

Leigh on Sea Town Council News issue 09

Image by Alfie Winters

“The Curly Bridge’ or ‘The Gypsy Bridge’ in Leigh - I believe it is so iconic and one photo wouldn’t do it justice, so here are four!”

  
@LeighTCevents





Southend-on-Sea Borough Council YOUR Councillors for Leigh-on-Sea Wards

Belfairs Ward

Councillor Stephen Aylen 01702 212892
 cllraylen@southend.gov.uk
 Councillor Alan Dear 01702 212889
 cllrdear@southend.gov.uk
 Councillor Lesley Salter 01702 432364
 cllrsalter@southend.gov.uk

Blenheim Park Ward

Councillor Helen Boyd 01702 212363
 cllrboyd@southend.gov.uk
 Councillor James Courtenay 01702 212870
 cllrcourtenay@southend.gov.uk
 Councillor Laurie Burton 01702 212904
 cllrburton@southend.gov.uk

Leigh Ward

Councillor Bernard Arscott 01702 212062
 cllrarscott@southend.gov.uk
 Councillor Carole Mulroney 01702 212890
 cllrmulroney@southend.gov.uk
 Councillor Peter Wrexham 01702 711958
 cllrwexham@southend.gov.uk

West Leigh Ward

Councillor Fay Evans 01702 558657
 cllrevans@southend.gov.uk
 Councillor John Lamb 01702 483908
 cllrlamb@southend.gov.uk
 Councillor Georgina Phillips 01702 534644
 cllrphillips@southend.gov.uk

LTC Councillor Details

Email: councillor@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk

Bonchurch Ward

Cllr Jill Healey

Elms Ward

Cllr Fr. Clive Hillman
 Cllr Caroline Parker
 Cllr Keith Evans

Herschell Ward

Cllr Dec Mulroney
 Cllr Gerry Glover

Highlands Ward

Cllr Mark Bromfield
 Cllr John Duprey
 Cllr Vivien Rosier

Leigh Road Ward

Cllr Anita Forde
 Cllr Paul Gilson

St. Clements Ward

Cllr Valerie Morgan
 Cllr Carole Mulroney

St. James Ward

Cllr Jill Adair

Thames Ward

Cllr Patrick Fox
 Cllr Ron Owen

LTC Staff Details

Town Clerk – Helen Symmons

helen.symmons@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk

Assistant Responsible Finance Officer – Emma Stratton

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Assistant Proper Officer – Abbie Cotterell

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Bookings Administrator – Hannah Mumford

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Receptionist – Liz Evans / Linda Mitchell

reception@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk

Apprentice Receptionist and Administrative Officer – Sophie Partridge

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Caretakers – Mark Doolan, Richard Flint, Graham Lock, David Skeels

USEFUL NUMBERS

Leigh-on-Sea Town Council	01702 716288
Southend Council switchboard	01702 215000
Parking, Highways and Transport	01702 215003
Planning, Development and Building Control	01702 215004
Environmental Health, Trading Standards and Licensing	01702 215005
Waste, Fly Tipping/Posting and Graffiti	01702 215006

Editor's Note



Welcome to the ninth edition of Leigh-on-Sea Town Council News. It never ceases to amaze me just how much goes on in our lovely town and, as you read this newsletter, I'm sure you will spot something that might tempt you to join in and get involved. The 'centre fold' events calendar gives a

good overview of what is going on during the spring and summer. The Community Centre goes from strength to strength and is the venue for a wide range of activities for all ages. Leigh-on-Sea Town Council is committed to looking after this precious building so that it will continue to operate as

a community hub for many years to come. It has also been great to see some new businesses and shops appearing (although sad to say 'goodbye' to a few too) helping to maintain its reputation as a vibrant town with an optimistic and up-beat outlook. It has been reported that Leigh-on-Sea is one of

the happiest places to live - and we want to keep it this way! You will read about the council elections that are coming up soon - maybe this newsletter will make you think about becoming a Town Councillor so that you can play an active part in **making our town the best that it can be.**

Cllr Vivien Rosier



Note from Chairman

This will be my final contribution to the Leigh-on-Sea Town Council News as in May I will be stepping down both as chairman and a member of the Council. It has been an honour and a pleasure to serve the people of Leigh over the past five years.

As a Council, we continue to fund the St. John First Aid post in the Old Town (we celebrated 20 years last summer) the School Crossing Patrol at Elm Road and the hanging baskets around the town. I think you will agree these are a great benefit to our lovely town.

Our new event on Strand wharf celebrating the annual arrival of the Brent Geese was well received and I hope will be repeated in the years to come.

We now have a new roof to keep our Community Centre dry (no more buckets every time it rains) and the lantern has been restored to its former glory. We have a new lift and this year will hopefully see further improvements to this important building.

Friends of Library Gardens is now well established and this is a project I hope to continue being part of with exciting ideas in the pipeline.

It is just left for me to give the new Town Council, when elected in May, my very best wishes for the next four years.

Chairman Valerie Morgan

The Town Clerk and Council Team

2019 is the year for the Community Centre to be watertight again. Repairs to the roof are complete and the lantern light has been restored. We have a new lift which can accommodate the busy traffic upstairs at the Centre. Thank you for your patience during the disruption. Unfortunately, there will be further disruptions as part of the building is remodelled. This is to improve facilities and the visitor experience. The next phase will see the Reception 'block' removed, opening up the entrance to the Centre and making it more inviting. Thereafter, the ground floor gents' toilets will be relocated to the front of the building next to the ladies' toilets and all the ground floor toilets refurbished. Again, we will try to make the least disruption to your enjoyment of the Community Centre and hope you will be patient as, in the long run, these slight alterations will make a huge difference.

The countdown has begun to the new Council administration that will take its place in May. Please take a look at all the information within the magazine and consider whether you wish to make a difference to your town (or know of someone who might be ideal). Town and Parish Councils are the first tier in local government and Leigh-on-Sea Town

Council has traditionally been a non-political Council. So if you want to get involved with the Leigh community, have a say about the local issues people care about and decide how local money is spent to improve our community, then standing for election could be the ideal way.



If being a councillor doesn't appeal we are still on the look-out for volunteers to be Special Constables and serve their community by being a visible presence in the Town Council area. I am delighted to report that one such volunteer has commenced the training but with the Council allocating funding for up to 5 Special Constables, it would be great to find them a patrol companion or two! Details of how to apply are in this magazine.

Finally, we are in the midst of our event planning for 2019 both in the Community Centre and out and about in Leigh. Stay in touch with what's going on by liking us on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram or checking out the website at www.leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk
Helen Symmons, Town Clerk

Full Council Meetings

All Council meetings are open to the public. Council meetings are always held on a Tuesday at 7.30pm, the majority take place in the Council Chambers (Room 6) at Leigh Community Centre.

The Council has various standing Committees which all report back to Full Council Meetings. The diary of meetings is on our website. All Councillors are expected to attend every Full Council Meeting, to discuss, agree or disagree on recommendations from the other Council Committees.

DATES

Tuesday 19th March
Tuesday 14th May

The timetable for the 2019/20 Council Year will be released in May.

Council Chairman,
Valerie Morgan
Council
Vice-Chairman,
Jill Healey



@LeighTCevents



LEIGH LIGHTS

Leigh-on-Sea Town Council was extremely proud of the best Leigh Lights event to date. The town was lit up on Friday 30th November to the delight of thousands who joined in with the festivities, and luckily the weather stayed beautifully mild. The town centre was bustling, with extra entertainers this year including Violet Streak's Circus stilt walkers, HappyHearts giant bubbles and snow machines. The Council was also delighted to welcome a variety of singers and groups to the Lights who performed throughout the Town. The pre-parade fun at the Community Centre went down a storm with children being

treated to a free Elsa's Grotto and Puppet Show. There were also busy stalls selling cakes, balloons, books, Christmas gifts and face painting. The Centre was once again very pleased to welcome the Art Ministry who provided arts and crafts and a new addition this year, the Essex Wildlife Trust with their nature crafts. This year's Yuletide Parade attracted over 400 participants raising money for 14 different charities. The parade raised a record breaking £3215.21 - an outstanding achievement! In addition, Stibbards and Sons sponsor the parade and award first and second place parade winners with £150 and £100 respectively to donate to their

chosen charity. Morgan Academy of Performing Arts won first place, receiving £150 for Alzheimer's Society and Saint Pierre School won £100 for Crisis.

Leigh-on-Sea Town Council would like to thank the following Leigh traders for their kind donations to the cost of the festive lighting around the town;

Belle Fabrics • Body's Opticians
 • C J Vinten • Cliffs Pavillion
 • Clink • Corner Club
 • Create98 • David Roberts
 • Garrards • Gas Connect Heating • Giles Wilson
 • Greens Health Foods
 • Groovy Baby • Henry Burgers
 • Hong Kong Takeaway • Leigh Gallery Books • Leigh Music Co
 • Leigh Road Baptist Church
 • Natural Edge • Strictly Smartz • The Co-op
 • The Crystal Tree • Wesley Methodist Church • Wild and Idle



Carols on Strand Wharf



Despite the rain, over 300 people turned out to enjoy mulled wine, mince pies and a good old sing along with Salvation Army for Carols on Strand Wharf on Saturday 8th December. Thank you to all those that attended this event which raised a fantastic £253.30 for the Chairman's nominated charity, Southend YMCA. We would also like to thank Homemade Bakery and local supermarkets; Sainsbury's, Co-op and Tesco, for their kind donations of mince pies for this event. **Special thanks to the Hoy Shanty Crew, the Salvation Army and Carol and John Bastin for helping at the event.**

Leigh Voted Happiest Place to Live

Leigh-on-Sea Town Council was thrilled that Leigh was voted the happiest place to live in a recent Rightmove survey, for the second time in three years. Over 21,000 people across the country took part in the questionnaire which ranked towns on happiness factors such as safety, community spirit, friendliness of neighbours and quality of green spaces. The story attracted national press and the Council was excited to be featured on BBC Look East on the night of Leigh Lights, showing off our magical parade to the whole region.



New Councillor

Leigh-on-Sea Town Council is delighted to welcome our new Councillor, Paul Gilson who was elected as Leigh Road Ward Councillor in October.



Charity Quiz



There will be another fundraiser for Southend YMCA
Saturday 30 March
- see centre fold for details

Leigh-on-Sea Town Councillors organised a Valentine's themed quiz night to raise money for the Chairman's charity - Southend YMCA.

Over 80 people attended and £664.34 was raised on the night. The Chairman would like to say a massive thank you to everyone that took part. The quiz also benefited from a fantastic raffle made up of prizes donated from local traders and businesses. These included:

- An ECHO DOT 3rd Generation from ECS Edward Carter Solutions IT Recruitment Specialists
- A bottle of wine in a wooden box from Copa Wine
- A £150 voucher for full works treatment cut, colour, treatment, or blowdry from Chopp Hair
- A three-class voucher for Love Leigh Yoga
- A food and drink voucher worth £10 from Wild Health
- A selection of skincare products from Chaseway Lane Botanical
- 4 Local Craft beers from Hoppily
- A £25 voucher for She Walks in Beauty the Shoe Shop
- A candle from Green Shed Candles
- A Framed image of Leigh by John Pearman of Old Leigh Photography
- £30 Voucher from Leigh Food
- Chocolates and Champagne from Waitrose
- Free cut and blowdry from Anita's
- £25 voucher for Natural Edge
- 3 Free Classes from Hassle-Free Fitness
- A gift voucher for a photoshoot and free digital image from The Leigh Studio.

We would like to thank those involved for their generosity and helping to make the event a real success.

Ian Johnson

Leigh-on-Sea Town Council was shocked and saddened to learn of the passing of Ian Johnson in November. Ian was known to many generations of Leigh youngsters for all the wonderful work he did with 3rd Chalkwell Bay Sea Scouts in the Old Town. He was also a leadership figure in the St. John Ambulance and was involved for many years at West Leigh Junior School.

To the Town Council he was integral to the town and having played a major part over the years in the organisation of Leigh Lights. He was a regular visitor to the Community Centre and a friend to all the Town Council staff. In 2015 Councillors were proud to honour him with a Good for Leigh Award.

Ian was a highly skilled leader who genuinely cared about people. He was always ready to provide assistance and support to those who needed it.

A very fitting send-off for Ian was held in January, with his funeral being live streamed to two other venues including Leigh Community Centre, due to the sheer volume of people wishing to attend. Police closed Elm Road to allow the procession to Wesley Methodist Church and dozens of Scouts lined the roads to offer a final salute. It was clear that Ian was beloved by all those he had met in life, and he will be sorely missed by the Leigh community.

