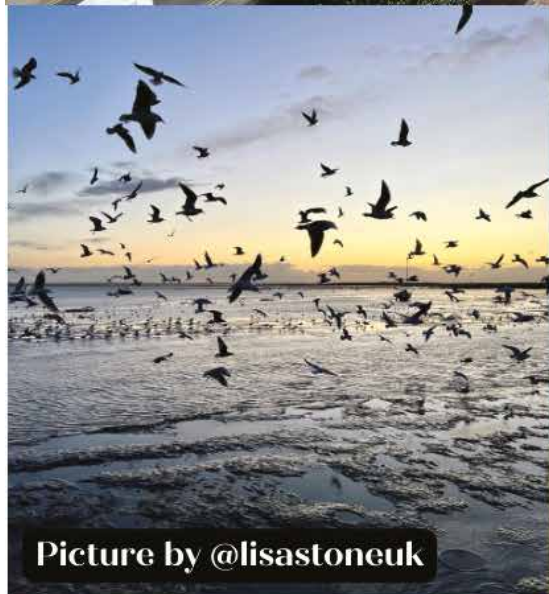
Picture by Sue Balkwell



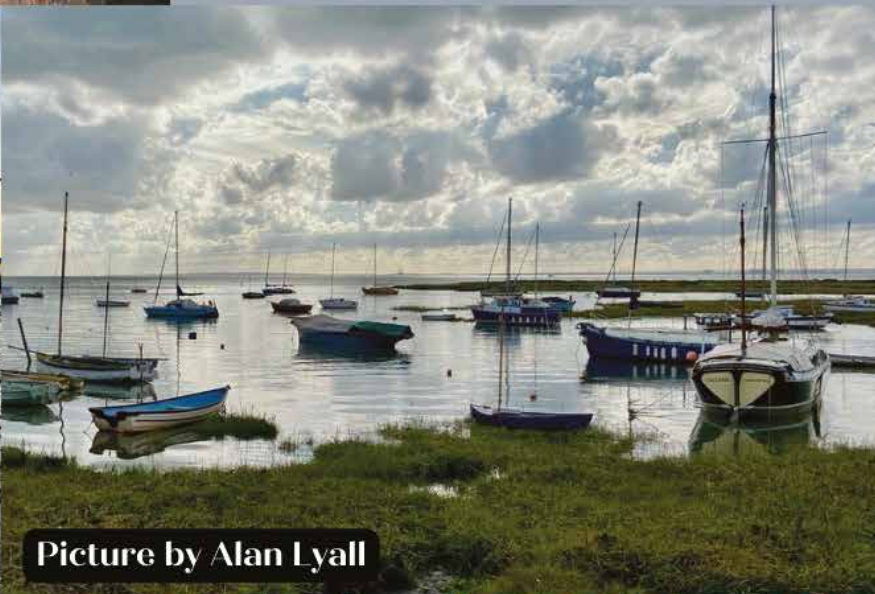
Picture by Graham Mee



Picture by @lisastoneuk



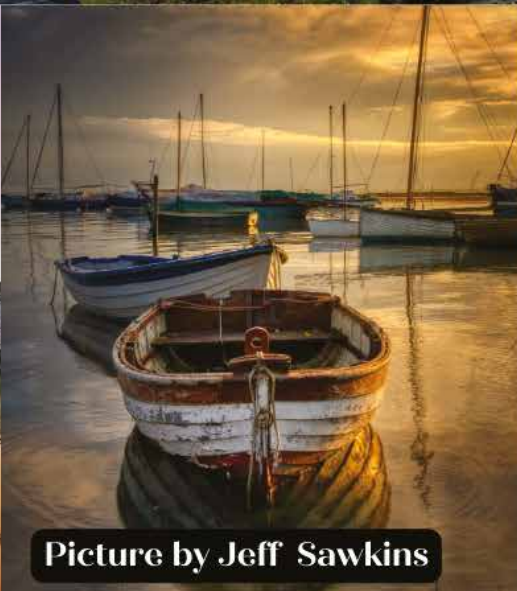
Picture by Alan Lyall



Picture by Myrin Bruno



Picture by Jeff Sawkins



Picture by Nisha Jacob





Howard Robinson (my dad) was a local artist in Leigh. He ran a successful gallery for over twenty years. He was a friendly man who welcomed people in just for a chat.

