

Leigh on Sea Town Council News

issue 04



Arts & Culture | Clubs & Societies | Churches
Council Facilities & Outside Spaces



Welcome to our fourth Leigh Town Council publication. Special feature to take note of is Neighbourhood Watch, I've been active in co-running a local group until I moved recently to a new area of Leigh. The link meetings we attend with the local police teams are a great place to raise concerns that may occasionally affect residents. If you register for ECM (see back page) you'll receive invaluable information about current scams and local burglaries (if any) and much much more. We thought it might be handy if we reintroduced the LTC Councillors together with the Wards we are elected to. You'll also find the names of our Leigh Southend Borough Councillors to help you identify who you need to contact if you require information or want to raise any issues of concern to you or your neighbours.

As you'll note the Leigh Community Centre is thriving and has lots to offer over the festive period and next year. We are really trying to reach out to any elderly people that may have difficulty in getting out, to meet new people and visit places of interest, so if you know anyone that this might be describing do please encourage them to join our Community Transport Group details on page 14.

I would like to wish you on behalf of the Leigh Town Council, a very Merry Christmas and hope we get to see you at some of the events we organise throughout the next six months.

Jane Ward,
Editor.



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Front cover: Cover archive photo courtesy of SBC Archive.

Thanks to Vivien Rosier and Carole Mulronev as well as Councillors and office staff for all the contributions.

Calendar

November

Friday 25th November – Leigh Lights

December

Saturday 3rd December – Betty Blue Eyes Vintage Fair

Tuesday 6th December – Community Facilities Meeting

Saturday 10th December – Christmas Craft Fair

Saturday 10th December – Carols on Strand Wharf

Tuesday 13th December – Planning, Highways & Licensing Meeting

Saturday 17th December – Christmas Farmers Market

Tuesday 20th December – Environment & Leisure Meeting



January

Tuesday 3rd January – Policy & Resources Meeting

Wednesday 4th January – Planning, Highways & Licensing Meeting

Tuesday 17th January – Full Council Meeting

Tuesday 24th January – Planning, Highways & Licensing Meeting

February

Tuesday 7th February – Community Facilities Meeting

Monday 13th – 17th February – Half Term Events at LCC

Friday 17th February – Farmers Market

Tuesday 14th February – Planning, Highways & Licensing Meeting

Tuesday 21st February – Environment & Leisure Meeting

Tuesday 28th February – Planning, Highways & Licensing Meeting

March

Tuesday 7th March – Policy & Resources Meeting

Tuesday 14th March – Planning, Highways & Licensing Meeting

Friday 17th March – Farmers Market

Tuesday 21st March – Full Council Meeting

Tuesday 28th March – Planning, Highways & Licensing Meeting

April

Monday 3rd April – 15th April – Easter Children's Activities at LCC

Tuesday 4th April – Community Facilities Meeting

Tuesday 11th April – Planning, Highways & Licensing Meeting

Tuesday 18th April – Environment & Leisure Meeting

Friday 21st April – Farmers Market

Tuesday 25th April – Planning, Highways & Licensing Meeting

May

Tuesday 2nd May – Policy & Resources Meeting

Tuesday 9th May – Planning, Highways & Licensing Meeting

Tuesday 16th May – Annual Council Meeting

Friday 19th May – Farmers Market

Tuesday 23rd May – Planning, Highways & Licensing Meeting

Tuesday 30th May – 2nd June – Half Term Events at Leigh Community Centre

All Council meetings commence at 7:30pm and are open to the public.

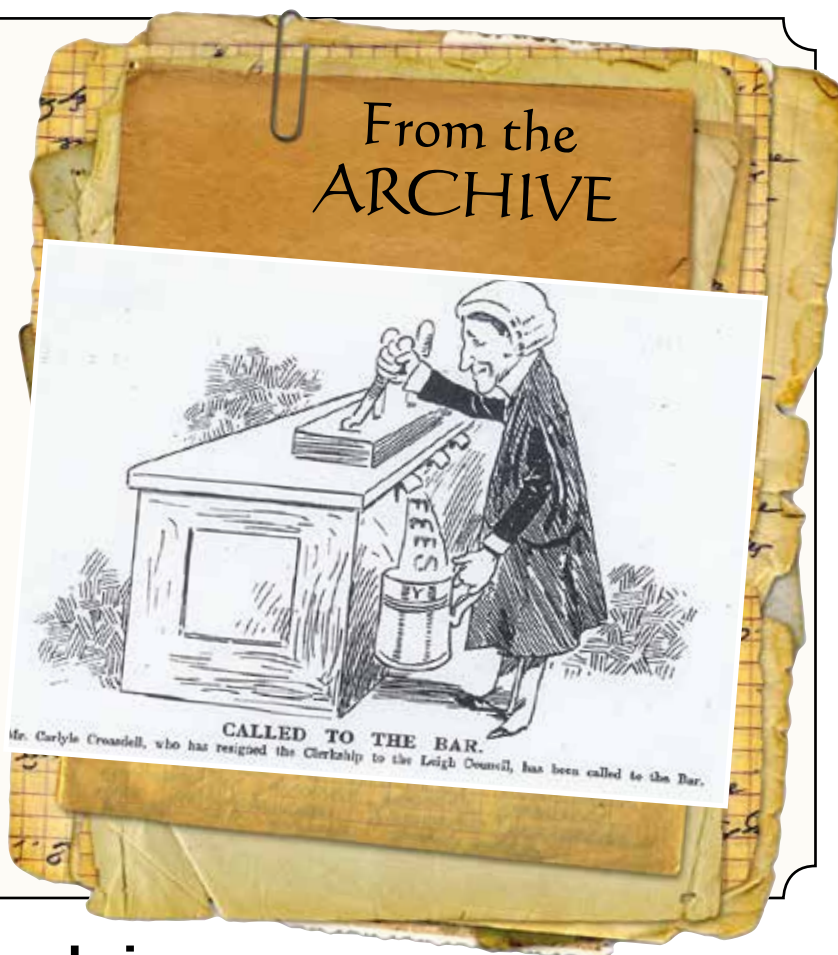
William Carlyle Croasdell Town Clerk of Leigh

This cartoon from the Westcliff and Southend Graphic in October 1910, refers to the resignation of the Town Clerk of the Leigh Urban District Council because he had been called to the Bar.

William Carlyle Croasdell's father was a steam engine fitter and William was born in Parton, Cumberland in 1879. He married Clara Madeleine Stobie (Madge) in 1906 in Staffordshire (West Bromwich). William held the post of Town Clerk in Leigh for four years but went on to pastures new as a Barrister in which profession he wrote The Law Relating to Private Street Works under the Act of 1892 in 1915 and The Law of Copyright in relation to Cinematography in 1911.