2019 Local Elections

As the first tier of your Local Government, Leigh-on-Sea Town Council is your representation at a local level and the statutory authority responsible for community in partnership with others. In May this year the current Council will be stepping down having served their four-year term. Some members may choose to stand again, but others will be retiring from Council. Subject to nominations and a call for elections within any of the eight Town Council Wards, the procedure for installing a new Council will begin. If a vacancy

is contested then the election process will start with elections taking place within the appropriate ward on Thursday 2nd May 2019. Notice of the Councillor nominations is now imminent. Please check our social media pages, website and Council noticeboards for more information.

If you would be interested in standing as a Leigh-on-Sea Town Councillor then please register your interest and nomination with Southend Borough Council.

BECOMING A COUNCILLOR

If you care about where you live and are passionate about your community, we need YOU! To become a Councillor for Leigh-on-Sea Town Council you do not require qualifications or

experience, just time to care for your community, a willingness to respect others and a desire to make a difference. The legal requirements to become a Councillor are as follows:

- be a British subject or citizen of the Commonwealth or European Union
- be over 18 years of age
- have lived or worked in the area or within 3 miles of the Town for over 1 year
- must not be subject of a bankruptcy restriction order or interim order
- within the last five years, must not have been convicted in the UK of any offence and had a sentence of imprisonment for a period of over 3 months without the option of a fine.

If elected as a Councillor, you would need to adhere to the Code of Conduct, register your interest and undertake training courses. On average, Councillor duties can take up around 3 hours per week, this may be more or less depending on the level of involvement.

THE DUTIES PERFORMED BY COUNCILLORS COVER THREE MAIN AREAS:

- Local Involvement – getting the best for your community
 - Monitoring – ensuring the best value for money is obtained
 - Decision Making – deciding how local money is spent to improve the community.
- Town Councillors are an essential element of the “Big Society” and have a long tradition of promoting a sense of pride in the local community. The role is further enhanced by the national government initiative to modernise local government, making it more accountable to the community it serves. In principle, what local councils do covers three main categories:
- Delivery of services
 - Improving quality of life for residents
 - Giving communities a democratic voice

Councillors can get involved within their communities in many ways in addition to meetings by taking part in events, community engagement projects and other initiatives.

Training Courses are available through the Essex Association of Local Councils and can give inexperienced parties all the tools they need to become a successful and effective Councillor. These include:

- Roles & Responsibilities
- Law & Procedures
- Planning
- Council Finance
- Budget & Precept
- Employment Issues
- Chairman/Councillor Training

ELECTION TIMETABLE

Parish and Town Councillors are elected to serve for a period of four years. Therefore ordinary elections occur every four years and are usually held in conjunction with Southend Borough elections.

The next elections for Leigh Town Council are Thursday 2 May 2019.

The election timetable is carried out in accordance with statutory guidelines and is under the control of the Returning Officer at Southend Borough Council. The election process and timetable begins with the publication of the Notice of Election. Every candidate (including existing Councillors) must be officially nominated and nomination papers are available from the Returning Officer.

PROCEDURE	TIMETABLE	NOTES
Publication of Notice of Election	Tues 26 th March	Period of pre-election purdah commences
Receipt of Nominations	By 4pm Weds 3 rd April	Nomination form available from SBC
Withdrawal of Candidate	By 4pm Weds 3 rd April	
Publication of Statements of Persons Nominated	By 4pm Thurs 4 th April	This determines whether a contested election will occur for Council or any wards
Day of Poll	7am - 10pm Thurs 2 nd May	
Retirement of current administration/taking of office of new administration	Mon 6 th May	Statutory Declaration of Acceptance of Office must be made by all Councillors at or before the first Council meeting 14 th May
Return of Election Expenses	Thurs 6 th June	Return of this form is mandatory for ALL candidates

Purdah – this is the period between publication of Notice of Election and election day. It does not stop the Council working but places restriction on local authority publicity and information which may imply public support for a candidate or group of candidates.

If any candidate wishes to have an election agent, then the appointment and publication of notice of the agent must be done by 4pm Wednesday 3 April.



EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO ATTEND
LEIGH-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL'S

2019 ANNUAL COMMUNITY MEETING

FRIDAY 22ND MARCH
7PM - 8PM
LEIGH COMMUNITY CENTRE
OPEN FROM 6.30PM FOR REFRESHMENTS & DISPLAYS

COMMUNITY GROUP DISPLAYS	2019 ELECTIONS INFORMATION	PRESENTATION OF COUNCIL YEAR
Q & A SESSION	GOOD FOR LEIGH AWARDS	ANNUAL REPORT

HAVE YOUR SAY ABOUT YOUR TOWN!

COUNCIL@LEIGHONSEATOWNCOUNCIL.GOV.UK
01702 716288

Annual Community Meeting

Leigh-on-Sea Town Council's Annual Community Meeting will be held slightly earlier this year on Friday 22 March, due to the impending Councillor Elections. The meeting will take place at Leigh Community Centre and will start at 7pm. Doors will open from 6.30pm when residents will get the opportunity to browse our community stands to find out more about what groups are doing in Leigh. Refreshments will also be available.

The Annual Community Meeting is the perfect chance for Leigh residents to come and have their say about the town. Find out about what the Council has been doing during the 18/19 year and meet your councillors for a question and answer session. We will be presenting our Good for Leigh awards, and our new award for Volunteer of the Year. We will also have some speakers from the Environment Agency and Anglian Water coming along to talk about Bell Wharf Beach.

There will also be lots of information available about the upcoming elections and guidance for anyone who is interested in becoming a Councillor.

Community Stalls:

- Leigh-on-Sea Town Council
- Piertalk
- CO-OP
- Anglian Water
- Girlguiding
- Southend YMCA
- British Legion - Leigh-on-Sea branch



Good for Leigh Awards 2019

Leigh-on-Sea Town Council has once again selected its winners for this year's Good for Leigh Awards. The recipients are nominated by members of the Council for their hard work, devotion and community spirit all contributing to being "Good for Leigh". The winners will be presented with a certificate at our Annual Community Meeting on Friday 22nd March.

This year's recipients are;

Danielle Austin

Danielle launched Litterless Leigh in 2018, a community group who take time out of their weekends to go and litter pick around the Belton Hills and other areas of the Town.

LOSITA

A new and very welcome addition to the many community groups in Leigh concentrating on the business community and more particularly, the independent traders for which Leigh is famous. The group has made a start in bringing the business community together, liaising and working with both the Town and Borough Councils as part of the Leigh Partnership group organising awareness functions and generally being a proactive force within Leigh.

Allan Webb

Allan has lived in Leigh for over 30 years and has been a volunteer for the Art Ministry based in Hadleigh, acting as their Trustee Treasurer, Fundraiser, Events Co-ordinator and more. Allan helps to deliver art sessions to children and adults in need across South Essex, including cancer sufferers at Southend Hospital, people with additional needs in sheltered housing schemes, people with drug and alcohol addictions in hostels as well as their regular sessions at their base for adults with learning difficulties, physical disabilities, partially sighted and blind adults and adults with mental health problems. Allan has also developed strong links with the Leigh Lions and the Leigh Town Council to deliver affordable art activities for families in Leigh.



Litterless Leigh at one of their litter picks



Rockamilly is a family run boutique in the heart of Leigh Broadway that demonstrated a fantastic joyful and community spirit during the Leigh Lights night.



Blade Education is a not for profit company based in Leigh-on-Sea that works within the local community creating innovative ways to tackle social issues through education and information. In particular they promote the connection between the older and younger generations. Blade has done a great amount of work with West Leigh Schools and brought many other schools together in the Ceramic Poppy Project. The poppies were displayed on the cliffs and later at Southend Airport when they were accompanied by the background history of local people who were involved in the Great War. They have worked very closely with the Leigh Branch of the British Legion and have raised awareness of the amount of work which can be done within the community when that community comes together.





Chairman's Charity - Southend YMCA

Registered charity number: 1102837

For the 2018-19 Council year, Chairman Valerie Morgan has selected Southend YMCA as her Chairman's Charity. So far money has been raised for the YMCA at Leigh Lights, Carols on Strand Wharf and at a Quiz Night held at the Community Centre in February. But maybe more important than the money raised, the Council has been able to collaborate with the YMCA on the new Youth Club and also a Skills Bank and has set up a good working relationship for the future, to ensure the consideration and provision of Youth Facilities in the Town is always part of the Council's plans.

About Southend YMCA

Southend YMCA is your local children and young people's charity, supporting disadvantaged youth to build their future. The charity has been in operation since 1887 and all funds raised by the Southend branch go directly back to them. They offer a range of services and projects to help support young people who are faced with challenging circumstances such as homelessness, bullying, abuse, poverty, unemployment and mental health issues. These include accommodation, education, positive activities, mentoring, coaching and counselling. The YMCA firmly believes that no young person should have to face life difficulties without support, and strives to create projects that meet their needs and aspirations.

Southend YMCA Skills Bank

If you're looking to use your professional skills in a voluntary role and make a difference to a local community organisation, the Southend YMCA Skills Bank is the best place to be - with one off and regular volunteering to harness your skills and compassion. Southend YMCA is an independent, local charity working for and with the children, young people and communities of Southend and Essex. We are continually developing projects to respond to the social issues and needs of our times. Our strap line is OUR CHILDREN – OUR COMMUNITY - YOUR CHARITY. We have many projects running at Southend YMCA including: education, positive activity, housing and health and well-being. We aim to 'Stand in the Gap' - by providing safe and effective services which build futures. We work with some of the most vulnerable, neglected and disadvantaged young people in Southend and South Essex. We are heavily reliant on third-party funding with most projects not being able to run otherwise. Organisations such as the Big Lottery Fund and Children in Need kindly give us financial support to ensure we continue to deliver our invaluable work but this is not always possible. This year we are proud to be Leigh-on-Sea Town Council's Chairman's nominated charity. We are already working together in various projects including a new Youth Club provision and recently despite the rain, over 300 people turned out to sing along with Salvation Army for Carols on Strand Wharf raising a fantastic £253.30 for the Southend YMCA.

Why do we need your help?

Supported by Leigh-on Sea Town Council we want to create a Skills Bank of local businesses, and individuals who would be willing to donate their knowledge, skills and experience to support the work that we do.

How can I help Southend YMCA?

There's no end to the support you could offer Southend YMCA, whether in terms of your time, skills, or one-off or regular donations. It all contributes to us reaching young people in real need of help and support.

Below are suggestions of the skills we are looking for. This is not an exhaustive list so if you have a skill you think we could use please contact us.

Fundraising and events planning

Marketing - Social Media - PR

Technical - architecture, planning, quantity surveyor

Counselling, coaching, mentoring, teaching

Financial, legal skills, Administration, Project Management

Maintenance - electricians, plumbers, carpenters

Working with young people - artists, musicians, sports coaches

What next?

Simply contact the Ambassador and Volunteer Champion for Southend YMCA, Stephen Hawkins via email stephenhawkins@southendymca.org.uk to register your interest with the skills you are interested in using, and we'll send you a regular email alert of skilled volunteer opportunities.

Register for the Skills Bank

When you register, you may choose to add a profile of your skills, interests, and experience. Based on the information you provide, we will match your interest with existing opportunities and may even be able to create a short-term project that aligns with your skills and interests. Whatever your professional background, you'll find flexible and short-term opportunities.

Other Ways you can help Southend YMCA!

- Volunteer directly to support young people
- Volunteer as an advisor to share your wisdom
- Help to fundraise by an organising or attending an event
- Make a donation - Text "YMCA07 £5" to 70070 to donate £5

#OpLeigh

On the 17th January 2018, the third partnership day of activity was completed by a number of agencies coming together to engage with the community in Leigh-on-Sea. Previous days have focused on Hamlet Court Road and Southend High Street.

The purpose of the day was to listen to challenges that residents, retailers and visitors may find and, through partnership working, put in place some plans to address these concerns.

Street surveys, residential surveys, visits to retailers and outreach work was completed with the street community.

The day started at 10am with a street briefing outside Leigh Community Centre by Inspector Ian Hughes from Southend Police. He addressed people from over 20 agencies who had all come together to form small multi-agency teams. In East Street, the Community Safety and Safer Essex Roads Partnership had exhibition stands and gave passers-by information and advice. Agencies such as Essex Police, Leigh-on-Sea Town Council, Southend Borough Council, Southend Vineyard, Essex County Fire & Rescue Service, British Transport Police, Turning Tides, Street Pastors, HARP, STARS, Ward Councillors and many more attended to take part in the day which concluded at 4pm.

