



# LEIGH-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL NEWS FLASH - JUNE 2022

## COUNCIL NEWS, UPDATES AND EVENTS



### NEW CHAIRMAN

We are pleased to announce Cllr Keith Evans was elected as Council Chairman at our recent Annual Council Meeting on Tuesday 24th May for 2022 - 2023. He will be joined by Cllr Dr. David Bowry as Vice-Chairman for the administrative year.

### CHAIRMAN'S CHARITY

Our retiring Council Chairman Doug Cracknell, spent the 2021/2022 Council Year raising funds for his nominated charity Southend Phab, who run the Phabulous Café on Leigh Road, supporting adults with disabilities to get work experience. Cllr Cracknell raised a grand total of £1000 by taking part in the Leigh bric-a-brac trail and selling handmade cards at our Farmers' Market. Funds were also raised at town events over the year including our monthly poetry night.

Our new Chairman Cllr Keith Evans has selected Gold Geese as his charity for the upcoming year, and will be holding events and initiatives over the next year to raise funds to support the work they do to look after families affected by childhood cancer. Cllr Evans said "I was keen to support the work of a local Leigh based charity with no access to major funding and felt that Gold Geese was a very worthy cause." For more information visit [www.goldgeese.org](http://www.goldgeese.org)

### SAFE SUN PROJECT

We are pleased to have recently launched a "Safe Sun" project, an idea that was brought to the Council by resident Sam Batstone in November last year. A free to use SPF 50 sun cream dispenser has been installed at Bell Wharf Beach, with all those visiting welcome to use. We hope that people remember to stay safe in the sun this summer and make use of the dispenser if they forget their own sun cream.

### COUNCILLOR VACANCIES

There are currently three Councillor vacancies at Leigh Town Council in the Highlands, Herschell and Elms Wards. The vacancy in Highlands Ward will be going to election, and at the time of writing we were advised this would be on the 11th August. If you would be interested in filling the other two vacancies via co-option until the May 2023 elections, please complete the application form that can be found on the Council website at [leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk/council-vacancies](http://leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk/council-vacancies).

### COMMUNITY TRANSPORT TRIPS

We are so pleased to have been able to relaunch our Community Transport trips in May after a 2-year hiatus. The scheme is run for residents aged over 60 and living within the Town Council Boundary. Existing members of the scheme love the convenience that it offers, especially for those that don't have easy access to bus routes, with some labelling it a life-line for being able to get out of the house on a regular basis. If you or someone you know would benefit from joining the scheme, please get in touch for more information. We are also in need of more volunteer drivers to help us run the trips, we would love to hear from you if you have the DI entitlement on your licence and have availability during the week.

### ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22

Leigh-on-Sea Town Council published their Annual Report earlier this year for 2021 - 2022, which was presented at the Annual Community Meeting in April. 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. The report is available to view on our website at [leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk/annual-report](http://leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk/annual-report). Paper copies are available at Leigh Community Centre.



### A JOLLY JUBILEE!

Leigh-on-Sea Town Council had a fantastic time hosting a variety of Jubilee events for residents in the town. Back in April we delivered free bunting workshops to teach residents to make their own sustainable bunting to use over the Jubilee weekend.

We then held our family-friendly community picnic in Bonchurch Park on Sunday 29th May, with a variety of live musical performances from Below Sea Level, The Hoy Shanty Crew, Kristine Boicuka, The Show Choir and Tim Howar from Mike and the Mechanics. We were also joined by the Art Ministry, Love on the Rocks UK, Magic Dave and Kerry Doyland who offered free crafts and activities for children, as well as a variety of community stalls. Despite the weather being a bit wet at times we had a fantastic crowd who joined in with a rousing sing-a-long of Land of Hope and Glory and the National Anthem. We are so grateful to our wonderful community for volunteering their time whether to entertain us all, provide activities or just to showcase their organisations.

At Leigh Community Centre on Tuesday 31st May, we ran a free arts and crafts event for children thanks to the Art Ministry. Followed by our Jubilee Tea Party as part of our over 60's social club on 1st June. Sixty retirees joined in the fun with a musical performance by The Ray Miso Trio and a delicious afternoon tea, as well as special celebratory cake cut by our Chairman, Cllr Keith Evans. All proceeds from the event will be donated to our Chairman's Charity.

The Council wish to thank the National Lottery Community Fund for providing us with the funding to make these events possible.