Both of these can still be purchased on Amazon!

William came to Leigh after 1906 and left in 1910 but his son Austell was born here. We wonder, as they missed the 1901 and 1911 censuses of Leigh, does anyone know where they lived - is he on your deeds?



Carole Mulroney - taking the chair



I feel very privileged to be chairman of the Town Council for a second time because it gives me great opportunities to work with lots of different groups and people to help improve and enhance the town for all of us who share a love of this community.

On a more personal level those who know me know that my passion is Leigh's history, both social and family. We have such an illustrious past that I never tire of learning new facts and stories about our town and its people, past and present.

Leigh offers so much, but it has issues just like other places and the Town Council is uniquely placed to speak for, and work with, residents and groups to deal with those issues and promote them.

In the year I was chairman before we took over the Community Centre and led a campaign to save our beloved Library. Both were successful and showed what working together we can achieve great things.

Being a Town and Borough Councillor gives me the chance to promote the Town even more and working on both Councils and through groups like the Leigh Society and the Coastal Communities Team there are ample opportunities we can take.

I believe there is much to look forward to and much hard work to be done and the Town Council needs the support of its residents and businesses to create a better Leigh.

Titles such as the happiest place to live give a fleeting glory but we all know you have to work at it all the time so we need to look after our Town and make it welcoming, friendly and keep it a place where people want to live, work and play, but also to preserve what is special to us.

We all need to take individual responsibility for our environment and heritage but the Town Council gives Leigh a voice as a community and working as a community we can all make sure that voice is heard.

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Leigh on Sea Town Council Town Councillors 2016-17

Bonchurch Ward



Cllr Jill Healey
CllrJill.Healey@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk

Highlands Ward



Cllr Mark Bromfield 01702-390602
CllrMark.Bromfield@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk



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Cllr Vivien Rosier 01702 474252
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Thames Ward



Cllr Patrick Fox
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Cllr Ron Owen 07748 907110
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Herschell Ward



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Cllr Declan Mulroney
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St. Clements Ward

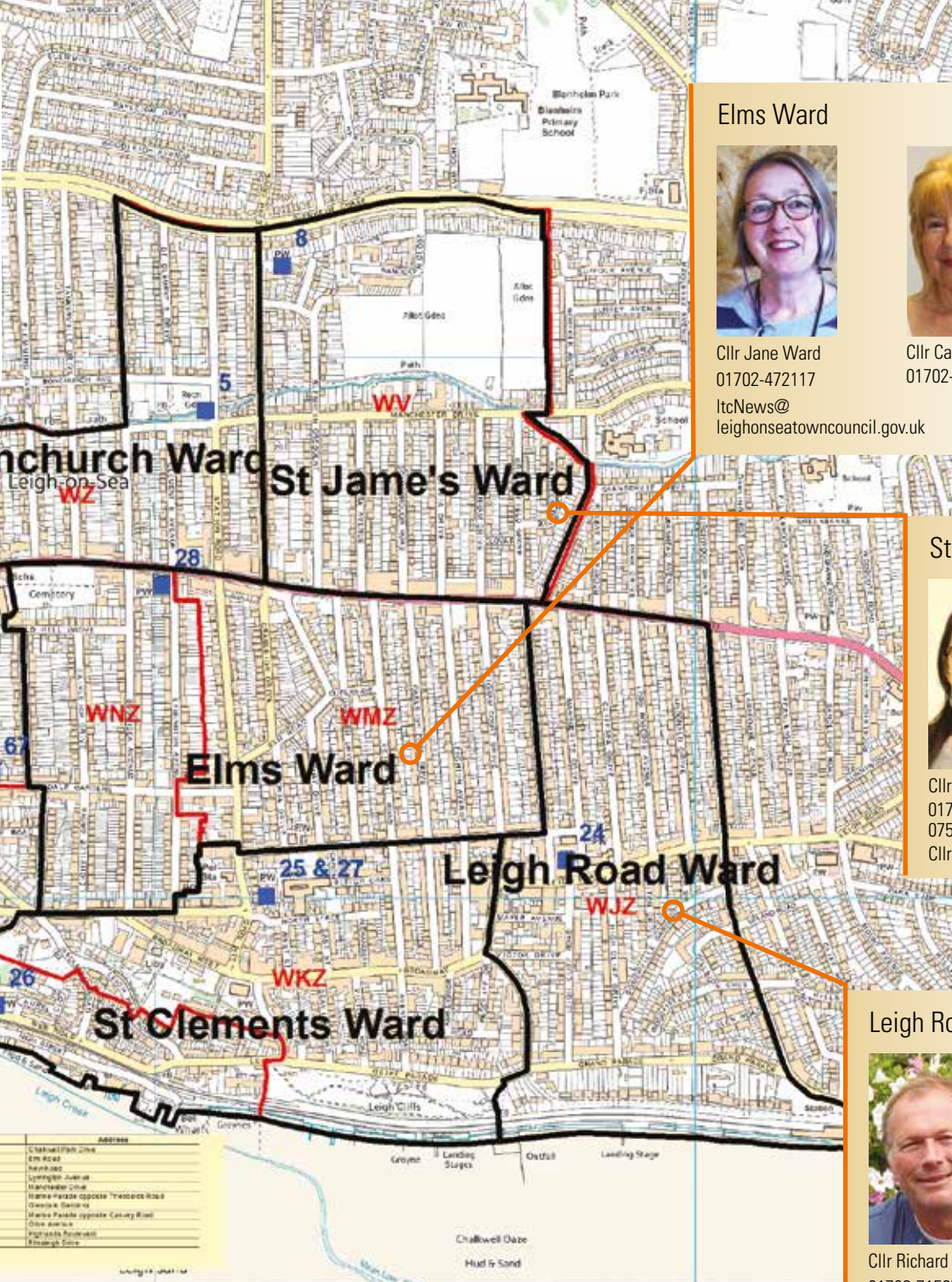


Cllr Carole Mulroney 01702-475117
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Cllr Valerie Morgan 01702-475590
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Elms Ward



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Cllr Caroline Parker
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Leigh Road Ward



Cllr Richard Herbert
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Cllr Helen Robertson
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Southend Borough Ward Councillors who cover Leigh on Sea

Belfairs



Cllr Stephen Trevor Aylen (IND)
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Blenheim Park



Cllr Helen Boyd (CON)
Telephone: 01702 212363
Email: cllrboyd@southend.gov.uk
Cllr James Ian Courtenay (CON)
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Cllr Floyd Waterworth (UKI)
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Leigh