The day was a great success with lots of positive feedback, indicating that the community enjoyed the increased visibility of a number of agencies. Social media was used by a number of agencies, using the hashtag #OpLeigh.

The Community Safety Unit is still collating the returns from the day, but some key headlines were around begging and issues linked to the night time economy.

Inspector Hughes commented 'This is an excellent way of engaging with our community and for partners to get a better understanding of what services they provide which will ultimately lead to working more closely together. Thank you to the Town Council for providing the team with facilities within the Community Centre.' **The next event will be in Southchurch Road in March.**



Special Constables

Special Constables are volunteer Police Officers. They have the same police powers, uniforms and equipment as regular Police Officers but sacrifice their free time on a voluntary basis, organising their busy personal lives, day jobs and other commitments around police duties. They do not get paid, but are reimbursed for expenses.

A Special in Essex is someone who will be valued, supported and integrated into the wider policing family. They're individuals who will learn new skills, see new things and make tangible differences to the lives of the public they serve. A Special in Essex is someone who makes new friends, sees life from new perspectives and upholds the law.

A Special Constable is an extraordinary person, a remarkable person, a special person. **Join us and be that person.**

Leigh-on-Sea Town Council is providing funding for 5 Special Constables in the Leigh-on-Sea area. So far, we have one successful applicant who is progressing through the training, BUT we are still on the lookout for more people to join up.

How it works...What would I do?

Make our communities and its people safer by supporting the regular force

Improve public confidence and support victims by detecting and investigating crime

Improve communication with communities by providing an important link between them

Assist the force with many aspects of policing, from high-visibility patrols to traffic operations, counter-terrorism and community safety

Make Essex a safer place by working with colleagues to bring those responsible for crime to justice, from arrest through to conviction

District Statistics for Southend – January 2019

District Commander: Chief Inspector Neil Pudney



Your Priorities

You Said:

You were concerned at number of vehicle related crimes

We Did:

- Arrested suspects for multiple offences and remanded them in custody.
- Conducted targeted patrols in identified crime hotspots
- Increased use of stop & search powers

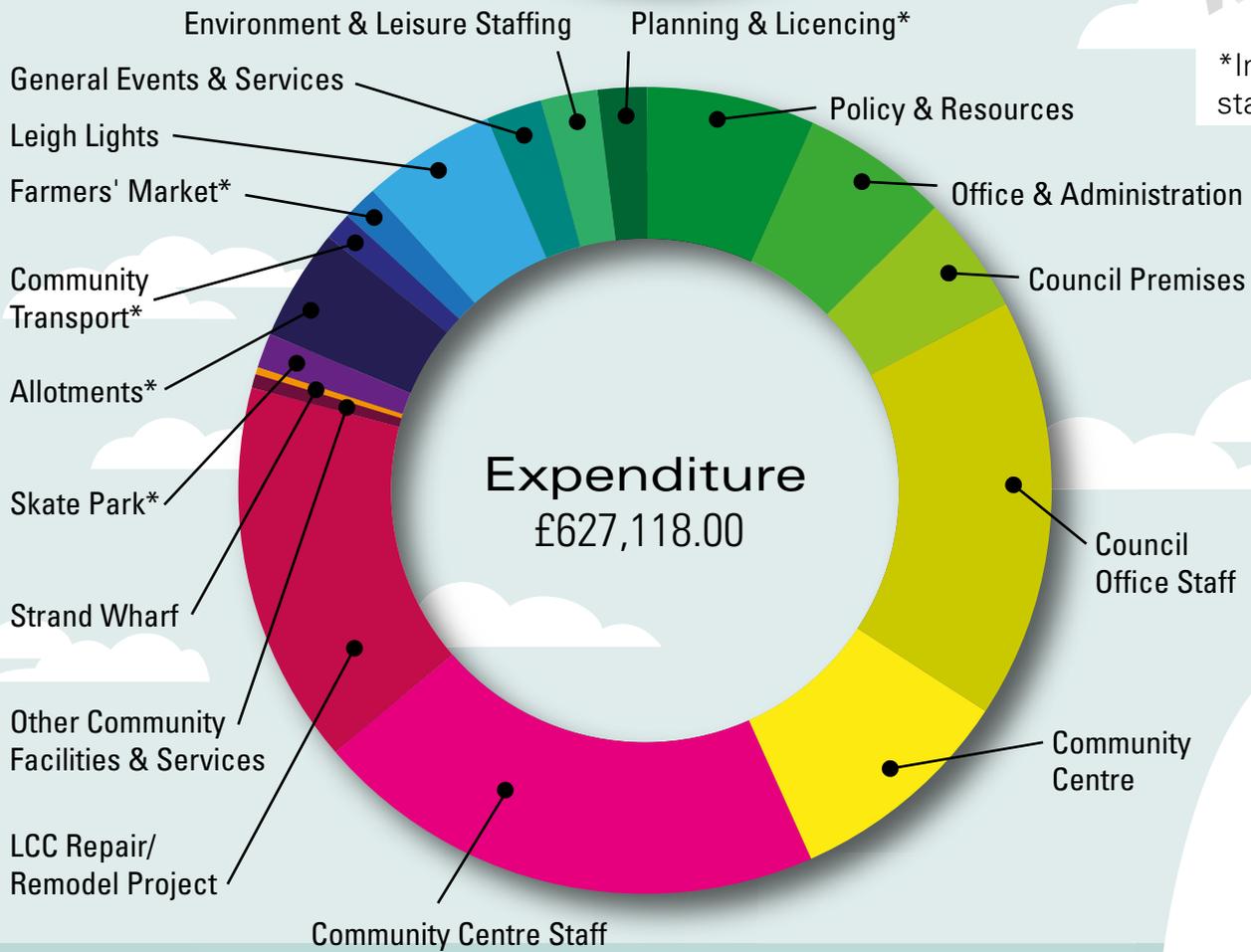
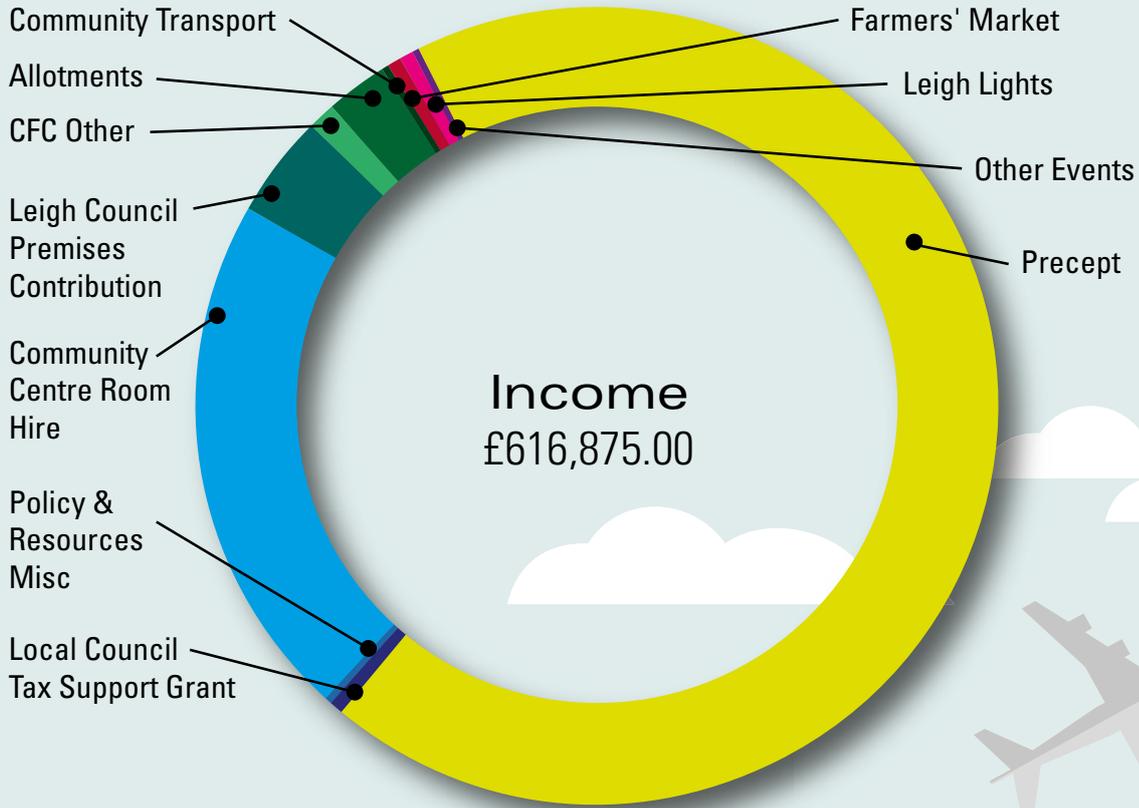
For more information visit www.essex.police.uk

What would I gain from being a Special?

- Make a difference to communities and people
- Build your confidence
- Develop new skills in a unique and challenging role
- Gain opportunities for promotion in a rank structure mirrored to the regulars
- Explore opportunities to progress in specialist policing roles

What do I need to be a Special?

- To be at least 18 years old at the start of your training
- Commit to a minimum of 16 hours per month for operational duties plus mandatory training duties
- Meet the required fitness standard
- Commit to the initial training requirements of 20 days



2019/2020 Budget Figures

Grant Award Scheme Information



Applications are now being taken for Leigh-on-Sea Town Council's Grant Award Scheme. The Council offers grants of up to £500 for charitable, not-for-profit organisations and community initiatives throughout the Town.

The grant can also be awarded in the form of a bursary to cover the cost of room hire at Leigh Community Centre. This is ideal for organisations who need an accessible space to run events, workshops or meetings that will benefit the local community. Multiple bursaries can be awarded at each intake, with the next deadline for applications being the 31 March 2019.

For more information or to request an application form contact council@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk or visit Leigh Community Centre Reception.

In the last round of applications Leigh-on-Sea Town Council gave grants to Leigh Endeavour Trust, Beat It Cancer Rehabilitation Exercise Classes, Southend YMCA, North Thames Fisheries Local Action Group, CRE4TE Collab, Fusion Youth & Kids, and Boomerang Bags.

Beat It! Cancer Rehabilitation

Is a cancer rehabilitation exercise class run by a Level 4 Cancer Exercise Rehab Specialist and a Senior Occupational Therapist. We provide regular, ongoing, specialist exercise classes, specifically for those diagnosed with cancer. Together we help our members improve their strength, range of movement, energy levels and mental well-being, not forgetting the strong emotional support that a group exercise class can bring. We guarantee a happy, fun, positive, friendly environment for everyone, no matter what level of recovery you are at. The Grant we receive from the Town Council allows us to offer this unique and much needed service for free, allowing members of the community who are struggling with something very difficult a "safe haven" to exercise, socialise and meet like-minded people. There are no other groups like this in the area. Classes run at Leigh Community Centre on Thursdays 11.30am-12.30 pm. For more information please call **07870 441158** or **07531 652250** and speak to Ondie or Miranda.



Southend YMCA

The Town Council grant has allowed the Southend YMCA to launch a Youth Club at Leigh Community Centre for 8-12 yr olds that aims to improve the personal resilience and self belief of young people, building their wider skills base through positive activities, art & culture, physical activity, social action and effective advice and guidance. Thanks to the Council funding, Southend YMCA are able to offer the Youth Club for free to 30 children in the local area. The Club is held on Thursday evenings during term time from 5.30pm-7.30pm at Leigh Community Centre, and is run by fully qualified youth workers.



The North Thames Fisheries Local Action Group

Is a local group that meets every other month to allocate European fisheries funding to local fisheries projects, with the aim of having a sustainable, working port in Leigh-on-Sea and on the North Thames. The community-led and local process ensures that projects benefit businesses, groups and the wider area within the North Thames FLAG area and the funding is easier to access. Leigh-on-Sea is the central point for the North Thames FLAG as it is the major fishing port in the North Thames area. Those involved include the fishing and maritime industry, Thames Estuary Partnership, The Cultural Engine, Southend-on-Sea Borough Council, Leigh Port Partnership, local Councillors, Leigh Society and many more. Leigh Community Centre is central to the project development and discussions around future investment into Leigh Port. Their grant has allowed all board meetings and working groups to be held locally to ensure regular engagement and ongoing dialogue. Funded projects so far, have included a fishing film, a seafood sustainability certification, a feasibility study into port access issues and many more, please see the website for more details at thamesestuarypartnership.org/ntflag



Fusion Youth & Kids

Is a self-funded youth group for school years 1-6 that meets every Thursday during term-time from 6pm-7.30pm at Wesley Methodist Church. Our aim is to provide a safe, fun and vibrant environment for children to be themselves helping with social development, confidence and outlook on life. The inexpensive sessions seek to enable any child to attend no matter their circumstances. The funding we have received from the Town Council has enabled us to by some much needed new equipment, including craft materials, a pool table, new hockey sticks and games.