### FREE SUMMER ART EVENTS

This year, Leigh-on-Sea Town Council is pleased to be hosting two Artists in Residence in their studio space at Leigh Community Centre. Susan Allen and Kerry Doyland are sharing the space in partnership after their previous residencies were interrupted by the pandemic. Since taking over the scheme they have received funding to provide a scholarship scheme for life drawing classes supporting young artists with materials and tuition. They have also planned a series of free art events over the summer, with something for everyone, including children, older adults, those with no experience and those who are a bit more advanced. All sessions are free to attend and where not otherwise stated will be held at Leigh Community Centre, from 2pm - 4pm.

- Wednesday 20th July - Drawing for Relaxation and Mindfulness
- Wednesday 27th July - Art for Dementia
- Wednesday 10th August - 10am - 12pm - Walk and Draw on Two-Tree Island - meet at main car park by Scout's Hut
- Wednesday 17th August - Arts and crafts for children
- Wednesday 24th August - Watercolour for Beginners

### 2022 ART EXHIBITIONS

Leigh-on-Sea Town Council are proud to support local artists through their Community Art Wall at Leigh Community Centre. We are looking forward to showcasing the following exhibitions for the remainder of 2022...

4th July - 19th August - Terry Rayner Painting Exhibition  
22nd August - 16th September - Leigh Art Trail Auction Pieces plus Andy Downes exhibition for trail week - 3rd - 11th September  
19th September - 14th October - Grace Edkins Painting Exhibition  
17th October - 18th November - Open Arts Essex - Collective exhibition with a variety of mediums  
21st November - 23rd December - Cole Watkins and Nicola Parry Sibling Photography Exhibition

Smaller exhibitions are also on display at the centre in Lorna & Lottie's Café. If you would be interested in exhibiting in either space please get in contact with the Council for more information.



### UKRAINIAN COMMUNITY GROUP

We are very pleased to be offering a space at Leigh Community Centre to be used as a social group for Ukrainian refugees and their host families. The sessions are taking place weekly on Thursday afternoons from 4pm - 5.30pm, and we hope are providing much needed social interaction and support for the families in the area. Light refreshments are available and where possible we will be sign posting useful information to help welcome and integrate the families to the area. Please get in contact with us if you would like more information, or to volunteer your time to help the club.

### OVER 60'S SOCIAL CLUB

Our Over 60's Social Club came back with a bang in September 2021 after being on hiatus due to the pandemic. Since then, we have had the privilege to supply meals, entertainment and company for up to 40 older adults twice a month. Lorna & Lottie's Café at the Centre provide a delicious lunch, and staff schedule in a variety of talks and activities. Admittance is £5 including lunch, £2 if not eating with us - you are welcome to bring your own lunch - unlimited hot drinks and biscuits are also available. Please book in advance by calling 01702 716288 to order your lunch, those arriving on the day who haven't booked, may not be served food. All dietary requirements can be catered for.

The club runs on the first and third Wednesday of the month from 12pm - 1.30pm at Leigh Community Centre. Anyone is welcome to come along to the club, however we cannot provide transport or respite care. Upcoming club dates are as follows: 6th July | 20th July | 3rd August | 17th August | 7th September | 21st September | 5th October | 19th October | 2nd November | 16th November | 7th December | 21st December

### THE LISTENING ROOM

Leigh-on-Sea Town Council hold a monthly poetry night at Leigh Community Centre. "The Listening Room" features a different guest speaker each month and is hosted by local poet Maddi Crease. Anyone can come along to use the open mic to read their own poetry, stories, play music or perform comedy or to simply just listen to others. The event takes place within Lorna & Lottie's Café in the Centre, with refreshments available. Donations from the evenings are put towards the Chairman's Charity which this year is supporting Gold Geese. If you would be interested in performing as a guest speaker please contact Maddi at [maddicreasepoet@outlook.com](mailto:maddicreasepoet@outlook.com). The Listening Room is open on the second Wednesday of the month from 7.30pm - 9.30pm. Dates for 2022 are as follows: 13th July | 10th August | 14th September | 12th October | 9th November | 14th December

### YOUTH FORUM

Leigh-on-Sea Town Council runs a Youth Forum for 11-18 year olds in Leigh-on-Sea who want a platform to have their voices heard about local issues. The forum is held at Leigh Community Centre on the second Thursday of the month with free refreshments from 5pm - 6pm. There will be a meeting of the Forum on 14th July, and then it will restart after the summer holidays on Thursday 8th September. To find out more contact Cllr Anita Forde on 07786 023941 or at [cllrforde@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:cllrforde@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk)

### LEIGH FARMERS' MARKET

The Council have made the decision to put our regular Farmers' Market on hiatus due to a number of factors including a decline in foot fall. Staff, councillors and stall holders will be working together to move forward with a new plan for the market and hope it will return by the autumn.

*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 Keith Evans

*Look out for the next issue of  
Leigh-on-Sea Town Council News  
Magazine, due for release on  
Tuesday 18th October*