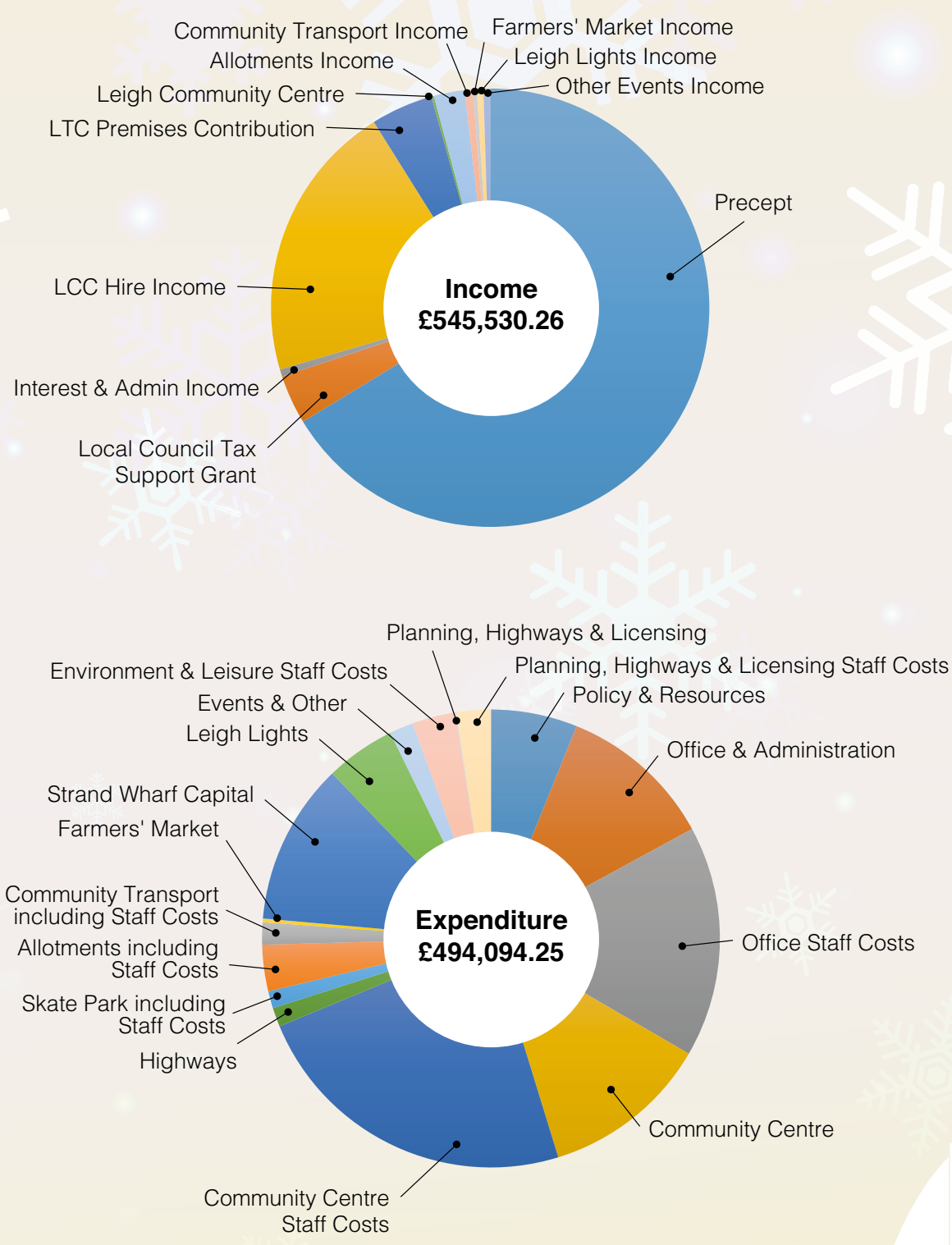
Cllr Bernard Arscott (CON)
Telephone: 01702 212062
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West Leigh



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Telephone: 01702 558657
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Leigh on Sea Town Council 2015/16 Income and Expenditure



Traditionally, summer has been a quiet time at the Community Centre – not any more though. With the introduction of our holiday activities last year, we are now known for providing a variety of different activities and entertainment come the holiday times. Party with Sid, Marko Sparko Magic, First Steps Dance, Art Ministry and Buttercup Club all provided a host of things to keep the children amused. We make every attempt to introduce new features each holiday time and October half term saw a new Viking/Anglo Saxon workshop and Party Pets added to the programme as well as some old favourites. Our holiday activities take a break at Christmas but will return in February.



Coming up.....

Don't miss out on our Christmas Farmers' Market on Saturday 17th December. It is always a special occasion with music and festive fayre. The monthly market will then take a break until February.

In March we will be adding to our Book Fair by extending the range to include CDs, DVDs and records a chance to browse and pick up a lost favourite or bargain and maybe enjoy a cuppa and a treat at Lorna & Lottie's, the Community Centre café.



Website

Our new Community Centre website has been up and running since May. This provides a wealth of information about the Centre and all the classes, Fayres, Markets and exhibitions that are hosted here. It is proving very popular and has attracted new classes, wedding bookings and many events. Keep up to date with all that is going on here at

www.leighcommunitycentre.com



My residence in the community centre

Mary Lister

Today I have been painting the studio in a fresh coat of white paint. I arrived in fashionably inappropriate attire for the job and therefore had to wear plastic bags over my boots, it was well worth it. The studio is looking fresh and exciting and I am ready to make some work.

Whilst I have slowly been moving bits and pieces in I have arranged things so that I can see everything on the shelves; all of my printing, painting and various sculpture materials are visible and ready for use. I have started off simply, by doing sketches and trying to master the lighting in here so I can do some filming and photography. I am a mixed media artist and I am keen to show people that you don't need to be a master of one technique in order to become an artist yourself. Whilst it is handy knowing all there is to know about one technique, it can also be limiting should you suddenly change direction in your interests. I am excited to use the space and have it used by others that would like one to one training to improve their breadth of artistic techniques.