Boomerang Bags

Is a community initiative tackling plastic pollution at the grass roots level. It started in Australia and there are now community teams all over the world. The aim of the project is to get schools, groups, volunteers to make reusable shopping bags from donated and recycled materials and textiles. The bags are then distributed throughout the community and are borrowed, returned and reused. The Town Council have funded the project with the use of room hire to hold meetings and community sewing bees, which will help raise the profile of the project in the local area.



“

It's a great way to meet new like-minded people and there is a real sense of satisfaction in helping the community.

- Hilary, LTC Volunteer

If you would like to learn more about our volunteer opportunities please email council@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk or call 01702 716 288



The Donald Fraser Volunteer of the Year

After the passing of previous Leigh-on-Sea Town Councillor Donald Fraser last year, the Council wanted to launch an initiative in his memory to honour those who work hard for others in Leigh-on-Sea.

We asked members of the public to nominate people who they thought deserved to be nominated as Volunteer of the Year. The only criteria in place was that the person lived or worked in Leigh.

The Council deliberated over the nominations but decided that the first recipient of The Donald Fraser Volunteer of the Year Award is Hilary Le Marie.

Hilary volunteers for a variety of charitable organisations around Leigh-on-Sea. She runs the Leigh Branch of Royal British Legion's Annual Poppy Appeal, is an active citizen for the Police, does Speedwatch, and also helps with the RSPB and Marie Curie.

Hilary also volunteers for the Town Council and updates the Council noticeboards on a weekly basis. She is always on hand to help out at community events, as well as collecting money for charity and taking part in litter picks around the Town. All these voluntary duties are also worked around Hilary's active role as a grandmother. She is a shining example of a good citizen, and we are very grateful of the hard work she puts in to making Leigh-on-Sea a better place to live.

VOLUNTEER

CAN YOU HELP OUT WITH OUR COMMUNITY TRANSPORT OUTINGS?

GIVE A LIFT

VOLUNTEER MINIBUS DRIVERS NEEDED

Your driving licence must state D1 and you need to be MiDAS certificated (Minibus Drivers Awareness Scheme) - this could be organised through our office.

If you are interested please contact: council@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk

Hilary will be presented with her award at this year's Annual Community Meeting on Friday 22nd March 2019.

VOLUNTEER

BECOME A VOLUNTEER
IT'S GOOD FOR YOUR HEALTH

BECOME A VOLUNTEER
LET'S DO THINGS TOGETHER!

BECOME A VOLUNTEER
EVERY PERSON MAKES A DIFFERENCE

BECOME A VOLUNTEER
HELLO CAREER BOOSTER

Volunteer Profile

Russell Hallmark

When did you start volunteering for Leigh-on-Sea Town Council?

I have always held a strong interest in social and community support, so when the timing and the opportunity for a volunteering role in my local community presented itself, I applied. I started supporting and volunteering with LTC midway through 2018 and have been involved as a volunteer in a number of the local community events.



What volunteering roles have you fulfilled for the Council?

I started out with volunteering for the Community Transport events, participating in both the Community Day Trips and the Community Social Clubs. The feedback from everyone attending has been really good - and it would be great if we could attract even more people to attend and participate! As I get to better understand some of the events scheduled for 2019, I'm looking forward to becoming more involved in some of the other community activities organised by LTC.

What has been your favourite event/project to volunteer at and why?

As I'm new to volunteering with LTC, I would have to select the Community Day Trip to Beth Chatto Gardens and the Tiptree Jam Factory in September 2018. The trip was a well-planned day, with lots to see and experience - and it was very well attended by the members of the Community Group. The reason I picked this event is that the Community Group members clearly enjoyed the day and it was personally pleasing to contribute to make it happen.

What other activities do you do?

As I'm semi-retired, I still have some business commitments, involving business management and supporting people development - both of which I find very fulfilling. Outside this commitment and my volunteering roles, I also enjoy travel, walking and meeting people.

Why do you like being a volunteer for Leigh-on-Sea Town Council?

Mainly because LTC is our local council and I feel that it's important to support our local community in any way possible - believing that through any managed level of effort, we can all actually make a difference - especially through personal involvement and actively supporting the community events and activities.

Policy & Resources Committee

The Policy & Resources Committee handles the governance and financial control of the Council. It is also responsible for grant awards, the volunteer programme and Leigh-on-Sea Town Council News.

The remit of this Committee includes:

- Approval of the Corporate Plan
- Council's budget setting
- Ensuring effective use of resources and value for money

DATES

Tuesday 5th March
Tuesday 7th May

The timetable for the 2019/20 Council Year will be released in May.

MEMBERSHIP

Cllr Declan Mulroney
- *Chairman*
Cllr Mark Bromfield
- *Vice-Chairman*
Cllr John Duprey
Cllr Patrick Fox
Cllr Jill Healey
Cllr Valerie Morgan
Cllr Carole Mulroney
Cllr Ron Owen
Cllr Vivien Rosier

LEIGH-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL

COMMUNITY DAY

SUNDAY 9TH JUNE, 1-4PM

Bonchurch Park, Bonchurch Ave, Southend-on-Sea, Leigh-on-Sea SS9 3AP

Free Entry

MEET LOCAL GROUPS AND CHARITIES
REFRESHMENTS | CRAFT | ENTERTAINMENT |
PERFORMANCES | CHILDRENS ACTIVITIES



Leigh-on-sea Town Council is thrilled to announce that it will once again host a Community Day at Bonchurch Park on Sunday 9 June 1-4pm. Last year's showcase event received overwhelmingly positive responses and there was a lovely 'local feel' amongst the crowds of approximately 600 visitors. Planning is in the initial stages and we hope to improve the event further this year! You can keep up to date with developments on our Facebook page @LeighTCEvents. We will also be writing to local residents to notify them of the event.

The Community Day aims to promote health and wellbeing in the community by bringing a variety of local charities and community groups together with the Town Council.

Last year's stall holders included West Leigh Baptist Church, Salvation Army, British Legion, Leigh Lions, Women's Institute, Girl Guides, St John Ambulance, Community Police, Essex County Fire & Rescue Service, Southend YMCA, Southend Adult Community College and more. There was also a number of performances throughout the day from local dance and drama groups. The stall holders expressed that it was a great opportunity to meet and network with other community groups and to share their experiences, which included volunteering opportunities.

A selection of responses included:

"The atmosphere was one of friendliness and fun. The music and dancing were excellent."

"A good mix of stall holders all from the Leigh area and a good family feel."

"I applaud those who worked so hard to make this day a success. Lovely to see our local community come together."

"It was easy to find the relevant people if help was needed."

We look forward to welcoming you on Sunday 9 June, 1-4pm at Bonchurch Park and helping us to make Leigh-on-Sea a more cohesive community, improve well-being and ultimately have some fun!

If you would like to be involved with the event in any way, please contact council@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk

Youth Market 2019 Sunday 14th July, 11am-4pm

Our Youth Market returns at the new location of Strand Wharf, Old Leigh on Sunday 14th July!

Hosted within a beautiful large marquee, we are inviting 16-25-year olds to take part in the event which aims to showcase the very best local entrepreneurial talents on offer. We are looking for a variety of businesses to take part, whether it's selling home decor, stationery, food and confectionery, face painting, marketing and illustration services, property and maintenance services, photography, beauticians, musicians, and more – the list is endless and we want to hear from you! This is a great opportunity to tell your local community about your business and reach more potential customers.

Do you have an art and design business? We are also looking for a young person to design our event poster! Last year, the posters were designed by Amy Ellen who received much interest in her work and went on to exhibit at the Community Centre. Please get in touch if this sounds of interest to you.

Visiting this event is a wonderful way to support local, small and up-and-coming businesses and continue to strengthen the Leigh-on-Sea community. If you would like to be involved with the event please contact council@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk

Introducing... CRE4TE collab!

As a result of the 2018 Youth Market, four talented young creatives, assisted by the Town Council, created an exhibition at Leigh Community Centre. They all share a knack for working with fine details; whether that's painting ornate designs on fabrics, highly intricate sketches, macro photography of the smaller things in life, or street photography of moments often missed... They work within the small print.





Youth Club

Cllr Valerie Morgan is the current Chairman for 2018/19 and her nominated charity for the year is Southend YMCA. The Town Council has been building up strong links with the local YMCA Branch and in October 2018 the Good for Leigh Youth Club was launched.



Currently there are 36 children registered with the Youth Club and around 18 attending each session. The Club is run weekly on Thursday evenings from 5.30pm-7.30pm at Leigh Community Centre and is aimed at children aged 8-12yrs.

The Youth Club aims to improve the personal resilience and self-belief of young people, building their wider skills base through positive activities and effective advice and guidance.

The project has been funded by the Reaching Communities Lottery Grant and Leigh-on-Sea Town Council. Positive Activities Manager at Southend YMCA, Sacha Edwards who runs the Youth Club, is delighted to be able to provide a youth group in the Leigh-on-Sea area, and is thrilled that the funding has been secured until June 2019.

Activities that the group has undertaken so far include break-dancing, team games and sports, arts and crafts and the planning of their own Christmas Party. There is also a variety of board games and table games available at each session.

In the coming months, Sacha and her team will be delivering a Mini-Medics Programme to the children to train them in basic emergency First Aid.

The children in the group have really been enjoying the sessions with 100% of participants stating that the sessions had increased their planning and communication skills, increased their confidence and self-esteem and more reported that they are now feeling less isolated and able to build more effective relationships. For more information visit their website www.southendymca.org.uk

Environment & Leisure Committee

The Environment & Leisure Committee controls the running of town events, allotments, the community transport scheme and the Leigh Farmers Market as well as handling any environmental issues.

DATE

Tuesday 16th
April 2019

**The timetable for the 2019/20 Council Year will be released in May.*

MEMBERSHIP

Cllr Valerie Morgan

- *Chairman*

Cllr Anita Forde

- *Vice-Chairman*

Cllr Jill Adair

Cllr Keith Evans

Cllr Jill Healey

Cllr Fr. Clive Hillman

Cllr Carole Mulrone

Cllr Declan Mulrone

Cllr Caroline Parker

Creator of F.A.B. Designs,

Faith Beswick (21y/o) paints on textiles to produce bespoke clothing and accessories with gorgeous interpretations of plants and animals.

Creator of Amy Ellen

Illustration, Amy Ellen (23y/o) is a freelance graphic designer and illustrator, offering made-to-order products ranging from wedding invitations to food menus.

Creator of a23,

Alfie Winters is the youngest of the group at just 15y/o. He is a photographer/videographer focussed on street photography with a keen eye for things that normally go unnoticed. Alfie created the front cover of this newsletter.

Creator of Nature Slice,

Alicia Hodson (24y/o) is a wildlife filmmaker/photographer. Primarily having a background in Zoology, she wishes to use art as a medium to document the natural world and educate others about it.