Howard also did The Leigh Art trail for many years. He was known for his landscape paintings of the estuary.

My dad passed away suddenly in August 2021. As his daughter I found comfort looking through his sketch books. I wanted people to see them so decided to reproduce prints of the local area. I've done many craft fayres with the pictures being greatly received.

I'm so proud I can carry on his legacy and people can still admire his work. If you'd like to see his work you can find me on Instagram
#HowardRobinsonArt



Leigh-on-Sea Town Council Awards

We are very lucky in Leigh to live in such a wonderful community of people so willing to help and get involved in different activities that provide their time and support for a whole host of good causes and charities. Each year we like to celebrate these amazing people with our Good for Leigh and Volunteer of the Year Awards which are presented at our Annual Community Meeting in April.

We aim to recognise and thank these people for the services they have made to improve the Town for the benefit of the community and are so grateful to all of them for the work they do.

Donald Fraser Volunteer of The Year Award 2022

Every year we ask for members of the public to nominate a hard-working volunteer that lives or volunteers in Leigh-on-Sea. The award is held in memory of the late Donald Fraser, one of our founding councillors.

Donald was an avid volunteer and helped many groups and charities throughout his long life, and this award was created to keep his memory alive, and honour those who do so much for our town.

The Winners will be announced at our Annual Community Meeting on Friday 24 March.



Drawing to a Close

As we head towards a new art residency, the Leigh Town Council Arts Group look back at another successful year of events that have encouraged even more of our town's folk to get creative.

Through the art scholarship that they founded, our current Artists in Residence Susan Allen and Kerry Doyland have shared their love of life drawing with a large number of school and college students and, this year, extended the scholarship's reach to include adults and creative teachers too.

Kerry and Susan also invited three fellow artists : Annabelle Brotherton, Amanda Jackson and Terry Sibson, to join them in offering a summer programme of free workshops. These included walking and drawing afternoons, drawing and painting for calm and peace of mind, watercolour classes for beginners and fun events for parents and children.

The Jubilee Family Picnic included a crown making stall run by Terry and Kerry, who helped over 100 children make and decorate their own crowns.

Our resident artists co-ordinated a year of Community Art Wall exhibitions and more recently the cafe exhibitions, and the display of the town's permanent collection that now hangs in the entrance hall.

Between them, our artists created a calendar of events to please everyone and the feedback has been wonderful. Leigh, it seems, is as creative as ever.

There will soon be a new Artist in Residence as applications for the position were invited, and many were received and considered. We look forward to welcoming our new artist in April and enjoying their programme of activities in the year to come.





Kick off summer with the Leigh Art Trail

LEIGH **2023**
ART TRAIL celebrating creativity in \$59
Sat 8 - Sun 16 July

The countdown is on to the 2023 Leigh Art Trail as one of our town's cultural highlights moves back to its traditional earlier summer slot.

Organisers are promising once again to lay on the best in contemporary painting, ceramics, mixed media, sculpture and photography from July 8 to July 16.

Around 70 artists - including many exhibiting on the Trail for the first time - will fill shops, cafes, churches and even railway stations with their work as Leigh buzzes with pop-up galleries for nine days.

Details of who is exhibiting and where to find them will be revealed in the FREE Trail Guide, which starts appearing around Leigh in June.

As ever, colourful A-boards outside the venues will help art-lovers plot their route and Secret Auction pieces donated by Leigh Art Trail artists will await your bids in all the venues.

Following the Trail on social media is a great way to keep up to date with all the exciting plans for July. Find the Leigh Art Trail on Instagram and Facebook for all the best content.

New to the trail this year...

The Leigh Art Trail prides itself on always showcasing thought-provoking and exciting new work.

Eight artists were selected in late 2022 to join this year's event;

BARRY ANDREWS Painter
DIANE EAST Textured Relief Artist
PHILIP LAGDEN Sculpture
JOHN LANE Sculpture
LORENA LEIGH Glass
TERRY MENDOZA Photojournalist
PETER MYERS Metal Sculpture
MARIE SMITH Fluid Abstract Painter

Wendy Scotland of the Leigh Art Trail said:
"The success of the Art Trail has always been about bringing talent to people's attention, while also supporting established artists whose latest work gives so much enjoyment. As ever, we're looking forward, not back!"

