



LEIGH-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL NEWS FLASH - JANUARY 2020

C O U N C I L N E W S A N D E V E N T S



LEIGH LIGHTS PARADE WINNERS

It was another great year for the Leigh Lights Yuletide Parade, which attracted over 400 participants including local dance and theatre schools, musicians, street entertainers, charity groups, emergency services and leisure groups raising money for approximately 14 different charities. This year the parade raised a massive £2275.06 – an outstanding achievement! In addition, Stibbards and Sons sponsor the parade to award first and second place parade winners with £150 and £100 respectively to their chosen charity. We are pleased to announce Southend Scouts & Guide Gangshow won first place, receiving £150 and Princess Gatherings won £100 for Neptune Children's Ward.

Leigh-on-Sea Town Council would like to take the opportunity to thank all those that support our events. Not only was Leigh full of happy people that night they were also clearly extremely generous too!

LEIGH LIGHTS DONATIONS

Thanks to a number of official sponsors for this year's Leigh Lights event, the donations towards the event were at a record high. These donations make a huge difference to the event allowing us to add in more festive cheer! We want to say a huge thank you to the following companies that sponsored the event and also the other traders in the Town who also made generous donations this year...

Hair & Son, S.Stibbards & Sons, CS Parking Ltd, Skoda, Vodafone, Scent Ltd, Intech Fire & Security Ltd, Create 98, Flour & Spoon, Truleigh Scrumptious, Moylans, Space 282, Co-Op (Leigh Broadway), Strictly Smartz, Store Thirty 3, The Refill Room, Ugo's Cafe & Bar, Clink, Henry Burgers, CJ Vinten Goldsmiths, Groovy Baby, David Roberts, Hong Kong Takeaway

CAROLS ON STRAND WHARF

Unfortunately for the first year ever, Carols on Strand Wharf on 14th December had to be cancelled due to adverse weather conditions, meaning that the marquee that is hired to shelter the Salvation Army Band and the necessary sound and lighting equipment could not be erected. Local supermarkets kindly donated mince pies for the event, including Co-op (Broadway), Tesco Express, Sainsbury's Local, Iceland, Waitrose, and Homemade Bakery but due to it not going ahead these were donated on to several local charities including Leigh Road Baptist Church, Trussel Trust, HARP, Age Concern Southend and other night shelters in the area.

LEIGH COMMUNITY CENTRE REFURBISHMENT & EXTENSION

Further works at the Community Centre commenced on 2nd January to start phase 2 of the Centre's refurbishment. The ground floor toilets will be receiving a much needed revamp, with the whole toilet block at the front of the building being refurbished. The men's toilets will also be relocated to sit alongside the other w/c facilities. The main entrance, foyer area and room 1 will also be refurbished, as well as structural maintenance work that will be taking place in the basement. Following on from this the cafe area will be extended.

We anticipate the works will take approximately 12 weeks to complete. Every effort will be made to keep disruption to a minimum for Centre users, however this may not always be possible. Regular hirers of the Centre have been advised of the impact of works on their sessions.



HANGING BASKETS

Last year the Town Council launched a Hanging Basket scheme, which saw traders around the town sponsor the beautiful baskets. The scheme was also extended into the festive season so that businesses could sponsor a lighting column as part of the Leigh Lights, a big thanks to BASIK, Flour and Spoon, Body's Opticians, Hatton Jewellery and Broadway Optician's who took part this Christmas. In May we will be relaunching the scheme for 2020, if you would like to take part contact the Council for more information. Sponsorship starts from just £100.

YOUTH FORUM

Last year Leigh-on-Sea Town Council launched their own open Youth Forum for young people in the area. The Forum is open to 11 - 18 year olds, who live locally and who want their voices heard about local issues and to take part in community initiatives or events. Members of the Forum got the chance to take over the centrefold of the last issue of our magazine and will this year be involved with the Council's Youth Market event. The Forum runs once a month at Leigh Community Centre from 5pm - 6pm, for more information contact cllrforde@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk. **2020 Dates:** 13th February | 12th March | 9th April | 14th May | 11th June | 9th July | 13th August | 10th September | 8th October | 12th November 10th December

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

In honour of past councillor, Donald Fraser who sadly passed away in 2018, the Council launched an award to celebrate local volunteers. As a staunch volunteer himself, the Council felt this was a fitting legacy to run each year in his memory. Last year's winner was Hilary Le Marie who tirelessly volunteers for the British Legion, Speedwatch, RSPB, Marie Cure and is an active citizen for the Police. Nominations are now open for the 2020 award, anyone can nominate a volunteer for the award which is presented at the Council's Annual Community Meeting. The only criteria is that nominees must either live, work or volunteer in Leigh-on-Sea. The closing date for nominations will be 29th February 2020. For more information or to download a nomination pack visit the Town Council website.