MARCH
22ND

march

ANNUAL COMMUNITY MEETING

TOWN MEETING, COMMUNITY DISPLAYS AND TALKS
LEIGH COMMUNITY CENTRE DOORS OPEN 6.30PM MEETING STARTS AT 7PM

30TH

JAZZ CAFÉ - LORNA & LOTTIE'S CAFÉ IN LEIGH COMMUNITY CENTRE

THE RAY MISO TRIO WILL BE PERFORMING. ENTRY IS FREE, DONATIONS ARE WELCOME FOR THE CHAIRMAN'S CHARITY - SOUTHEND YMCA 1PM - 3PM

APRIL
8TH - 18TH

april

EASTER HALF-TERM ACTIVITIES AT LEIGH COMMUNITY CENTRE

CHECK FB/WEBSITE FOR MORE INFO

19TH

BANK HOLIDAY

COMMUNITY CENTRE/COUNCIL OFFICES CLOSED ALL DAY

22ND

BANK HOLIDAY

COMMUNITY CENTRE/COUNCIL OFFICES CLOSED ALL DAY

10TH

LTC OVER 60'S SOCIAL CLUB

ART MINISTRY WILL BE BRINGING ARTS & CRAFTS FOR THE CLUB TO TAKE PART IN. BOARD GAMES AND REFRESHMENTS ALSO AVAILABLE
LEIGH COMMUNITY CENTRE 10AM - 12PM

12TH

LEIGH FARMERS' MARKET

LOCALLY SOURCED AND HANDMADE PRODUCE
LEIGH COMMUNITY CENTRE 9AM - 1PM

20TH

LEIGH ROCK - BAND NIGHT AC/DC TRIBUTE

LEIGH COMMUNITY CENTRE 7.30PM - LATE

MAY
2ND

may

TOWN COUNCIL ELECTIONS

VOTE FOR YOUR NEW COUNCILLORS FOR LEIGH
POLLING STATIONS THROUGHOUT LEIGH

6TH

BANK HOLIDAY

COMMUNITY CENTRE/COUNCIL OFFICES CLOSED ALL DAY

OLD LEIGH ARTISTS MARKET

STRAND WHARF - DETAILS TBC

8TH

LTC OVER 60'S SOCIAL CLUB

A FUN, EASY QUIZ WITH PICTURE ROUNDS AND PUZZLES. BOARD GAMES AND REFRESHMENTS ALSO AVAILABLE.
LEIGH COMMUNITY CENTRE 10AM - 12PM

8TH - 11TH

LODS "ALL SHOOK UP" BASED ON THE MUSIC OF ELVIS

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT SOUTHENDTHEATRES.ORG
PALACE THEATRE EVENINGS 7.30PM, THURS & SAT 2.30PM MATINEES

17TH

LEIGH FARMERS' MARKET

LOCAL, FRESH, HANDMADE PRODUCE
LEIGH COMMUNITY CENTRE 9AM - 1PM

27TH

BANK HOLIDAY

COMMUNITY CENTRE/COUNCIL OFFICES CLOSED ALL DAY

28TH - 31ST

MAY HALF-TERM

FARM THEMED ACTIVITIES AT LEIGH COMMUNITY CENTRE
CHECK FB/WEBSITE FOR MORE INFO

JUNE
1ST

june

LEIGH ROCK - BAND NIGHT HENDRIX/CREAM TRIBUTE

LEIGH COMMUNITY CENTRE 7.30PM - LATE

8TH - 15TH

LEIGH ART TRAIL

LOCAL ARTISTS WORK ON DISPLAY THROUGHOUT LEIGH ALL DAY

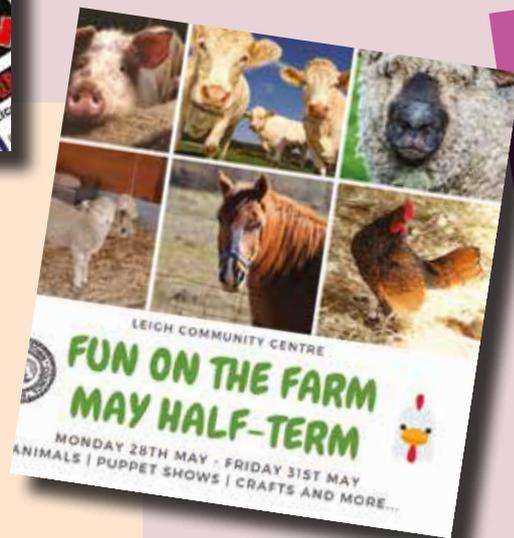
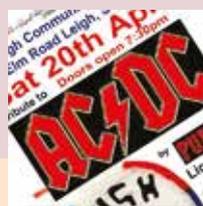
9TH

LEIGH-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL COMMUNITY DAY

COMMUNITY GROUPS, STALLS, MUSIC AND ENTERTAINMENT
BONCHURCH PARK 1PM - 4PM



Eve Cale





Events Calendar

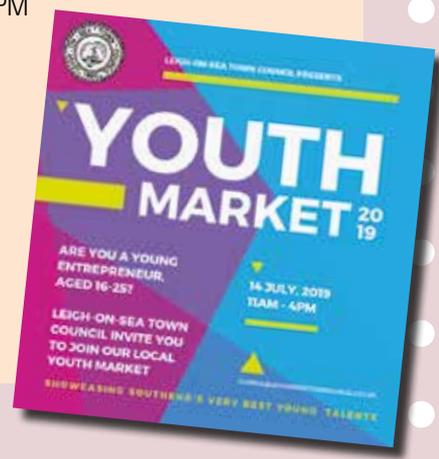


june

- 12TH LTC OVER 60'S SOCIAL CLUB**
GENEALOGY WORKSHOP, TIPS TO HELP YOU TRACE YOUR FAMILY TREE.
BOARD GAMES AND REFRESHMENTS ALSO AVAILABLE
LEIGH COMMUNITY CENTRE 10AM - 12PM
- 21ST LEIGH FARMERS' MARKET**
LOCALLY SOURCED AND HANDMADE PRODUCE
LEIGH COMMUNITY CENTRE 9AM - 1PM
- 27TH - 30TH LEIGH FOLK FESTIVAL**
FOLK MUSIC, ENTERTAINMENT, STALLS AND MORE
LEIGH OLD TOWN & BROADWAY

july

- JULY 6TH LEIGH ROCK - BAND NIGHT DAVID BOWIE TRIBUTE**
LEIGH COMMUNITY CENTRE 7.30PM - LATE
- 10TH LTC OVER 60'S SOCIAL CLUB**
GENTLE, SEATED EXERCISE AND HEALTH TIPS FROM A QUALIFIED
FITNESS INSTRUCTOR. BOARD GAMES AND REFRESHMENTS ALSO AVAILABLE
LEIGH COMMUNITY CENTRE 10AM - 12PM
- 13TH VILLAGE GREEN**
FESTIVAL WITH MUSIC, COMEDY, ART & FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT
CHALKWELL PARK 11AM - 9PM
- 14TH LEIGH-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL YOUTH MARKET**
GIVING YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS A CHANCE TO SHINE AND START A BUSINESS.
FREE TO ATTEND. STRAND WHARF 11AM - 4PM
- 19TH LEIGH FARMERS' MARKET**
LOCALLY SOURCED AND HANDMADE PRODUCE
LEIGH COMMUNITY CENTRE 9AM - 1PM
- 21ST LEIGH LIONS DUCK RACE**
CHARITY DUCK RACE, FAMILY FUN WITH STALLS
AND PRIZES STRAND WHARF 10.30AM - 4PM
- 29TH - 31ST SUMMER HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES**
AT LEIGH COMMUNITY CENTRE CHECK
FB/WEBSITE FOR MORE INFO



august

- AUGUST 1ST - 23RD SUMMER HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES**
AT LEIGH COMMUNITY CENTRE CHECK FB/WEBSITE FOR MORE INFO
- 14TH LTC OVER 60'S SOCIAL CLUB**
SHARED READING SESSION, TAKE PART IN AN INTERACTIVE READING EXPERIENCE.
BOARD GAMES AND REFRESHMENTS ALSO AVAILABLE
LEIGH COMMUNITY CENTRE 10AM - 12PM
- 16TH LEIGH FARMERS' MARKET**
LOCALLY SOURCED AND HANDMADE PRODUCE
LEIGH COMMUNITY CENTRE 9AM - 1PM
- 26TH BANK HOLIDAY** COMMUNITY CENTRE/COUNCIL OFFICES CLOSED ALL DAY

september

- SEPTEMBER 11TH LTC OVER 60'S SOCIAL CLUB**
LEIGH U3A UKULELE GROUP SING-A-LONG. BOARD GAMES AND
REFRESHMENTS ALSO AVAILABLE.
LEIGH COMMUNITY CENTRE 10AM - 12PM
- 15TH LEIGH REGATTA**
ORGANISED BY LEIGH LIONS AND LOCAL SCOUTS.
FAMILY FUN THROUGHOUT LEIGH OLD TOWN 10.30AM - 4.30PM
- 20TH LEIGH FARMERS' MARKET**
LOCALLY SOURCED AND HANDMADE PRODUCE
LEIGH COMMUNITY CENTRE 9AM - 1PM

Community Transport Scheme

Our Community Transport Scheme is open to anyone who resides within the Leigh Town Council Boundary who is aged over 60 and/or disabled.



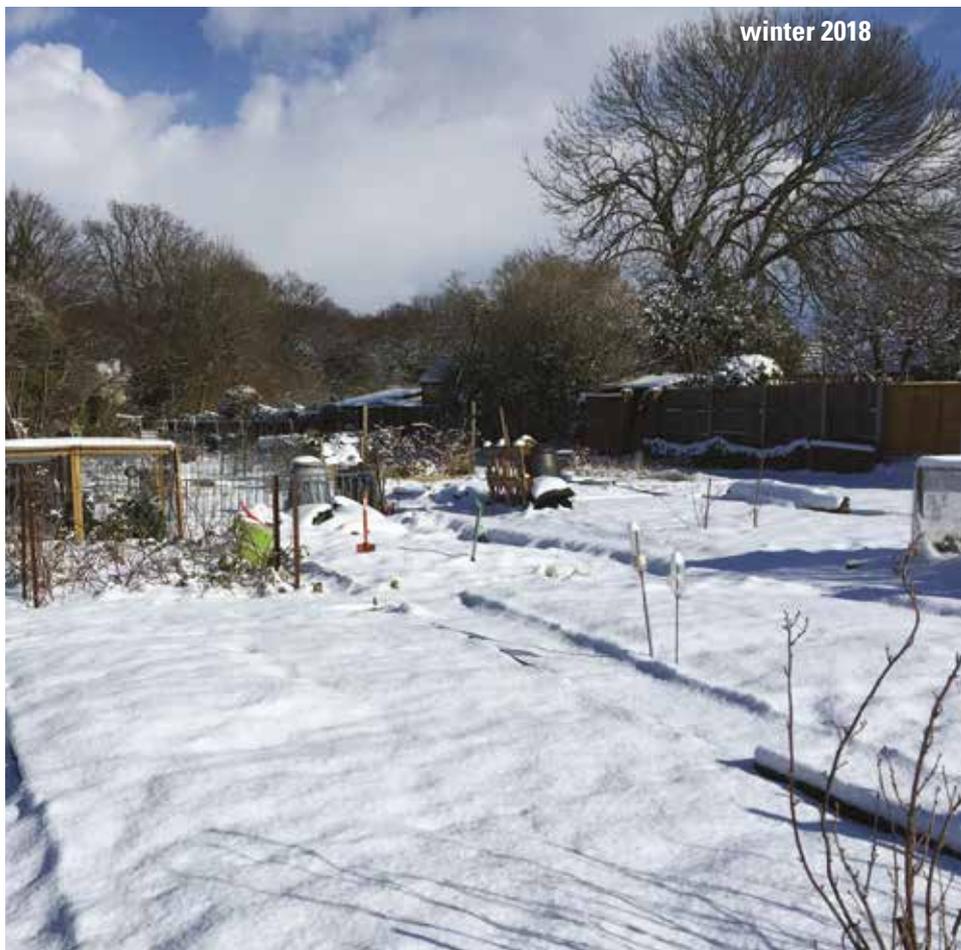
We offer a range of outings where transport is offered door to door. Over the last 6 months we have taken a group to Audley End House & Gardens, Beth Chatto Gardens, Tiptree Jam Factory and Rayleigh Museum and Windmill as well as trips to the local theatres. At Christmas, group members also met at the Sarah Moore for a Christmas Lunch.

Where possible we aim to provide our members with discounts on their tickets to ensure a great day out at a fair price. We write to members frequently to inform them of our upcoming trips. Members can pick and choose which events to attend and are welcome to attend as many as they like.

We have helpers to assist those with disabilities and our minibuses have disabled access. It's an excellent way to make friends with like-minded people and get out of the house!

To apply for an application form contact the council on 01702 716288 or email council@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk or alternatively visit the Council Offices within Leigh Community Centre.

We are desperate for new volunteer drivers to ensure our Community Transport Scheme can continue. Full training is given. For more information please contact Francesca on 01702 716 288.



Social Club

In October last year the Council launched a new monthly social club for local residents over 60. The club takes place at Leigh Community Centre on the second Wednesday of the month. As well as tea, coffee, biscuits and board games, each month we will be running a different activity to inspire and stimulate our members. So far this year Cllr Carole Mulrone has run a talk for us on local history and Bob's Barber Shop have come along to sing. The club is just £2 per session to cover cost of supplies.

