



# LEIGH-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL NEWSFLASH - FEBRUARY 2021

COUNCIL  
NEWS  
AND  
UPDATES



## COUNCILLOR CO-OPTION

There are currently two councillor vacancies on the Council in the Elms and St Clements Wards. An election trigger notice was received for the Elms Ward vacancy and this will go to election later in the year.

However, the time limit has passed for electors in the St Clements ward to call an election and the vacancy will now be filled by co-option at a Council meeting in March.

The co-opted Councillor will serve until the next ordinary election in May 2023. There are minimal requirements for being a councillor, the main ones are that the person is over 18, lives or works locally and is a UK resident. Full details of eligibility and what it means to become a councillor can be found at [leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk/council-vacancies](http://leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk/council-vacancies).

Anyone who is interested is invited to apply via letter or email to the Town Clerk. In the application, please identify any particular interests, qualifications or relevant experience and confirm that you meet the criteria for eligibility and are not disqualified to be a member of the Council.

The closing date for applications is Sunday 28th February, candidates are asked to attend a virtual meeting of Council by Zoom on Tuesday 23rd March at 7.30pm where the co-option procedure will be on the agenda.

## 2021 CENSUS

The decennial census is almost upon us. Households across Southend-on-Sea will soon be asked to take part in the nationwide survey of housing and the population. It has been carried out every decade since 1801, with the exception of 1941.

Information from the digital-first census will help decide how services are planned and funded in your local area. This could mean things like doctors' surgeries, housing or new bus routes.

Households will receive a letter with a unique access code in the post, allowing them to complete their questionnaire online. Paper questionnaires will be available on request. Census day is March 21.

For more information, visit [census.gov.uk](http://census.gov.uk).

## GRANT AWARD SCHEME

Applications are now being accepted for our Grant Award Scheme. The Council offer 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 Wednesday 31st March 2021.

For more information or to request an application form, please contact [council@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:council@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk) or call 01702 716288.



## NEW ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

Leigh-on-Sea Town Council are pleased to announce that they have selected their new Artist in Residence for 2021 - 2022; Susan Allen Smith.

Susan is a figure and landscape artist and is well known throughout the local area and provides art classes and workshops online, at Create 98 and Leigh Community Centre. We are incredibly excited to be working with her over the next year to provide community art initiatives throughout the town.

Susan's residency will commence on 1st April at the studio space within Leigh Community Centre. Susan said "I feel honoured to have been selected to be the Artist in Residence. Leigh is such a terrific place to live, I'm really looking forward to taking up the role and working with you all."

## ANNUAL COMMUNITY MEETING

This year's Annual Community Meeting is due to take place on Friday 21st May - subject to COVID restrictions - at 7pm at Leigh Community Centre.

The meeting is held for our electors. Each year we plan to show our community the work the Council has undertaken, we have displays and talks from local community groups. The Council present their Annual Report, and we also hold an open forum to allow electors to raise questions with their councillors.

We also present our Good for Leigh Awards, celebrating some of the wonderful people in our town, and our Volunteer of the Year Award in memory of our late councillor Donald Fraser.

Refreshments are provided free of charge from our friends at the Royal British Legion.

## KEEPING IN TOUCH MAGAZINE

Since the lockdown restrictions came in to force last year we have been finding ways to keep in touch with the members of our Community Transport Scheme. The scheme is for residents who live within the Leigh Town Council boundaries who are aged over 60. We would normally provide excursions and theatre trips for our members as well as our bi-monthly Social Club. Since March, we have been making regular phone calls to ensure they are keeping well and to just have a friendly chat.

In November, we launched our Keeping in Touch magazine a mini publication which goes to our Community Transport members every 4 weeks. As most of our members don't have internet access it allows them to stay updated with council and community news, gives ideas for things to do at home, advice and local helplines. The magazine has been incredibly well received by our members, and so have decided to continue this initiative beyond COVID.

If you or someone you know would like to join our Community Transport Scheme, please contact our office on 01702 716288 for more information.

The magazines are available to view on our website at [leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk/community-transport-scheme](http://leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk/community-transport-scheme).



## ROCK PAINTING FUN

Leigh-on-Sea Town Council have been encouraging the younger residents of the town to help spread a little cheer by leaving painted stones outside the community centre. The Council was inspired by similar local projects and thought it would be a great way to boost community spirit.

The idea is simple, children are able to collect a stone from our basket outside the community centre doors, take it home to decorate and then bring it back to be left on our wall.

The project was launched during last week's half-term, but we will be rolling out during each of the school holidays this year. There will be approximately 60 stones available for each half-term, but you are welcome to use your own stones as well.

Local artists have also been involved in the project, and we have shared some images of the fantastic designs that we received over the February half-term on our Facebook page @LeighTCEvents.

## CHAIRMAN'S CHARITY 2020/21

Cllr Paul Gilson was elected as Town Council Chairman on 18th August 2020. His chosen charity to support during his chairmanship is The Endeavour Trust.

The Endeavour Trust is a charitable organisation set up in 2001 in order to restore and maintain a historic fishing boat from Leigh-on-Sea to its former glory. Endeavour is one of only two surviving Leigh-built fishing boats that went to Dunkirk and is registered with the Association of Dunkirk Little Ships. The charity focuses on the restoration and maintenance of the ship as well as providing educational talks and trips for schools and groups. More information can be found about The Endeavour Trust on their website [endeavourtrust.blogspot.com](http://endeavourtrust.blogspot.com). The Council already has an alliance with this charity, supporting it over many years through the Council's Grant Aid Award Scheme.

## DONALD FRASER VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD 2021

Every year we ask for members of the public to nominate a hard-working volunteer that lives or volunteers in Leigh-on-Sea. The award is held in memory of the late Donald Fraser who was a councillor for Leigh-on-Sea Town Council from its inception in 1996 until 2018. Donald was an avid volunteer and helped many groups and charities throughout his long life, so the Council felt this was a wonderful way to keep his memory alive, and honour those who do so much for our town.

This year's deadline for nominations is the Sunday 28th February with the winner being announced at our Annual Community Meeting. Download the nomination pack at [leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk/annual-community-meeting](http://leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk/annual-community-meeting).

Nomination forms should be returned to the Council offices at 71-73 Elm Road, Leigh-on-Sea, SS9 1SP or via email to [council@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:council@leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk)

*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 Paul Gilson*

*Look out for the next issue of  
Leigh-on-Sea Town Council News  
Magazine, due for release on  
Tuesday 20th April.*