EVENTS CALENDAR 2023

For more information on all the regular classes go online
www.leighcommunitycentre.com/classes

MARCH

March Art Exhibition – Farewell
 Exhibition for Kerry and Susan

1	Over 60's Social Club 12:00 at LCC
1	Blues Night 7:30pm at LCC
2	Youth Club 5pm at LCC
7	Bricks 4 kids at LCC
8	Listening Room 7:30pm at LCC
9	Youth Club 5pm at LCC
9	Youth Forum 5pm at LCC
11	Folk & Bespoke Crafts Market 10am at LCC
14	Bricks 4 kids
15	Over 60's Social Club 12:00 at LCC
15	Blues Night 7:30pm at LCC
16	Youth Club 5pm at LCC
21	Bricks 4 kids
22	Jazz Night at LCC
23	Youth Club 5pm at LCC
24	Annual Town Meeting 6.30pm at LCC
25	Oompah German Band Charity Night at LCC
28	Bricks 4 Kids at LCC
30	Youth Club at LCC

APRIL

Easter Break Activities for children at LCC

3	New Artist in Residence Exhibition at LCC
5	Over 60's Social Club 12:00 at LCC
5	Blues Night at LCC
7	Bank Holiday – LTC & LCC Closed
8	Folk & Bespoke Craft Market
9	Bank Holiday – LTC & LCC Closed
10	Bank Holiday – LTC & LCC Closed
12	Listening Room 7:30pm at LCC
19	Over 60's Social Club 12:00 at LCC
19	Blues Night at LCC
20	Youth Club 5pm at LCC
26	Jazz Night at LCC
27	Youth Club 5pm at LCC
28	Nee Naw Parties at LCC

End of April- Kids Coronation
 Crafts Event, more details to follow

MAY

1	Bank Holiday – LTC & LCC Closed
1	Old Leigh Artists Market on Strand Wharf
3	Over 60's Social Club Coronation afternoon tea 12pm at LCC
3	Blues Night at LCC
4	Youth Club 5pm at LCC
8	Bank Holiday – LTC & LCC Closed
10	Listening Room 7:30pm at LCC
11	Youth Club 5pm at LCC
15	New Art Exhibition at LCC The -5 Collective
17	Over 60's Social Club 12:00 at LCC
17	Blues Night at LCC
18	Youth Club 5pm at LCC
20/21	Shanty Festival Old Leigh and on Strand Wharf
25	Youth Club 5pm at LCC
29	Bank Holiday – LTC & LCC Closed
31	Jazz Night at LCC

JUNE

Leigh Folk Festival, Leigh Library Gardens
 more details to follow

1	Youth Club 5pm at LCC
7	Over 60's Social Club 12pm at LCC
7	Blues Night at LCC
8	Youth Club 5pm at LCC
14	Listening room at 7:30pm at LCC
15	Youth Club 5pm at LCC
17	Folk & Bespoke Craft Market 10am at LCC
21	Over 60's Social Club 12pm at LCC
21	Blues Night at LCC
22	Youth Club 5pm at LCC
26	New Art Exhibition -Dave Crix – TBC
28	Jazz Night at LCC
29	Youth Club 5pm at LCC

JULY

Herds in the City at LCC,
 throughout Leigh and Southend City

5	Over 60's Social Club 12pm at LCC
5	Blues Night at LCC
6	Youth Club 5pm at LCC
8	Folk & Bespoke Craft Market 10am at LCC
12	Listening Room 7:30pm at LCC
13	Youth Club 5pm at LCC
8-16	Leigh Art Trail
19	Over 60's Social Club 12pm at LCC
19	Blues Night at LCC
20	Youth Club 5pm at LCC
26	Jazz Night at LCC

AUGUST

Summer Holiday Activities for children
at LCC throughout August – dates TBC

2	Over 60's Social Club 12pm at LCC
2	Blues Night at LCC
7	New Art Exhibition at LCC
9	Listening Room 7:30pm at LCC
12	Folk & Bespoke Craft Market 10am at LCC
16	Over 60's Social Club 12pm at LCC
16	Blues Night at LCC
28	Bank Holiday – LTC & LCC Closed
28	Old Leigh Artists Market on Strand Wharf
30	Jazz Night at LCC