One of the hard things about leaving university was having space to carry on making work that was exactly how I wanted to make it. Another thing that has been hard was finding purpose to make art at all. When you don't have the deadlines for work to be submitted or anyone telling you what to do, you suddenly have to become your own manager. You must find purpose, create opportunity and believe that your work is relevant or valuable to the world. Since moving back to Leigh I have accomplished far more than I would have done whilst struggling to make ends meet in London. I was under the impression that London was the place for opportunity and excitement but I was forgetting how hard it is to start off as a small fish in a very big pond. I was delighted that when I moved back I was making work that I enjoyed making again and still seeing a vast amount of culture and creativity happening around me. I started running an art class at

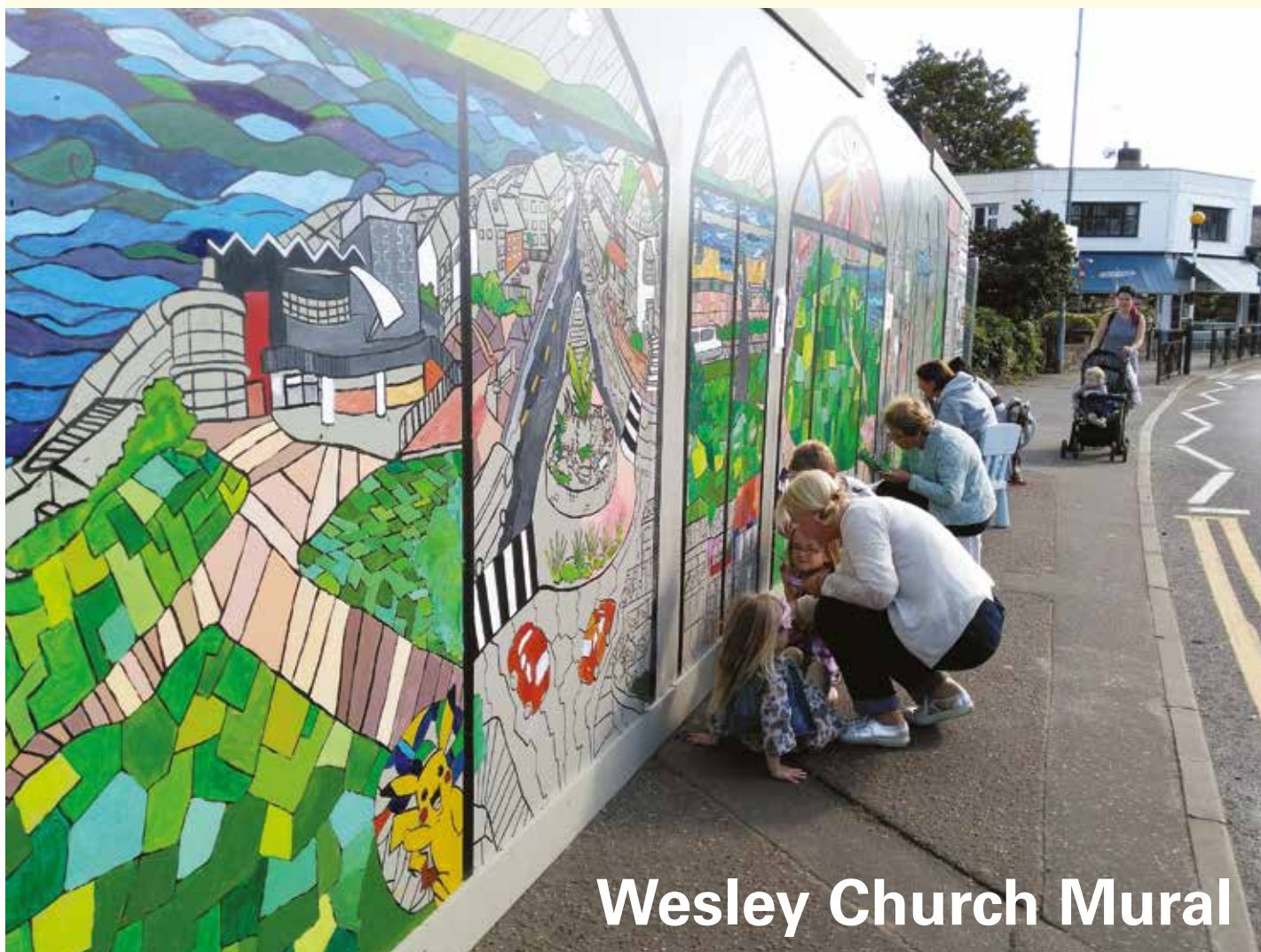


the community centre called 'Contemporary Art Class' 2 years ago and I have been a part of the 'Leigh Art Trail' for 2 years. I am so thankful to the community centre and the Art Trail for giving me these opportunities, they have really helped me get a foot in the door. I must also thank Focal Point Gallery in Southend for giving me numerous opportunities that have all been so exciting. The team there are lovely and I believe they all really understand what it's like leaving an artistic learning environment which can be overwhelming.

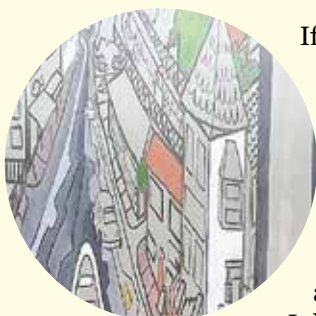
My roles at the centre will be varied, I will be helping with the selection and hanging of the art wall here at the community centre and plan to host a number of other classes for adults and children. I also plan to take charge of more projects that get the community of Leigh and surrounding areas interested in art.

"I love this area and feel so involved with what goes on here, I am continually inspired by the amount Leigh has to offer and I look forward to meeting more of you as my time as artist in residence continues. Be sure to ask me anything if you have any art queries, I'll be in the studio."





Wesley Church Mural

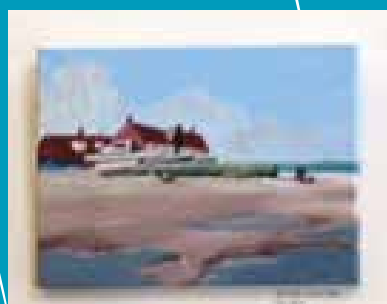
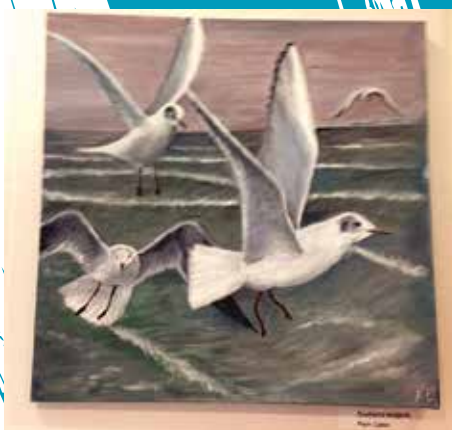


If you are a resident in the area of Leigh and frequent Elm Road you may have noticed the large scale painting going on around the building works at Wesley Methodist Church. My name is Mary Lister and I am a local artist organising this painting. I was first approached by the church's reverend

Julia Monaghan and asked to do some kind of painting to mask the boring boards that would be up whilst the church had various changes made. I heard that they would be losing one of the stained glass windows which was situated at the entrance. With this in mind I came up with the theme of stained glass windows and beautiful archways, but I also wanted to represent our diverse community in some way. Looking at the great expanse of wall I had undertaken I thought it would be a great opportunity to paint a panorama type image of the estuary from Southend to Leigh on Sea with its gorgeous coast and quirky features; this being the art deco architecture of the Cliffs Pavilion, Southend Pier, our statue of Queen Victoria and Leigh's old Town. I wanted to capture all the things that make this part of Essex such a wholesome and

well-rounded place to live with a plethora of beautiful views and activities to take part in (with a few Pokémon thrown in for good measure). To take it a step further I have organized the painting so that it is a large scale paint by numbers in which anyone can join in, young and old, to make their mark on where they come from. So far the painting has been eagerly received and has opened up so many people to talk to each other about where they live, what they like about Leigh and Southend and how they have enjoyed the artwork in some way. North Street Junior School has had amazing involvement and, I've heard, have skipped a P.E. lesson or two to take part, and many passers-by have had a dabble who perhaps never had an art interest or feel they were capable have done an amazing job.