GRANT AWARD APPLICATIONS

The Town Council run a Grant Award Scheme which allows individuals, community groups or charities in the local area to apply for up to £500 funding for projects and events that are a benefit to the people of Leigh-on-Sea. Grants can also be awarded in the form of room hire bursaries at Leigh Community Centre, which many groups utilise for fundraising events or meetings. The next round of applications will close on 31st March 2020. For more information or to download an application pack visit the Town Council website.

COFFEE WITH COUNCILLORS

In March, the Town Council hope to help residents to interact with their Councillors, by running two "Coffee with Councillors" sessions which will be held on Saturday 7th March 10am - 12pm and Monday 9th March 2pm - 4pm. Residents will get the chance to meet, raise and discuss local issues with councillors. If you would be interested in attending please register your interest by calling 01702 716288.



LEIGH FARMERS' MARKETS

Our Farmers' Market takes place in Leigh Community Centre's Donald Fraser Hall on the 3rd Friday of the month 9am-1pm. One of the longest running markets in the Essex area, priding itself on delivering local produce to our residents. We provide a range of stalls selling all different types of homegrown produce. The stall holders must have grown or made the goods themselves, and all traders come from within a 30-mile radius. Come down and have a browse we're sure you will go home with something delicious!

2020 Dates: 21st February | 20th March | 17th April | 15th May | 19th June | 17th July | 21st August | 18th September | 16th October | 20th November | Saturday 19th December - Christmas Market

NEW ART WALL EXHIBITION

On Monday 20th January the Town Council Arts Group launched their latest exhibiton on the Community Centre Art Wall. Nicola Osborne and Amanda Westbury have collaborated on this floral themed exhibition which features both paintings and ceramics. This exhibition follows on from the previous display of works completed by various members of art groups that meet at the Community Centre. To keep up to date with the latest news and activities follow us on Instagram [@leightowncouncilartsgroup](https://www.instagram.com/leightowncouncilartsgroup)

OVER 60'S SOCIAL CLUB

The Town Council runs an Over 60's Social Club for residents in the area, that may be feeling lonely or isolated.

The club is a great way to socialise and make new friends, learn new skills and stimulate your mind, get out the house, be active and improve your quality of life. Unlimited tea, coffee and biscuits are provided at every session and we organise different activities each time including performances, talks, crafts and more.

Everyone is welcome to attend, there is no need to book! There is a £2 charge per person to cover the cost of refreshments. Unfortunately we cannot provide transport to the centre, but Age Concern Southend may be able to help - call 01702 345373 for more information. The group will now be meeting on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month at 2pm - 3.30pm at Leigh Community Centre.

Upcoming Dates:

5th February | 19th February | 4th March | 18th March | 1st April | 15th April | 6th May | 20th May | 3rd June | 17th June | 1st July

For an up-to-date schedule of activities visit the Leigh Community Centre Reception or the Town Council website.

ANNUAL COMMUNITY MEETING

This year's Annual Community Meeting will be held at Leigh Community Centre on Friday 24th April from 7pm. This meeting is for the electors and gives residents the chance to ask questions or raise concerns with their Councillors. There will also be refreshments available as well as a number of displays from local Community groups. Good for Leigh Winners and our Volunteer of the Year are also announced. Don't miss out on the chance to have your say about your town!

Leigh-on-Sea Town Council
71-73 Elm Road,
Leigh-on-Sea, SS9 1SP
01702 716288
leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk

Town Clerk:
Helen Symmons PSLCC
Chairman:
Cllr Jill Healey

Look out for the next Issue of
Leigh-on-Sea Town Council News
Magazine which will be released
on Tuesday 31st March 2020