Our programme of events for the year is as follows:

10 th April	Arts & Crafts with the Art Ministry
8 th May	Fun Quiz
12 th June	Family History Workshop
10 th July	Seated Exercise
14 th August	Shared Reading
11 th September	Ukulele Sing-a-long
9 th October	Gardening Demonstration & Discussion
13 th November	Arts & Crafts with the Art Ministry
11 th December	Christmas Party

Everyone is welcome to come along to any session they are interested in. The club is very friendly and it's a great way to combat loneliness.



Allotments Report

Have you ever thought about growing your own fruit and vegetables but lack the space in your own garden? The Council manages two allotment sites in the Town on Marshall Close and Manchester Drive, which are beloved by green fingers of all ages. The benefits of having an allotment plot are enormous and the sites offer a haven of tranquillity amongst the busy world around.

If you are interested in renting your own allotment, please contact the Council on 01702 716288 or email council@leighonseatown-council.gov.uk

MARSHALL CLOSE ALLOTMENTS

2018 was a difficult year for growing vegetables on allotments. Even farmers had difficulty in growing them, and the resulting veg, particularly brussel sprouts, now on sale in

supermarkets are smaller, and there are fewer of them than usual. We started the year with a prolonged cold spell through January and February which was good for killing off bugs and breaking down our heavy clay soil. However it meant that the soil stayed very cold and delayed planting. By mid-March the soil was still only 4.5C which is just warm enough to plant potatoes but little else. Things gradually got warmer and plots began to look cultivated, and then we had the warmest and driest summer for years, and weeks on end without any rain. Whilst we can water with our watering cans nothing beats a good day's rain! Plants seem to respond to rain much more than any watering. So, it was a difficult year and root crops did badly but other veg loved the heat and responded with brilliant crops of tomatoes, sweetcorn, cucumbers, courgettes, pumpkins and peppers.

Other crops that did well were anything from the onion family like shallots, leeks, and red onions. On the whole it was a very pleasant summer to be working on the allotment. An allotment is hard work but it is also very relaxing and rewarding.

Currently plot holders are still enjoying potatoes, leeks, onions, shallots, and borlotti beans from 2018, that are in store. Allotments are like the proverbial gift that keeps on giving (provided you put the hard work in first!)

LEIGH ORCHARD

It is a quiet time on the orchard at present after a busy three months in the autumn harvesting a very good crop of apples and pears in spite of the lack of rain during the summer. Early November saw the gathering of a group of supporters to carry out the last work party of the year which was the annual grass cut using

mainly scythes and sickles. This activity will be followed shortly by the trimming of the hedges comprising native species which surround the orchard,

In February the orchard is scheduled to be the venue for an apple tree pruning course run by the University of East Anglia: this forms part of a project called 'Orchards East' being run by the university to record, conserve and create orchards in the area. The newly smaller, newly planted orchard on the Manchester Drive Allotments will also be part of the action. A month or so after the pruning the trees will have their yearly top dressing of fertiliser and we will be all ready for the blossom to appear from the end of April onwards.

Anyone interested in joining the support group should contact David Hammond through the Leigh Town Council office.



Community Centre Repairs

Following essential roof repair work to Leigh Community Centre in January it is lovely to see the sun shining through our lantern light, located in the café foyer. The lantern light is an original feature of the building, constructed in 1912 and although not listed, the Town Council decided to encase the original glass in new glazed windows so its beauty could be enjoyed for many years to come. During repairs, the window restoration company were so in awe of the original stained glass they installed a further two small triangle panels above the original stained glass to complement the design. The building was constructed as the premises for the Conservative and Unionist Club Ltd and extended in 1923. The building was designed by Percy R Fincher who also built a few other houses in Leigh but this seems to be his largest commission in the area. The repair work to the roof and lantern light is part of a phased programme of refurbishment to the Centre. A new lift has also been recently installed that is more suitable for the needs of the Centre users.

February Half-Term activities were a great success for the Community Centre with over 200 children taking part in a variety of Under the Sea themed activities including a bubble workshop, arts and crafts, a puppet show with puppet making and drama workshop. These events were organised as a self-funding initiative, with an aim to provide affordable activities for children in the local area. The majority of our activities being suitable for ages 3 and up.



Lorna & Lottie's Café

This is a family run cafe situated on the ground floor of the Centre and caters for the needs of all the Centre users. The cafe serves an array of hot drinks, tasty breakfast and lunch time meals, as well as a variety of delicious homemade cakes and treats. Children's lunch bags are also available. Card payments are now accepted for transactions over £5. Lorna & Lottie's also provides affordable and tailor-made catering options for weddings, parties and events at the Centre.

CAFE OPEN TIMES	
Mon	9am-3.30pm term-time
Tue	9am-3pm
Wed	9am-6pm
Thurs	9am-9pm term-time
Fri	9am-3pm
Sat	10am-2pm

Easter & May Half-Term Activities

We have lots planned for the upcoming Easter and May Half-Terms for children at Leigh Community Centre. At Easter we will have a range of "egg-citing" activities (including crafts, circus skills, an Easter fun day, gardening, pony cycles and dancing). Booking for the events will be open approximately 3 weeks before the start of the holidays. In May we will have a week of farm themed fun with visits from animals, puppet shows and more. Details are released to the public approximately a month in advance of the start of the school holidays. If you would like to be added to our mailing list to get prior notification of our children's school holiday activities then email enquiries@leighcommunitycentre.com or visit our Facebook page @LeighCommunityCentre for regular updates.

Artist in Residence Programme

Due to the roof repairs, the Artist in Residence programme was temporarily put on hold over the winter months. Applications opened for the position in January and the Council are looking forward to welcoming the new artist in April. Leigh-on-Sea Town Council aims for the Community Centre to be more than just a facility for room hire, it aspires to add to the creative life of the community and nurture artistic talent within the town. The Artist in Residence scheme contributes to this by allowing artists or art groups the opportunity to develop their work in the studio loft space at Leigh Community Centre. The 12-month residency is open to artists from any art form which is appropriate to be carried out within the Centre and those that live or work in Leigh have priority. The scheme offers studio hire at a reasonable price and the opportunity to curate exhibitions on the Art Wall within the Centre. Leigh-on-Sea Town Council encourages the Artist in Residence to contribute to the artistic life of the Centre by producing a legacy piece that will be displayed in the building, in the past this has included a tapestry and a book. Through this initiative the Council hopes the artist will inspire and be inspired by other artists and Centre users and deliver an interesting and innovative programme for the benefit of the whole community.



Leigh Community Centre Art Wall

The Art Wall continues to be a great success and the Community Centre walls have been brought to life by high quality artwork being produced by local artists. Highlights have included the exhibition 'Small Things' by the four young artists who formed the Create Collaboration. We have planned another fantastic line up to take us through to the autumn.

22nd April - 23rd May *Eye see things differently*

Claire is an abstract, intuitive artist. She says that she has always been a creative sort, and studied Fashion Design at The London College of Fashion but was steered in the direction of a 'proper job' and neglected her creativity for many years. All that changed when an emergency visit to hospital made her realise that you really do only get 'one shot at all this' so she quit her full-time job to do the thing she enjoys most. She has almost completed a year as a full-time professional artist and she couldn't be happier! Check out her Instagram or Facebook using #eyeseethingsdifferently

27th May - 22nd June *Southend Adult Community College*

Southend Adult Community College will be taking part once again in Leigh Art Trail 2019 at Leigh Community centre. The exhibition will be displaying the creative talent of those attending courses at Southend Adult Community College. It will show case students at a range of levels, working in a variety of media, exploring and developing techniques to progress their skills.

24th June - 19th July *Malcolm Blake-Lawson*

Malcolm is a self-taught artist working mainly in watercolours. He told us that he only discovered he could paint in his early thirties whilst studying for professional qualifications for the Civil Service. In his own words 'there is very limited scope for artistic interpretation in internal audit and management and my somewhat latent but starved creative side began screaming for an outlet. So, on one occasion, I took away a box of my Grandfather's watercolours and I put pencil and brush to paper. It was like waking up and finding I could fly!'. He has recently taken early retirement and can now concentrate on painting. 'I tend to paint intuitively, for the love of it and for where it takes me. I'm somewhere else when I paint, I'm not conscious of what I'm doing, it simply flows from the brush and the heart. And Leigh provides such a perfect subject; it's full of character, history and atmosphere.'



22nd July - 7th September *Create98*

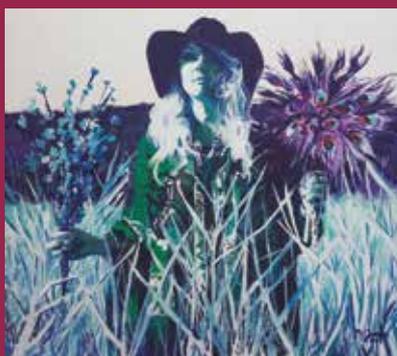
This exhibition will provide a taste of the artistic achievements of people who have attended classes offered by Create98 and inform you of the variety of classes you can take. You can read more about this new art and craft studio on page 31.

If you would like the opportunity to exhibit your work (2D and 3D), email council@leigh-towncouncil.gov.uk

9th September - 19th October *Darren Jones*

Darren sees his exhibition as an opportunity for a bit of self indulgence in his favourite interests - the music, culture and fashion of the 60s and 70s and also his love for his hometown. He works mainly in acrylics and hopes that people enjoy his paintings and that fond memories are jogged!

Don't forget to pop in and have a look at the current exhibition by painter Ann Chadwick and photographer John Pearman who are both inspired by views of their home town (last day 18th April).



Community Facilities Committee

The Community Facilities Committee is responsible for all Council premises and assets including the operation of Leigh Community Centre, the skate park and Strand Wharf.

DATES

Tuesday 2nd April
2019

**The timetable for the 2019/20 Council Year will be released in May.*

MEMBERSHIP

Cllr Carole Mulrone
- *Chairman*
Cllr Ron Owen
- *Vice-Chairman*
Cllr Keith Evans
Cllr Anita Forde
Cllr Gerry Glover
Cllr Jill Healey
Cllr Valerie Morgan
Cllr Declan Mulrone
Cllr Vivien Rosier

Leigh-on-Sea Camera Club

90th Anniversary Year
1929 - 2019

Leigh-on-Sea Camera Club was founded in 1929 as a small suburban group, meeting once a fortnight in its members' houses. The club resumed after World War II in 1945 and grew out of post-war austerity into a thriving club of national standing during the heyday of film photography.

Now in 2019 the club enters into its 90th year and remains strong today in this digital world with our aim continuing to promote the art of photo imagery.

Leigh-on-Sea Camera Club remains true to being part of the Leigh community, meeting on Thursday evenings at 7.45pm at Leigh Community Centre (full disabled access).

There is a varied membership of age and gender with always a warm and friendly atmosphere at the club. We have a refreshment break during the evening when members can view others' work, ask advice or simply get to know each other. As well as a full range of open and specialist subject competitions which are appraised by an external judge, the Club has a variety of lectures to suit all photographic tastes.



In addition, we run instructional evenings and social events, including occasional day trips.

All levels of photography are catered for and beginners and experts alike are made very welcome. There is no obligation to enter work into the competitions - you can sit back and enjoy seeing the work of others before having a go yourself. You can, however, enter work as soon as you become a member if you wish.

The Club is affiliated to the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain (PAGB) through the East Anglian Federation of Photographic Societies (EAF) and as such we take part in a variety of inter-club competitions, a great way for our members to look at work from other camera clubs. We also have developed a link with the Photoclub de Maastadt in the Netherlands, exchanging digital images and offering friendly critique about each other's work.

The club has its own website www.leighcameraclub.co.uk and also a closed Facebook page where members offer support and encouragement. You can upload images there, post questions, or simply observe.

This year, the Club will once again be holding its Annual Exhibition from Thursday 31st Jan - 26th February at The Forum, Elmer Square, Southend and again with another special exhibition at the same venue in the summer to celebrate its 90th Anniversary. Dates to follow.



The countdown is on to the 2019 Leigh Art Trail and organisers are promising another feast for the senses as more than 60 painters, ceramicists, sculptors and photographers showcase work across the town.



Leigh is set to welcome thousands of visitors for this highlight of the cultural calendar, which runs from June 8 to June 15, and the exciting plans this year include an installation in the Library Gardens and a pre-Trail artists' market on Strand Wharf.

The Leigh Art Trail's Wendy Scotland said "The town can be immensely proud of its creative community and, as we look forward to our 23rd Trail, our aim is to share it with more people than ever before.