I just want to say a huge thank you to all those that have helped me to paint this, it has been an extraordinary team effort. A special thanks to my mum and dad for all of their help painting and carting paints back and forth to the church for me and a big thank you to Wesley Church for giving me the opportunity to make an artwork that has inspired so many to take part.



Wall of colour

There is now a window into the vibrant Leigh arts scene via Leigh Community Centre's Art Wall - featuring pieces of work from local art groups and classes. The aim is to encourage local artists and art groups to display their work and to inspire other people to reawaken their artistic talents by joining a local group or class.

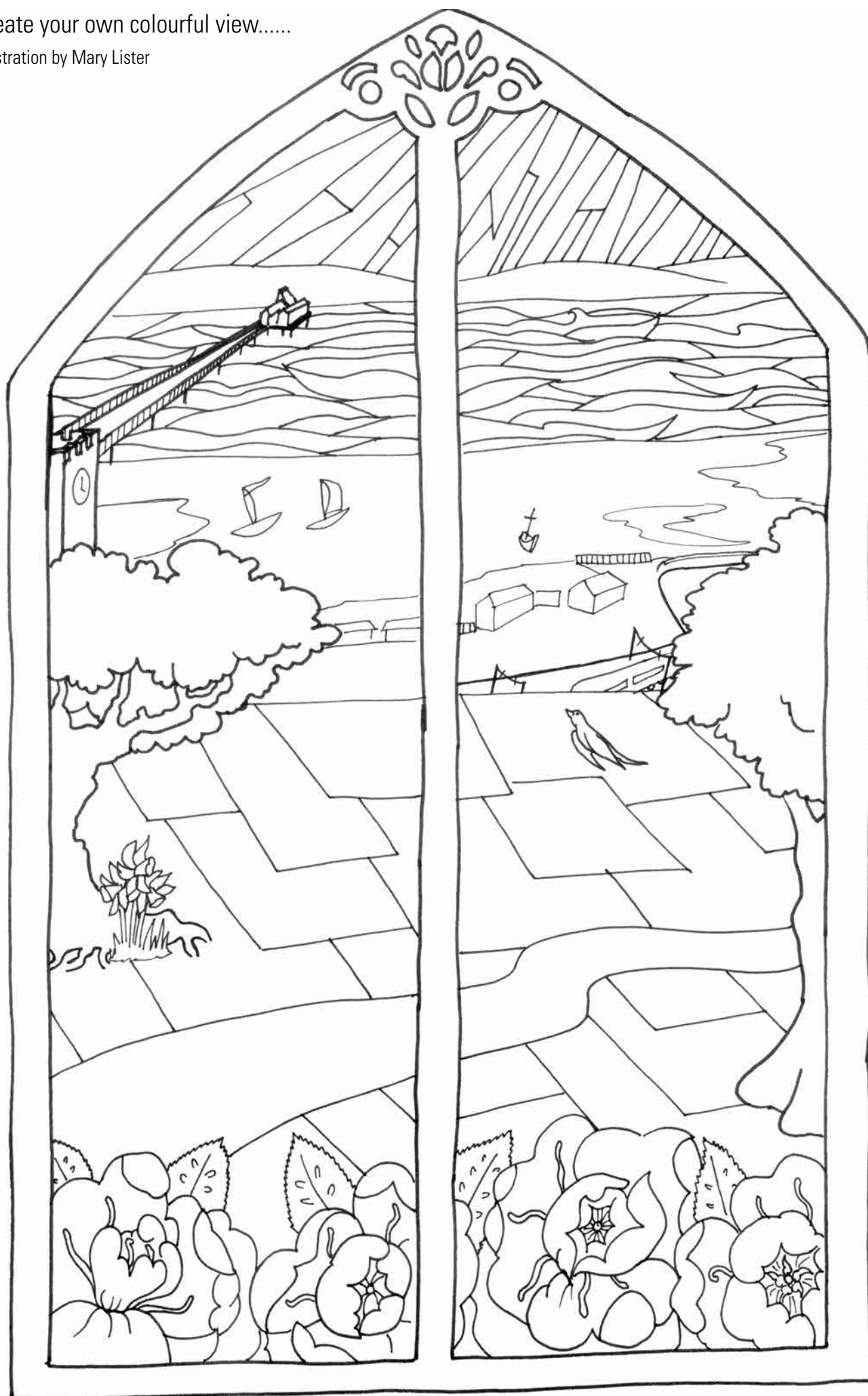
The current format of the Art Wall was launched in July 2016 with a display of over fifty artworks – paintings, prints, drawings, sculpture and pottery - created by students attending courses at Southend Adult Community College. First reactions from visitors to the centre were very positive and centre staff received favourable feedback over the subsequent weeks. The exhibition was expertly hung by college staff Tricia North and Emma Watson – setting a high standard for future exhibitions. The centre's caretaking staff added their expertise and assistance to the process.

The Art Wall exhibition – comprising the stairwell and upper corridors – was changed at the end of September. More than sixty pieces of work from the WASER Artists – Pam Caton, Lynne Glasby, Ron Parry, Carolyn Perry and Amber Glasby – transformed the Community Centre stairs and upper corridor into a riot of colour.

Our current Artist in Residence, Mary Lister, is curating all the Art Wall exhibitions with the support from Leigh Town Council's Arts Group and the Community Centre staff. Any local art groups or classes interested in exhibiting work on the Art Wall should contact Mary at the Community Centre.

Create your own colourful view.....

illustration by Mary Lister



Environment and Leisure Committee



Valerie Morgan
Chairman, Environment and Leisure Committee

Well what a strange summer we've had, first it was hot then cold then hot again. Lots of strong winds affecting leisure boating on our shore. Too much rain then not enough for our allotments and gardens. At least the weather played ball for this year's Maritime Festival in the Old Town which once again was a great success and for the first time we were able to make use of the lovely new Strand Wharf for activities.

We are now looking forward to the Leigh Lights which for this year will have the addition of some colour for you to enjoy while you do your Christmas shopping. The council's Christmas Carol evening will be on 10th December at 6.00pm, put that date in your diaries, and we hope as many of you as possible will join us on Strand Wharf that evening. Once again there will be lantern making for the younger members of the community. This will happen in the Fisherman's Mission on New Road from around 4pm. Do enquire at the Community Centre for more details.