SEPTEMBER

Herds in the City finishes

3	Merchant Navy Day Ceremony on Strand Wharf
6	Over 60's Social Club 12pm at LCC
6	Blues Night at LCC
7	Youth Club 5pm at LCC
9	Folk and Bespoke Craft Market 10am at LCC
10	Leigh Regatta
13	Listening Room 7:30pm at LCC
14	Youth Club 5pm at LCC
18	New Art Exhibition at LCC
20	Over 60's Social Club 12pm at LCC
20	Blues Night at LCC
21	Youth Club 5pm at LCC
27	Jazz Night at LCC
28	Youth Club 5pm at LCC

To email Leigh-on-Sea Councillors, use name and @
(shown in bold) followed by leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk
For Southend-on-Sea Councillors, use name and @
(shown in bold) followed by southend.gov.uk

Leigh-on-Sea Town Council Councillors (by Ward)

BONCHURCH WARD

Cllr Jill Healey **cillrhealey@** 07854 959389

ELMS WARD

Cllr Doug Cracknell **cillrcracknell@** 01702 474593

Cllr Leslie Parris **cillrparris@** 07904 657269

Cllr James Preston **cillrpreston@** 07780 660401

HERSCHELL WARD

Cllr Dr. David Bowry **cillrbowry@** 01702 711613

Cllr Rory Windass **cillrwindass@** 07764 842802

HIGHLANDS WARD

Cllr Bernard Arscott **cillrarscott@** 07730 783694

Cllr Craig Watt **cillrwatt@** 07967 086558

Cllr Vinice Cowell **cillrcowell@** 07946 001819

LEIGH ROAD WARD

Cllr Anita Forde **cillrforde@** 07786 023941

Cllr Paul Gilson **cillrgilson@** 07775 693225

ST CLEMENTS WARD

Cllr Carole Mulroney **cillrmulroney@** 01702 475117

Cllr Emma Mills **cillrmills@** 07855 347386

ST JAMES WARD

Cllr Alan Hart **cillrhart@** 07903 900529

THAMES WARD

Chairman, Cllr Keith Evans **CllrEvans@** 07877 210184

Cllr Andrew Wilkins **cillrwilkins@** 07714 631249

Southend Borough Councillors for Leigh (by Ward)

BELFAIRS WARD

Cllr Alan Dear **cillralandear@** 01702 212889

Cllr Lesley Salter **cillrlesleysalter@** 01702 432364

Cllr Jack Warren **cillrjackwarren@** 07387 099364

BLENHEIM PARK WARD

Cllr Helen Boyd **cillrhelenboyd@** 01702 212363

Cllr Laurie Burton **cillrburton@** 01702 212904

Cllr Keith Evans **cillrkevans@** 01702 534260

WEST LEIGH WARD

Cllr Fay Evans **cillrevans@** 01702 558657

Cllr Beth Hooper **cillrhooper@** 01702 534193

Cllr John Lamb **cillrlamb@** 01702 483908

LEIGH WARD

Cllr Carole Mulroney **cillrmulroney@** 01702 212890

Cllr Ashley Thompson **cillrashleythompson@** 01702 534171

Cllr Peter Wexham **cillrwexham@** 01702 711958

Useful Phone Numbers for Southend Borough Council

Council Tax and Benefits 01702 215001

Housing 01702 215002

Parking, travel and roads 01702 215003

Planning and Building 01702 215004

Recycling and Waste Department 01702 215006

Adult Social Care 01702 215008

COVID Action Line 01702 212497

Southend Tourist Information www.visitsouthend.co.uk

MySouthend is an online portal that you can register to use and manage various Council services. You can report issues, manage your council tax and contact Southend Borough Council with requests or comments southend.gov.uk/mysouthend

From May 2023 you'll need
to take photo ID to a polling
station to vote.

Are you


**Voter
Ready?**

No ID? You can apply for free voter ID

Find out more about the changes at www.southend.gov.uk/VoterID