"Our visitors tell us they love seeing new talent, so I'm delighted to say we're presenting many artists this year who have never been part of the Trail before.

"Our schools competitions go from strength to strength, too, and the best work in the 15-18 age-group will be on display at HSBC on the Broadway, with the overall winner invited to join the Art Trail in 2020. What a wonderful opportunity that is for someone!"

The Art Trail offers a chance to meet local artists, discuss their work and watch demonstrations in the town's shops, cafes and galleries. Details of who is exhibiting and where to find them are revealed in the FREE Trail Guide, which will start appearing around Leigh in May. In the week itself, colourful A-boards outside all the venues help art-lovers plot their route. And following a hugely successful link-up with c2c last year, the train operator throws open its platforms and waiting rooms at Leigh and Chalkwell as exhibition spaces once again.



Finally, keep an eye out for the Secret Auction pieces donated by Leigh Art Trail artists and awaiting bids in all the venues. Pick your favourite, fill in a card, post it in the Secret Auction box and if you're the highest bidder on June 15 you'll be going home with a beautiful piece of original work!



Leigh Farmers' Market

Residents and visitors to Leigh-on-Sea have been enjoying our monthly Farmers' Market since 2000. As one of the longest running markets in Essex we have continued to grow and welcome new stalls each month selling a range of homegrown produce including, meat, fruit and veg, local honey, dairy products, spices, handmade soaps and skincare creams, confectionery, vegan produce and much more - all sourced within a 30-mile radius of Leigh-on-Sea.

The Market is held at Leigh Community Centre on the third Friday of each month, with the exception of the December market which is held on the 3rd Saturday. Open from 9am-1pm.

NEW STALLHOLDERS FOR 2019

Flower Farmer

A local florist with a tiny back garden flower farm, offering, depending on the season:

- Farmers Bunches (bunches of mixed flowers)
- Potted homegrown bulbs and flowers
- Summer season homegrown subscription flowers (limited number of subscriptions so ask and sign up)
- Four seasons bouquet subscription (homegrown flower bouquets for Spring, Summer, Autumn and a wreath for Christmas)

www.facebook.com/flowerfarmershoeburyess

Dough-Yo's

Independent Essex-based brand launched in 2018, producing signature soft-dough doughnuts, made fresh daily. Vegan, from dough to glaze.

Glera Catering

Is a mobile catering business specialising in crepes and galettes for vegan and gluten free dietary needs.



Why shop at Leigh Farmers' Market?
Besides better-tasting, environmentally conscious food, there are lots of other reasons to eat local;

Fresh food

You'll taste the difference as farmers' markets offer fresh food. By shopping at the local farmers' market, you will eat seasonally, fresh and ripe fruit and vegetables. This is a great way to increase your overall health.

You are what you eat

As well as eating fresh, you also have the chance to talk to the stall holders and learn more about what you are consuming.

Help the environment

Eating and shopping locally saves on vast amounts of packaging waste and on the energy it requires to ship food around. Even better, grab a reusable bag from our 'Boomerang Bags' stall to carry all your lovely purchases.

Support your community

By buying locally produced food you are supporting our local traders which impacts upon the wider community. Why not also make it a social event and enjoy a coffee with your friends and neighbours in the community café, Lorna and Lottie's.

It's fun

Farmers' markets are fun for the whole family. It is an excellent way to feel connected to the world around you, increasing health for body, mind and spirit.

Leigh Estuary U3A

In need of new interests and stimulation in retirement? Join one of Leigh on Sea's vibrant U3A groups!



We hear so much about older people feeling lonely and lacking company. But if you do feel that you need a bit more out of life and are no longer working full time, then perhaps joining one of Leigh's U3As will help you make new friends and discover new interests.

U3A stands for University of the Third Age. There are no formal qualifications needed to join and 'Third Age' just means at the time after your working life. It is an informal co-operative, volunteer-led organisation which embraces everyone of all backgrounds, religions and cultures. U3A groups draw on the strengths and enthusiasms of all of its members.

It has been demonstrated that there are benefits in being a U3A member in terms of confidence, combating loneliness, feeling supported in new communities, learning new skills and, perhaps most important of all, feeling valued and enjoying life.

Individual U3As are run by members, for members. There is a small annual membership fee which allows members to attend a monthly meeting with a speaker, but also to join any number of informal interest groups. There are groups for book and play readers, historians, walkers, musicians and appreciators of arts, table tennis, 10 pin bowling, lunches and afternoon tea, to mention but a few. Leigh-on-Sea is very well served by a number of individual U3As.

Leigh-on Sea group meets on the 2nd Thursday each month at 2pm at the West Leigh Baptist Church on London Road. Leigh Estuary group meets on the 3rd Thursday at 2pm at Leigh Wesley Methodist Church on Elm Road. Leigh Belfairs group meets on the 3rd Wednesday each month at 2pm at St. Aiden's Church Hall on The Fairway. There are also groups in Eastwood, Hadleigh and Southend.

Come along, join in and see if you get more out of life!

Several groups also meet at Leigh Community Centre, including...

- Crafts
- Ukulele
- Art History
- Creative Writing
- Contemporary Novels
- Current Affairs
- Mental Activity Training
- Country Dancing
- Photography
- Art Classes
- Family History
- Psychology
- Musical Theatre

The above picture shows a group from Leigh-on-Sea U3A on a visit to the Maritime Museum at Chatham.

In 2019 visits planned include a behind the scenes trip to Wimbledon and exploring the Gin craze in Georgian London with a visit to a distillery!

The Refill Room



My family and I have grown up in Leigh. As children, we loved the beach, and we still do! Our beach holds a lot of lovely memories for the family, but, as adults, we started to notice a lot of litter. Then, a couple of years ago we began to look deeper into our health. The list of toxins that our bodies are being exposed to, due to our bathroom and cleaning products, the food we ate and even the pots and pans we were using to cook with, was endless - and scary.

We became acutely aware of the use of synthetic chemicals being leaked into our environment and, in turn, the amount of unnecessary packaging, plastics and waste going into our world – a world that doesn't deserve to be treated this way. My husband is a diver, so he saw, first-hand, the amount of plastic in the oceans.

We wanted to take action and decided our hometown would hugely benefit from an organic, zero waste shop. My family and I opened The Refill Room in Leigh-on-Sea on 13th December.

At The Refill Room, you can refill your jars with a wide range of organic dried food, such as rice, pasta, pulses, legumes, cereals, nuts, seeds, herb and spices. We also have loose tea, coffee and chocolate! Our eco-friendly homeware range includes organic, plant-based cleaning products, where customers can refill their containers, and organic natural beauty, all package-free of course.

It may seem like a drop in the ocean, but we're on a mission to eradicate single-use plastic to save our planet from plastic pollution.

Research estimates 50% of the world's plastic is used once, and, sadly only 9% is recycled. It's crazy when you consider most plastic is not biodegradable and takes more than 400 years to degrade.

Eighteen billion pounds of plastic waste enters the world's ocean, each year, according to National Geographic. Plastic is catastrophic for creatures living in the sea; it's filling their bellies and clogging their airwaves. Not only is single-use plastic wasteful, but it's also cruel and harmful to our planet.

By making small changes to our lifestyles, we can minimise our consumption of single-use plastic.

Much like eight billion people who thought, "It's only one plastic straw," now we need eight billion people to think differently and choose the alternative to single-use plastic.

The Refill Room has been a huge success thanks to the support of our community; we truly hope we can make a difference in our world.

Litter-Less Leigh is a volunteer group that meet monthly to tackle the litter pollution around Leigh-on-Sea.

The creation of Litter-Less Leigh began in the Autumn months of 2017 when I made a trip down to Leigh-on-Sea station. However, instead of seeing the lovely colours of Autumn I was disturbed by the litter overflowing onto the road and nearby Belton Way Nature Reserve hills.

At a closer look it became apparent that litter was embedded into the surrounding soil, a sign that it had in fact been there for many years.

I have always been concerned with the safeguarding of our earth and take great care to lessen my impact on the natural world and so I immediately decided to take action. With help and support from 'Make Southend Sparkle', especially Sue Steele, the litter group was up and running by January 2018.

As a group we have just celebrated our one year anniversary and in that time, for 2 hours every month, selfless volunteers have helped to make our town sparkle again. We have collected over 300 bags of litter in 12 months, which includes 2,312 plastic bottles. Even with this heroic effort, litter remains an issue in our local area, with levels of littering and fly tipping failing to reduce. The most commonly littered items include smoking materials, confectionary packs, drinks related litter and fast food related litter. Litter hotspots around Leigh-on-Sea include Belton Way, Two Tree Island, Leigh Station, Leigh Marshes and the Two Tree Island Road. Keep Britain Tidy estimates the annual cost of cleaning litter to local authorities is £850 million.



Therefore, without the help and support of our brave and reliable volunteers, the litter pollution in Leigh would be significantly worse.

Plastic pollution is an on-going issue around the world and once in the environment is not only unsightly, but a hazard to our valuable wildlife and natural landscapes. Plastic stays in our environment for thousands of years and pollutes our oceans, waterways, soil and us.

Furthermore, marine life, birds and other animals constantly mistake litter pollution for food or become entangled in it. However, don't fret we can change the on-going flow of litter pollution in our town by simply picking it up, something most of us can do. A quick and easy fix! So, in the coming months come on down to a Litter-Less Leigh litter pick and help bring Leigh-on-Sea back to her beautiful self.

Find us on Facebook #Litter-Less Leigh and Instagram #litterless_leigh where you will find more information and the monthly litter pick dates.

DATES

30th March 9.30

27th April 9.30

Meet at Leigh Marshes car park (opposite the skate park)



Planning, Licensing & Highways Committee

The Planning, Licensing and Highways committee considers all planning and licensing applications and highway issues. Their recommendations are then passed onto Southend Borough Council and can help weigh the outcome of the application. Due to the large number of applications this committee meets fortnightly. If a planning application is submitted by a neighbouring property you will be notified by Southend Borough Council. You are then welcome to come and view the plans at Leigh Community Centre and make comments about the application.

DATES

26th March 2019

9th April 2019

23rd April 2019

14th May 2019

28th May 2019

**The timetable for the 2019/20 Council Year will be released in May.*

MEMBERSHIP

Cllr Jill Healey -
Chairman

Cllr Caroline Parker -
Vice Chairman

Cllr John Duprey

Cllr Keith Evans

Cllr Patrick Fox

Cllr Paul Gilson

Cllr Gerry Glover

Cllr Fr. Clive Hillman

Cllr Valerie Morgan

62 Broadway and the Remarkable Mrs Hawken

In 1911 this was the property of William Blacker Hawken a gentleman's outfitter, originally from Cornwall, and his wife Adelaide, from Gloucestershire. They came to Leigh sometime between 1901 and 1911.

Adelaide Hawken (nee Bryant) was a woman with a social conscience and greatly concerned with social welfare. She set to improving the situation in Southend, opening the first child and welfare clinic in 1915. The clinic, at the Westcliff Institute, provided essential support and aimed to reduce mortalities amongst mothers and their babies. The Westcliff Institute offered free rooms for the clinic which is where it was set up. The Westcliff Institute was behind the Trinity Methodist Church and is now the Trinity Family Centre. It's on the corner of Argyll Road and London Road, and the entrance to the Institute is still there today.

According to the Southend Standard in 1929 Mrs Hawken devoted four afternoons a week to the oversight of the clinics, the work of which she was the virtual founder and which had then grown to over 20,000 attendances, but she didn't stop there. She was a Governor for both the Westcliff High Schools for Girls and Boys and school manager for the western district of the Borough.

In 1919 she was elected for the first time as a Councillor for Leigh Ward, only the second woman to be elected to the Council and she was re-elected time and again. She served on many welfare related committees and was Chairman of the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee.

In 1920 she is believed to be the first woman in the country to be elected as a Justice of the Peace and became a visiting magistrate to Holloway Prison. She was also in demand as a speaker, leading debates at the Leigh Debating Society on child welfare and was an advocate of women's suffrage. These are just some of Adelaide's good works, she was also active in the church and other groups.



Adelaide died in 1929 and her husband, William, 10 years later. Their son John was still running the outfitters at 62 Broadway in 1939 - does anyone remember it?

In 1932 a memorial plaque was erected at the then new general hospital. I have tried to find this without success so if anyone sees it on a visit to the hospital please do let me know.

Cllr Carole Mulrone

I am indebted to Snapping the Stiletto and Iona Farrell of Southend Museums for further information relating to Mrs Hawken.