Looking further ahead we will once again be holding Easter celebrations in the Community Centre with lots of activities for our youngsters, watch our notice boards for more information.

As a committee we are always open to ideas from you, the people of Leigh, for things you would like us to do. No promises though as there are always budget restraints and permissions to be obtained.

Our Community Transport outings to theatres, gardens etc are much appreciated and enjoyed by our older residents. Don't forget if you are over 60 and live within the Leigh Town Council boundaries you are welcome to join in.

The Leigh allotment sites are under the umbrella of this committee, each very ably run by their own societies, a big thank you to them. For those of you who would like to try "the Good Life" there are usually plots available, again contact the Community Centre.

In collaboration with the Community Facilities Committee we are continuing to look at improvements to the Skate Park and other possible opportunities for outdoor activities. A sub committee has been formed so as they say, watch this space.

I will finish by saying a big thank you to our Events Officer who does such a great job backed up by her supporting team and our wonderful volunteers.





SOUTHEND AIRPORT

CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Cllr Valerie Morgan

I sit on this committee as a representative of Leigh Town Council. The committee comprises a mixture of local council representatives from the surrounding area, a representative of the Flying Clubs, a representative of West Leigh Residents Association and one from Southend Trades Council along with London Southend Airport employees. The committee meets every three months and is given a report on the previous quarters activities by either the CEO, Glyn Jones or the COO (Chief of Operations), Jon Horne. There is then an opportunity for questions from the committee.

At the last meeting, in August, it was reported that the airports management team had been expanded bringing in new expertise and experience. It was also reported that Ground Handling Operations

had for the fourth consecutive month been number one for customer service at check-in, gate and on time performance, for easyJet's 'Top 50 Airports'. In addition the CAA had recently published the outcome of its survey of 30 UK airports in relation to how well they support passengers with a disability or reduced mobility and the airport had achieved the top scoring of 'Very Good' and was the only London airport to obtain this highest grading.

The committee is then given details of any planning issues and inward investment, employment and training along with community relations relating to noise and the environment.

A copy of the Airport Annual Report is available for reading at reception.

Community transport group

Are you over 60 or know someone who is?
Do you live in the Leigh Parish boundary? (see map on pages 4 and 5)



Leigh Town Council offers a door to door service to take you on a variety of trips organised throughout the year.

Membership is free, all you pay for are ticket costs, refreshment costs and a small contribution towards travel costs.

We provide volunteer drivers and helpers.

Visits have included:

- Tiptree Jam Factory
- Tropical Wings
- A barge trip on the Chelmer from Paper Mill Lock
- Local musicals, theatre and concerts

Please don't sit at home, or be frustrated you can't get out, you'll get a big welcome to join our friendly group.

**Come and collect a form from the Leigh Community Centre or ask someone to collect it on your behalf.
Call Vivien Choppen for more information on 01702 716 288**

Have your say in shaping the future of Leigh on Sea

Since May the Planning, Licensing & Highways committee has looked at 120 applications, some of which have been quite major developments. As we all know Leigh on Sea is a very desirable place to live, and developers want to make the most of this by building ever more flats and houses. The latest application for the renovation of the Grand Hotel is for flats with restaurant and bar on the ground floor and basement wine bar. So no Boutique Hotel with spa for the visitors of Leigh on Sea. This application is still to go before Southend Borough Council who are the Planning Authority and make all final decisions.

It was surprising that not a single resident made any comments on these new plans, despite the Borough sending out 61 letters to

nearby residents and the local press covering it, to the Town Council or attended the planning meeting when it was discussed.

But some residents have been having their say – at 7 of the last 8 meetings members of the public have come along and made their views heard about developments that directly affect them. This is such a help to us at Town Council when we put objections forward to Southend Borough, and our comments do carry weight, as in the majority of these cases the Borough have refused the application.

The Town Council encourages the residents to make their views heard either by talking to their Town Councillors, attending the Planning Meetings or directly to Southend Borough. Guidance notes on how to do this are available on the Town Council website and office.

Leigh Marshes Leisure Park

You may remember from the last edition of this magazine (Rampage Skate Park) the Council was looking at developing a modern activity leisure park. Some residents took up the challenge to join us and we are now a step further and have formed a sub-committee to take the project forward.



We will be looking to expand and improve the existing skate park, tapping into the expertise of the current users. We hope the land on the south side of the road, after further investigation as to suitability, can be used for multiple activities to benefit people of all ages and abilities. This will not be a development of the land but there may be a need for some facilities and lighting to be installed.

The list below contains our ideas to date and we invite you to participate by ticking those you would like to see. There is also space for you to add others which we may not have thought of, no promises there but we really would like it to be your space.

The area also needs a name, so put your thinking caps on.



Please tick (✓) the box next to the idea you would like to see in **Leigh Marshes Leisure Park** (you may tick more than one idea)

- ☐ Skate Park
- ☐ 5-a-side football pitches
- ☐ Beach Volley Ball
- ☐ Petanque
- ☐ Children's sand pit
- ☐ BMX track
- ☐ Picnic/BBQ area
- ☐ Adventure trail/playground
- ☐ Basketball/netball
- ☐ Tennis courts
- ☐ Running track
- ☐ Graffiti/climbing walls
- ☐ Outdoor gym
- ☐ Table tennis
- ☐ Chess
- ☐ Yoga/Tai Chi/events area
- ☐ Toilets

Other suggestions
.....
.....

Name suggestions
.....
.....

There is a red post box in the Community Centre so please post your responses there before 31st January 2017.
If you want to keep your copy of LTC News intact there are copies of the questionnaire at the Community Centre or alternatively there will be a copy on the Leigh Town Council website.



The oldest Essex cultivar, Doctor Harvey which originated in 1629.



Usually the last Essex apple to be picked, Sturmer Pippin.



The attractive blossom of Woodford, a cooking apple first noted at Colchester around 1900.

Leigh allotments orchard

The season has been a busy one for the orchard, and fruit picking is still in progress. The winter was not too wet and relatively mild, in theory almost too frost-free to guarantee good blossom on the trees but these conditions resulted in a great display of blossom at the beginning of May, the colours varying from the most common nearly white to the white and dark pink of Woodford, a variety raised in Colchester around 1900.

The very wet conditions in June provoked huge growth in the grass around the trees and of bindweed which threatened to completely smother some of the smaller trees until we ran a work party to cut it all back. Then, of course we hardly had any substantial rain for two months or more which slowed the grass down but eventually caused some of the fruit to fall early, before fully ripening.



Three fine examples of cooking apple Queen.

