



# LEIGH-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL NEWS FLASH - JULY 2021

## COUNCIL NEWS, UPDATES AND EVENTS



### NEW CHAIRMAN

Leigh-on-Sea Town Council are pleased to announce their new Chairman for 2021/22 - Cllr Doug Cracknell. He will be joined by Cllr Keith Evans as Vice-Chairman over the next Council year.

"I am looking forward to serving as Council Chairman and working with my fellow councillors on behalf of local residents" states Cllr Cracknell.

### NEW COUNCILLORS

The Town Council has also welcomed two new councillors in recent months. Cllr Emma Mills joined the Council in April and was co-opted to St. Clements Ward, and Cllr James Preston was elected uncontested in May, representing Elms Ward. He has filled the vacancy left by the sad passing of Cllr Caroline Parker in 2020.

The Council currently has one vacancy remaining in the Highlands Ward which is due to be filled this month via co-option. The deadline for applications has now passed for this vacancy.

### ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21

Leigh-on-Sea Town Council published their Annual Report earlier this year for 2020 – 2021. The report includes key council information such as the budgets, councillor attendance, and a review of our strategic plan; as well as reports from the Chairman, Town Clerk and council staff. This year's Good for Leigh and Volunteer of the Year winners are also announced in the document. The report is available to view on our website at [leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk/annual-report](http://leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk/annual-report). Paper copies can be made available on request.

### CHAIRMAN'S CHARITY

Cllr Cracknell has chosen Phab Life as his charity for his year as Chairman. Money raised during this year will be donated to support the Phabulous Cafe, in the former site of Oasis Coffee House on Leigh Road, and the other work Phab do around the local area supporting adults and children with differing abilities by helping them to gain skills, experience and confidence in the workplace.

Cllr Cracknell has already kicked off his fundraising by taking part in the recent Leigh-on-Sea Bric-a-Brac trail, he raised over £150.

### 2021 GOOD FOR LEIGH WINNERS

There were a number of worthy winners this year, unfortunately we were not able to present these at our Annual Community Meeting, but we plan to throw a special awards night later in the year.

- Belle Sewfrassettes - made masks and scrubs during the pandemic when there was a huge shortage of PPE in hospitals.
- Eve Kinder - Belfairs student, was recently made an ambassador for Southend Young Carers
- Gracie and Alvina Line - help at the One Love Soup Kitchen.
- Leigh Tin Teams - Neighbours who teamed up to collect items for the local food banks during lockdown
- Marguerite Drive Street Group - Lots of neighbourly initiatives throughout lockdown showing real community spirit
- Linda Catling - bringing cheer to the town with her knitted post box hats for different occasions
- Liz Evans and Linda Mitchell - volunteers for the Council's Community Transport Scheme, who made regular calls to members during lockdown.
- Madison Edwards - a year 7 student, who helped to support homeless people during lockdown
- Michael Cranston - founder of the "Smileigh" Facebook group that helped bring some positivity during lockdown.
- Millie Whipps - Belfairs student, who appealed for items to support homeless people at Christmas.



### VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR 2021

Our Volunteer of the Year Award is honoured annually in honour of the late Donald Fraser, a longstanding councillor for Leigh. This year's chosen winner is Tim Watts, who is well known as the former president of Leigh Lions. He helps to run the Lions Charity Shop, organise the Leigh Regatta, Duck Race and raises money for local charities and community groups. On top of this he is also a trustee of Southend Carers, a member of SBC's People Scrutiny Committee, and director of Southend Pier Museum. Tim has also worked tirelessly throughout the pandemic, whether it be shopping for vulnerable people, providing aid for food banks, co-ordinating volunteers or helping at vaccination centres; he has committed hundreds of hours to other people. We can't think of a more appropriate and deserving winner for this award.

### YOUTH CLUB RELAUNCH

We are extremely pleased to announce that our Youth Club run in partnership with Southend YMCA has now restarted at Leigh Community Centre on Thursday evenings. The club is free to members, and provides two hours of fun activities including dancing, arts & crafts, board games, indoor sports, team projects and more. The club starts at 4.30pm – 6.30pm for 8 – 11-year-olds, and from 7pm – 9pm for 12 – 16-year-olds and runs every week during term time. To book your place visit [www.bookwhen.com/southendymca](http://www.bookwhen.com/southendymca).

### WELLBEING SERVICES RELAUNCH

The Council have been working on plans to relaunch their wellbeing services including the Community Transport Scheme and our Over 60's Social Club in September. We have been keeping in touch with our members by sending them a regular newsletter and making friendly phone calls during the pandemic. If anyone is interested in joining the scheme contact the Council for more information.