CREATE 98



Christine Wyatt is a local business woman, born and bought up in the Leigh-on-Sea area. She opened Create98 partly to provide her somewhere other than her kitchen to work with flowers – floristry being her passion - and partly to fulfil a long ambition to quit the corporate rat race and focus her life and her work in the community. She is delighted with the launch and progress so far, all the great feedback proving that she did the right thing!



Christine says ...
'Live life more creatively' is our motto at Create98 the new art and craft studio on the Broadway. We have two classroom spaces, a kitchen and garden all of which are used regularly for a whole variety of workshops and classes. Our super talented tutors are skilled in everything from painting, drawing, pottery, printing, sewing and many other crafts.

Leigh-on-Sea is such a vibrant and artistic place so we have inspiration all around us to draw from! We teach complete beginners and those looking to improve their practice. Everyone is welcome to come along and try an experience.

We plan to keep developing our range of classes, based on everyone's feedback, and continue to grow as a creative hub for the people of Leigh. This summer you'll be able to see some examples of what people are making at our exhibition in the Community Centre, which we're very excited about.



It's a chance to take time out of your busy life, meet new people of all ages and take away something uniquely made by you. It's not just for adults; every week and in the school holidays we run children's workshops, monster making and sewing are just two of the things on the menu right now.

So, pop along and see us (we're on the Broadway near the Grand Hotel), we'd love to meet you and get you started on your creative journey! Check out **www.create98.co.uk** for the full schedule



Formed in April 2017, piertalk.com is a non-profit making community group offering a wide range of social activities including lunches, walks, quizzes, card and board games. We also arrange days out, short holidays, have a Book Club and are currently teaching ourselves Mah-jong.

Piertalk is aimed at both those with a good social life and family, but also those who through no fault of their own find themselves isolated and lonely and would like to re-connect with society.

Loneliness is at an epidemic rate in the UK and it has a vast impact on health. We hate the thought of people being alone and depressed and hoping that if they hear about what we are doing then they will feel that they can join us.

We are from all walks of life and all have different backgrounds. We keep our members up-to-date through a monthly email and an online calendar. But for those without computers we offer a buddy scheme so you are always kept in the loop!

Many friendships have been formed in the short time we have been running, and although our members are mainly 50+ anyone is welcome to the join the group.

To become a member costs from as little as £16 per year allowing access to a meet-ups, events, cinema trips and local walks. There are at least 2 subsidised events per year.

**visit www.piertalk.com
or call Linda on 07474 119899
or email totonelson@hotmail.com**

Monthly Events

LUNCH CLUB

First & Third Monday of the Month from 1pm onwards
Oyster Court Sports Bar, Southend High Street. Join us for a chat and a drink, a full menu is available

QUIZ NIGHT

Third Friday of the Month meet at 8pm
Naval and Military Club, 20 Royal Terrace. Full bar available

WALK AND BREAKFAST

First Saturday of the Month. Meet at the top of Pier Hill at 9.30am

AFTERNOON QUIZ

Second Monday of the Month.
Oyster Court Sports Bar, Southend High Street. Join us for lunch at 1pm or just the quiz at 2.30pm. £2pp
Second Thursday of the Month
Naval and Military Club,
20 Royal Terrace from 2.30pm

SCRABBLE MORNING

Second and Fourth Saturday of the Month from 10.30am
Nosh Café in the Forum, Elmer Square, Southend

RUMMIKUB MORNING

First and Third Saturday of the Month from 10.30am
Nosh Café in the Forum, Elmer Square, Southend

BOOK CLUB

4th Saturday of the Month from 10.30am
Nosh Café in the Forum, Elmer Square, Southend

LUNCH CLUB

Second and Fourth Tuesday from 1pm
The Sarah Moore, Elm Road, Leigh-on-Sea

Inner Wheel Club of Leigh-on-Sea

The Inner Wheel Club of Leigh-on-Sea was founded in 1960 and membership was made up of the wives of Rotarians. Since then the club has moved with the times and is pleased to welcome all. Our motto is friendship and international understanding.

We are part of a national and international organisation and support good causes worldwide.

We meet every third Thursday of the month (except August) at the Saxon Hall, Aviation Way at 7.30pm for a two-course meal. Some months we have a speaker, and other events are organised throughout the year including garden parties, quiz nights with a difference and a special Christmas dinner. We also hold an Annual Rally, meeting members from other clubs and districts, fostering friendships even further, and also take day trips to other groups in the county.

Our current presidents have nominated Cancer Research UK and The Brittle Bone Society as their chosen charities for 2019 and we have various events to support these throughout the year, as well as supporting other local good causes.

We are a friendly bunch and should be delighted to welcome anyone who feels they would like to join us.
Please contact our membership secretary Kim Gentry on 07886 338063 if you have any questions.

NATURALLY FIT4LIFE



Natalie Tennant, owner of NaturallyFit4Life is a personal trainer from Leigh-on-Sea who is giving back to her community by running a variety of free and funded programmes to help people manage their health and get fit.

I feel passionately about helping people to become more physically active, improving both physical and mental wellbeing. I understand how hard it can be for some people to make lifestyle changes and that's why I focus my energy on delivering programmes for beginners.

I voluntarily run a beginners running group on a Monday morning for women in Leigh-on-Sea. I started this in September, the participants initially only jogging for one minute, then in December I ran with 15 of the women in a 5k charity fun run for MIND. Many of them ran the entire distance, an incredible achievement given their start point. It just shows what is possible with a little support and motivation.

The NaturallyFit4Life free running group meets at the Saltwater Cafe, Chalkwell Beach at 9.15am on term-time Monday mornings. Natalie has also been working with families in Vange to deliver free exercise and wellbeing classes for women funded by Clarion Futures.

On a Tuesday Natalie also runs her Wellbeing Warrior Class, an 8-week weight-management programme combining a group workout session with nutrition and health advice. Natalie also provides food diaries, an optional weigh-in and before and after photos and measurements to help women track their weight loss progress. To help those on a low income, full funding is also available for those wanting to join the course.

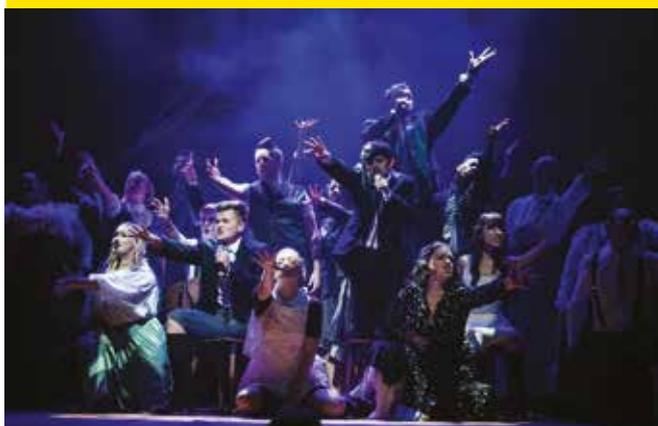
If you would be interested in taking part in the next course then call Natalie on 07856 766221 or email nat@naturallyfit4life.co.uk

LODS
LEIGH OPERATIC AND DRAMATIC SOCIETY
PRESENTS

ALL SHOOK UP

THE MUSICAL
PALACE THEATRE
8 - 11 MAY 2019

TICKETS AT SOUTHENDTHEATRES.COM
INSPIRED BY AND FEATURING
THE SONGS OF ELVIS PRESLEY®



Leigh Operatic and Dramatic Society (LODS) has been a main player in the local amateur dramatic scene for over 100 years. It puts on two musical shows a year at the Palace Theatre, Westcliff that rival the standard of professional productions.

In October 2018, LODS took on the powerful and confronting show of "Spring Awakening" an incredibly moving theatrical piece that explores a variety of issues surrounding morality, sexuality, youth and rebellion for a group of teenagers in turn of the century Germany. The society was met with rave reviews and one of the young leads, Matthew Wallace was awarded a National Operatic and Dramatic Association (NODA) Award for Best Young Performer. The production was also nominated by NODA for Best Technical for its scenery. In May 2019 LODS will be bringing the music of Elvis to life in their production of "All Shook Up." Inspired by the story of Shakespeare's Twelfth Night, "All Shook Up" centres around Chad, a good-looking, motorcycle-riding roustabout, who rides in to town. Repressed by their conservative mayor, the town begins to come alive once more under Chad's influence. This is a rocking, heart-warming tale about following dreams, opening up to love, and the power of music.

On at the Palace Theatre, Westcliff from Wednesday 8 May-Saturday 11 May
Tickets available at southendtheatres.org.uk Matinee & Evening from £18.00



For more details go to villagegreenfestival.com



Local arts organisation, Metal, has announced the return of their much-loved, multi-arts and music festival, Village Green. This year marks the tenth edition of the family-friendly attraction which regularly draws thousands. Village Green will take place in Chalkwell Park on 13 July 2019 from 11am until 9pm with ten hours of arts, music and performance. And, once again, there is something for every generation of the family.

Young children will love the celebrated festival-within-a-festival Mini Green which caters for under-fives, while older kids can enjoy the Children's Theatre Stop, with storytelling at the Jackson Diego Story Emporium and exciting activities from the

ForwardMotion team, which promote cycling, walking and using public transport.

Teens are well represented at the Oak stage where a youth forum will be curating the very best of young and emerging local talent. Mums and dads can expect to see the usual high quality offer of national and international acts alongside local musicians at this festival which, in past years, has included the likes of Rag 'n' Bone Man, Kate Nash, Nothing But Thieves, Beth Orton, Passenger, The Selecter, Dan le Sac v Scroobius Pip, Wilko Johnson, Billy Bragg, Boy with Tape on his Face, John Hegley, Iain Sinclair, Phil Jupitus and Ballet Black amongst many others.

One of the festival's great strengths is the eclectic wealth of stages and activities on offer, and this year is no different. Alongside regular favourites such as Global Village, the marketplace and Idea 13 stage, outdoor arts, circus and cabaret, vintage acts, musical theatre, visual arts, impro, film, workshops and games, Village Green 2019 will see the launch of new areas such as The Space In Between, a tent devoted to performance, poetry, singing, comedy, games and some feel good pampering which will explore mental health, disability and the feeling of being 'other'. The Jazz Centre UK will also be taking over the Chalkwell Park Rooms and bring their own unique blend of classic jazz to the festival mix.



Children and young people risk becoming involved in gangs.

Independent charity Crimestoppers is highlighting that children and young people across Essex are at risk of becoming involved with gangs and the violence and abuse that often follows.

Many young people join gangs for protection or say that it makes them feel part of a family. It is not only young men. Young women are also recruited and routinely suffer sexual violence to 'control' them. Crimestoppers charity wants to raise awareness of the issue and encourage Essex residents to speak up 100% anonymously to help keep young people safe. Our charity gives people the power to speak up, stay safe and stop crime by calling our professionally-staffed 24-hour UK Contact Centre on 0800 555 111 or by using the untraceable Anonymous Online Form www.crimestoppers-uk.org.

In a recent report from the Children's Commissioner for England, it was stated that the number of children involved in gangs could be as many 46,000 and may be even higher. Many young people associated with gangs speak of the dangers of gang membership. They can be transported to other parts of the country to deal drugs and be put into dangerous situations, such as carrying weapons and exposed to violence including knife crime. In Essex, the number of weapons offences last year rose by 50%.

Colin Dobinson, spokesperson for Crimestoppers in Essex, said: "As gangs expand their networks into Essex, they need new members and actively groom vulnerable young people, many from 11 years of age, sometimes even younger, to entice them into working for them. Gangs can start this process at school or parties where innocent children can provide them with potential recruits as they are less likely to have come to the attention of the authorities.



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Crimestoppers Trust is a registered charity number 109487 and 5033790 in Scotland

"I would urge parents and young people to visit the Fearless website (Fearless.org) which is a youth service, guided by Crimestoppers that develops effective anti-crime resources and advice for young people and their families. We know that many young people who are not involved in crime in any way may pick up information from school and friends on crime but are too scared to report it. Now Fearless provides them with a safe place to pass this information on – 100% anonymously. Always. Youth professionals and teachers will also find many useful educational resources available on the site.

Caroline Wiggins, Chair of the Essex Community Safety Network, said: "Parents must play a key role in alerting their children to the risks. They need to make sure they know what their children are doing, who they are spending time with and look for any signs that their children might be being groomed or involved in gangs. I would certainly encourage parents, their children and anyone working with young people, to visit the Fearless website and access information that will help them prevent further wasted lives and wasted futures".

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