The apple crop has included some quite large specimens this year, particularly one or two of the cooking varieties: one Queen, originally raised at Billericay in 1858, weighed a pound and a Chelmsford Wonder from 1870 turned the scales at 14 ounces. We also had our best crop yet from our oldest cultivar, another cooker, Doctor Harvey, which goes back to 1629.

The Essex apple picking season runs from August when Discovery matures to November when Sturmer Pippin should be ready. Several of the later varieties should last well into the New Year if stored correctly.

We are always looking for new people to join the Orchard Group looking after the site and if anybody is interested I can be contacted through Leigh Town Council.

David Hammond

Manchester Drive Allotment Society MDAS

MDAS held another successful Open Day on Sunday 4th September which was well attended and blessed with good weather. There was live entertainment throughout the day and a wide range of stalls, plenty of children's activities and nature tours of the allotments. Food was provided by an excellent Bar-B-Que and tea, coffee and homemade cakes by the MDAS Cafe,

The principle objective being to, hopefully, encourage people to think about taking an allotment. With over 220 plots MDAS is the largest Site in the area and is always happy to show people around and to encourage beginners.



David Hammond serving



The Yardarm Folk Orchestra



Sheila and Gerald Brazier

Leigh on Sea Town Council's Christmas Farmers' Market

Saturday 17th December 2016
8.30am – 12.00 noon

71-73 Elm Road, Leigh on Sea, SS9 1SP
Telephone: 01702 477248
enquiries@leighcommunitycentre.com

 [@leighcommunitycentre](https://www.facebook.com/leighcommunitycentre)



[@leighonseaCC](https://twitter.com/leighonseaCC) 

Would you like to be kept updated by email about our events at Leigh Community Centre?
If so, could we have your email address please and we will add you to our email list?

Name

Email Address

This information will be treated confidentially and will not be passed to any third parties.
Please place this form into the red box in reception

LEIGH LIGHTS

An event organised by Leigh Town Council

FRIDAY 25TH NOVEMBER 2016
5.00PM - 8.00PM

YULETIDE PARADE 6.30 PM

Featuring Stibbards Santa Awards for two best entrants
FROM KINGS ROAD THROUGH TO BROADWAY WEST

Attractions include:

- Santa's Grotto – Scott & Stapleton
- Entertainment at Scott & Stapleton (Party with Sid), Strangeways, Oasis Café, Liquid Flair & Truly Scrumptious
- Festive Fairground – car park near Henry's Burgers
- Christmas Fun & Treats – Elm Road
- Santa's Sleigh photo opportunity – Leigh Community Centre

The Christmas Lights, including new coloured displays, will be on from 4.30 pm

ORGANISED BY

**Leigh-on-Sea
Town Council**

01702 716288

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The studio of style

As the final of the popular TV show 'Strictly come dancing' approaches, many of us dream of gliding around the dance floor like the contestants and their partners. But why not take the opportunity to make your dreams become reality?

Generations of Leigh folk have taken their first steps in learning to dance at Strictly Smartz (formerly the Davies Dance Studio) opposite St Clements Church. Whether learning for competition, fun, preparing for that all important first wedding dance or that glamorous cruise, the first floor dance studio has been a beacon for aspiring Ballroom and Latin dancers. Under the watchful eye of professional dance teacher Carole French, local dancers have honed their style and routines and – whether beginners or more experienced – have been introduced to dances such as the waltz, quick-step, foxtrot, jive, cha cha, rumba, tango and samba.

Carole regularly takes her studio dancers to local competitions and, once a year, to compete at the prestigious Tower Ballroom in Blackpool. She counts Strictly Come Dancing professional Mathew Cutler among her distinguished past students.

There are many young aspiring dancers attending the studio's lessons and classes. A class for young people aged between 6 and 15 years takes place on Saturday morning (10.00 – 11.30) and children under 8 years old can attend on Wednesday afternoon (4.30 – 5.30).

It is never too late to learn Ballroom and Latin dancing and it is a great way to maintain physical health and mental alertness, concentration and flexibility – as well as having a lot of fun in the company of like-minded people. An excellent class for adult beginners runs on Tuesday evenings (8.00 – 9.30) and Carole also runs private classes for individuals and couples.

Carole said, "The hardest thing to do is to walk up the stairs – especially if you have come along on your own – but a warm welcome awaits. Don't be shy – start today!"

Have a look at the Strictly Smartz website to find a class to suit you – www.strictlysmartz.com or ring Carole on 07766540757



Music makers

Southend and Leigh have a fine heritage for music makers from the Kursaal Flyers "Little Does she Know", the Paramounts "Poison Ivy" and Procul Harem "Whiter Shade of Pale" to Horrors and Hamsters. So it is fantastic to see a new business, Leigh Music Co. choose Leigh as its base in Rectory Grove.

Leigh Music Co.'s goal is to provide a traditional music shop service in a modern day environment. If you haven't ventured in yet I really recommend paying a visit. There is a very warm and creative vibe awaiting would-be musicians, professionals or simply music lovers. The fine collection of musical instruments on display will inspire you to want to make music.

Leigh Music Co. offers new and second-hand instruments for purchase. Their primary items being electric, acoustic and bass guitars with musical accessories, effects pedals and amplification.

They have an interesting range of boutique brands and unique second-hand products. They also offer consignment stock sales in which enable customers to sell their instruments through them.

In addition to this, they offer a music lesson program including small group lessons and one to one tuition. Featuring top, local teachers they aim also to develop music workshops geared to both children and adults to further serve our community.

Students of all ages, ability levels and needs, from junior to adult, beginner to advanced musician are invited to come along and see what might suit their needs and aspirations.

Leigh Music Co. is open Monday to Saturday 10am till 7pm.



St Clement's Church, Leigh on Sea

Known to many people as Leigh Church, St Clement's is the oldest building in continuous use in the Town. Founded at some point in the Seventh or Eighth Century, there has been a church on or nearby the present building ever since - although it has developed over the years, from wood to stone, from a simple single nave to the jigsaw of different ages of Leigh that we have now.

At the heart of Leigh, St Clement's is not just a building of historic significance, nor just a place where the history of Leigh is written in Memorials and Registers. Leigh Church is also the centre of a thriving community of people who choose to offer themselves in the service of the Parish we serve. We have a public face, at times of Remembrance or other National events, for funerals, weddings and baptisms. However, a lot more goes on than you might think.

The purposes of every Church of England Church are, The Worship of God, The building up of Community and Relief of suffering. To that end, the Church is open every day for worship and activities that offer a space for many different people. Our activities include Buggy Time for preschool children, and We'll Meet Again for the Older resident. There is Knit and Natter for the more craft orientated, and Friday Lunches, a chance to make new friends over a reasonably priced meal (the proceeds of which go to charity). The church is also open on Saturdays for coffee mornings. A lot of what we do raises money for charitable work at home and abroad.