### COMMUNITY RECOVERY GRANTS

To help the groups and small businesses who use Leigh Community Centre, we recently offered our regular hirers a recovery grant to cover the cost of up to 12 hours of sessions. The sessions had to be of benefit to the community, whether they were for young or old, for health and wellbeing or to support disabilities; hirers also had to have been using the facilities before the pandemic hit. The grants have been well received and 103 hours of free room hire has been handed out to date.

### ALLOTMENT UPDATE

We were pleased to be able to keep our allotments open as usual during the pandemic and have recently released an Allotment Handbook for anyone who has or is thinking about having an allotment, which is available to download from our website at [www.leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk/allotments](http://www.leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk/allotments). The Council do however have an unprecedentedly high waiting list for an allotment plot currently, and whilst we try to allocate plots as quickly as we can when available, there is still a long wait.

### ART WALL RELAUNCH

We are thrilled to welcome back some colour in our corridors as we relaunch our community art wall at the Leigh Community Centre. Kicking things off will be a joint exhibition from our past and present Artists in Residence; Kerry Doyland and Susan Allen. "Art in the Attic" will be running at the centre from 26th July to 3rd September and will showcase works from both artists as well as those they have taught. Further artists are booked in for the remainder of 2021, but if you are interested in displaying artwork in 2022 then get in touch with us for more information.



### 21 YEARS OF FARMERS' MARKET

On the 16th July we are excited to celebrate the 21st anniversary of our Leigh Farmers' Market. With a special event we will be hosting new and additional stalls with more variety. There will be no markets in August, however we will be officially relaunching in September with two markets a month on the third Friday and the first Saturday. Due to the pandemic, the Market has been closed since February 2020, although operating virtually through Facebook, it will be fantastic to welcome people back to the market in person! The dates for the 2021 markets are as follows:

- Saturday 4th September
- Friday 17th September
- Saturday 2nd October
- Friday 15th October
- Saturday 6th November
- Friday 19th November
- Saturday 18th December

### SUMMER HOLIDAY EVENTS

We are excited to be planning some fun events for children this summer, with arts and craft sessions at Leigh Community Centre and a free family Punch and Judy puppet show on Strand Wharf on Tuesday 24th August, with two performances at 10am and 11am. Donations are welcomed for the Chairman's Charity.

Leigh-on-Sea Town Council are also supporting the Southend YMCA with a summer camp for 8 – 11 year olds. The camp is free to young people in receipt of free school dinners and takes place throughout August. Places must be booked in advance at [www.bookwhen.com/southendymca](http://www.bookwhen.com/southendymca). A free hot meal will also be included as well as arts, sports, drama and music activities. The club will run Tuesday to Friday, 1.30pm – 5.30pm from 3rd – 27th August.

### FREE ART EVENTS

Our new Artist in Residence, Susan Allen has planned free art events to benefit the local community this summer. These sessions include painting from nature as well as developing sketches into paintings back in the studio. To book email Susan directly at [susan\\_allen\\_smith@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:susan_allen_smith@yahoo.co.uk).

- 19th July – 10am – 12pm - On Location Water Colour Painting on Leigh Marshes
- 29th July – 2pm – 4pm - Developing sketches into paintings in the attic – limited to 4 people
- 7th August – 2pm – 4pm – Family Walk and Draw in Belfairs Woods
- 16th August – 10am – 12pm - On Location Water Colour Painting in Belfairs Woods
- 26th August – 2pm – 4pm - Developing sketches into paintings in the attic – limited to 4 people

### RBL CENTENARY POPPY TRAIL

Leigh-on-Sea Town Council are pleased to be supporting the Leigh branch of the Royal British Legion with an event for their centenary. Local artists, schools, groups and residents will be invited to decorate a poppy that will then be displayed throughout Leigh during this year's Remembrance tide. Those taking part will be asked for a donation of their choosing to be made towards the Poppy Appeal.

The wooden poppies will come in two sizes 4ft x 4ft, and 2ft x 2ft and can be decorated in any way with any materials. They will be available to collect from the end of August and will need to be returned by 15th October. If you are interested in taking part please contact Leigh-on-Sea Branch Secretary Bob O'Leary at [leighonseasecretary@rbl.community](mailto:leighonseasecretary@rbl.community) to register your interest.

*Leigh-on-Sea Town Council*  
71-73 Elm Road,  
Leigh-on-Sea, SS9 1SP  
01702 716288  
[leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk](http://leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk)

*Town Clerk:*  
Helen Symmons PSLCC  
  
*Chairman:*  
Cllr Doug Cracknell

*Look out for the next issue of Leigh-on-Sea Town Council News Magazine, due for release on Tuesday 19th October*