We do not just restrict ourselves to the building. Members of the church organise a variety of activities including, visiting people in their own homes, visiting Memory House for Singing with the residents, and Children's Fun Days in Leigh Library Garden.

You do not have to attend worship to come to any of our activities. In fact, you are welcome to come as you. Whatever your interests, we hope to offer a safe space in Leigh Church.

Fr Clive Hillman SMMS - Rector of Leigh

To know more, please visit the Church or www.stclementschurch.org



Church Hill - The Little Hill

Church Hill is one of the most loved and photographed parts of Leigh. The Hill is a public footpath and it is the right of the inhabitants of the town to pass along it on foot only.



Its existence is due to a former Rector of St Clement's, although he wasn't thanked for it at the time.

The Rev Robert Eden had built a new rectory now (the Library), and laid out its grounds, but in so doing he deprived the locals of a well loved route from the Old Town, strewn with cockle shells to keep it clean and with seats for the traveller to rest. It was also the usual route to the Church for Old Town funerals (and the Old Town was Leigh in those days). To stop this traffic Rev Eden positioned posts across the path and so funerals had to go up the longer and more circuitous Horse Hill (Leigh Hill).

H W 'Antiquary' King, a Victorian historian of Leigh wrote

'to gratify the intense selfishness of the wealthy Rector appointed in 1837 the public lane usually

called Chess Lane was closed and laid into the Rectory grounds thus excluding the whole of the inhabitants from their immemorial highway and promenade overseeing the town and extending almost its entire length and commanding the Thames and the further shore of Kent for many miles. All engrossed to the gratification of the man and his neighbour. The Church Hill forming the western boundary of Normans Field and the only ascent and descent from and to the town which took advantage of the best levels was abolished and laid into the property on the west of it and the steep and dangerous footpath through Normans Field was fenced off in substitution, four paths from the town were permanently closed and corpses were required to be borne thenceforth by the longer steeper and more circuitous main road.'

So that's how Church Hill came to be.

This article is written by Carole Mulroney, a Trustee of Leigh Heritage Centre (www.leighsociety.com)

For more interesting stories on Leigh, its people and places go to her website www.leighlives.co.uk

If you have any interesting stories about your Leigh family or memories of Leigh you can contact Carole at leighlives@btinternet.com

Cycling and walking with the Traditional Touring Club



Cycling and walking with the Traditional Touring Club (TTC) offer members exercise with fun. The TTC is a walking and cycling club based in Leigh on Sea with an organised walk or ride every Sunday. The cycle rides are normally between 20 and 30 miles, taken at a leisurely pace, with stops for refreshments etc plus a pub visit somewhere near the end. Both self-propelled and electric bikes are welcome. This is a sociable and painless way of keeping fit!

Some of the cycles and walks are local, but many take members to other parts of Essex, to London and to neighbouring counties. Several longer trips are arranged each year in the UK and abroad. The TTC is a member of the Ramblers, the Youth Hostel Association (YHA), and Cycling UK, and is affiliated to HF Holidays.

The club, which has about 120 members, also arranges social events including a monthly meal, theatre trips and cinema trips. Some members also take part in a book club. The TTC website www.traditionaltouringclub.com gives more information about the club, with details of future cycle rides, walks and social events, and includes photographs of some of our activities.

Members meet once a month to socialise, to hear about recent cycle rides and walks, and to find out about future trips. This club meeting takes place on the third Wednesday of each month at 8.30 p.m. at The Constitutional Club in Elm Road, Leigh on Sea. The annual subscription to the TTC is £18. New members are always welcome, and it's possible to take part in two cycle rides or walks as 'tasters' before joining as a full member. If you'd like to know more about the club give Sally Meredith a call on 01702 462225 or come along to one of our monthly meetings.

Jenny Butler, Secretary TTC – September 2016





Essex Yacht Club

Founded in 1890 in a small corrugated iron shack on the north side of the railway line, the Essex Yacht Club swiftly moved into the first of its club ships when the railway was fenced, making it impossible for members to get to their boats. Boats that were all moored, as they are today, on the drying mud flats offshore.

Since then the club has been a permanent and obvious feature of the foreshore, particularly now with the distinctive HQ ship, the ex-RN Mine Hunter Wilton, the world's first glass fibre warship.

Wilton provides a comfortable and enduring base for the extensive sailing programme that the Essex Yacht Club provides. From racing for dinghies, cruisers and the unique Estuary one design class, sailing goes on throughout the season, complemented by a busy social programme revolving around the excellent dining and bar facilities.

A particular feature is the annual Cadet Week, when well over 100 children from six to 18 come together to learn to sail, to hone their skills and to race, as well as to take part in a range of social events.

New members are always welcome to join and to contribute to the sailing and social programme the club provides.



NHW is a charity run by the people and has more members than any other charity in the UK.

In Southend alone we have over 700, yes that right, 700 Schemes on average each scheme has about 30 households making a whopping 21,000 households if you then said each household has at least 2 people in then there are 42,000 sets of eyes looking out for anything suspicious and or just being a caring Neighbour.

Want to start one up or join an existing scheme
then email me on kevin.blake@essex.pnn.police.uk.

What is involved I hear you ask?

Not much really, a small bit of leg work at the beginning and then just one meeting to do a launch and then just pass on the information that I give you via email. This can be Fraud and scam advice, your local hotspots for potential burglaries. Lots of security advice regarding your house or cars. You also get a goody bag for free with booklets and NHW stickers plus a security marker pen!

We are also asking people to sign up to ECM which I believe you are all aware of. We are also pushing a new scheme called Active Citizen which does what it says on the tin! Asking local residents to become active.

NHW is a massive success story and one with your help and support will continue to grow. We all know it is a tough time for everyone and that definitely includes the Police so be part of the solution and join up and feedback any issue you find to the Police. Don't leave it for others as they are leaving it for you! Step forward and show YOU care about your community.



ECM Essex Community Messaging

Whether you are part of a Neighbourhood Watch, are considering setting one up, or you wish to know more about the work of local police, local crime figures, scams etc. There is a simple process to sign up to receive email messages for free, tailored to your needs. You can also find out more about the role of the Police and Crime Commissioner, PCC.

Keeping abreast of the latest internet crime and telephone or door-to-door criminals is essential if you are a carer for a vulnerable person. Help to keep them safe and yourself and your family.

If you want to find out more check out the Essex Police website at www.essex.police.uk/ecm or scan this QR code with your smart phone.



In addition to the 999 emergency number there is a number to call for non-emergency or crimes not-in-progress, 101.

Play an active role in helping keep crime down in our community whilst keeping up-to-date with what's going on around Leigh and beyond.