



LEIGH-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL NEWS FLASH - JANUARY 2019

CHRISTMAS IN LEIGH

LEIGH LIGHTS

Leigh-on-Sea Town Council were 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 clear and 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 were also delighted to welcome a variety of singers and groups to the Lights who performed throughout the Town.



Cllr Valerie Morgan & Cllr Jill Healey at the Leigh Lights

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 were once again very pleased to welcome the Art Ministry who provided arts and crafts and a new edition this year, the Essex Wildlife Trust who brought nature crafts.

This years Yuletide Parade attracted over 400 participants raising money for 14 different charities. This year the parade raised a record breaking £3215.21 - 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 Morgan



Parade Winners - MAPA

Academy of Performing arts (MAPA) 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 take the opportunity to thank all of those that supported, donated to and took part in our wonderful Leigh Lights event.

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

The Community Centre played host to our Christmas craft fair on Saturday 1st December that had over 50 stalls across the building with a huge variety of hand made gifts, food, decorations, and more as well as another day of Elsa's Grotto thanks to Princess Gatherings.

CAROLS ON STRAND WHARF

Despite the rain, over 300 people turned out to enjoy mulled wine, mince pies and a good ol' 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 super-markets - Sainsbury's, Co-op and Tesco, for their kind donations of mince pies for this event. Along with special thanks to Leigh Lions, Salvation Army and Carol and John Bastin for helping at the event.

COMMUNITY TRANSPORT SCHEME SOCIAL CLUB

The Council recently launched a new Social Club for elderly residents in Leigh, with refreshments, board games and activities at Leigh Community Centre on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. The club runs from 10am - 12pm, and is just £2, to cover the cost of resources. You don't have to be a member of our Community Transport Scheme to attend and you don't need to book, just turn up! The upcoming dates are 9th January | 13th February | 13th March | 10th April | 8th May | 12th June

NEWS & UPDATES

LEIGH IS VOTED 'HAPPIEST PLACE TO LIVE'

Leigh-on-Sea Town Council were 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 were 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.

COMMUNITY CENTRE REFURBISHMENT UPDATE

The Community Centre has recently undergone some much needed TLC to repair the roof and lantern light. However the flat roof above the foyer requires necessary additional repair works. This work started when the centre re-opened following the Christmas break. The lift replacement is also taking place and this will be completed by 23rd January 2019. Whilst the works are taking place there will be some limited access from the front of the building. We would like to thank all of our hirers and users for their patience during this time and we look forward to being able to provide a fully working lift more suitable for the Centre's needs.

DONALD FRASER VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

In honour of past councillor, Donald Fraser who sadly passed away last year, the Council have launched a new award to celebrate local volunteers. People can nominate their chosen volunteer for a "Volunteer of the Year" Award which will be presented at the Annual Community Meeting.

If you know of someone you would like to nominate then you can fill in a nomination form at www.leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk/annualcommunitymeeting or pick up a form from the Community Centre Reception. All nominations need to be received by Friday 18th January. Nominees must live or volunteer in Leigh-on-Sea.

GRANT AWARD SCHEME APPLICATIONS

The Council awards grants of up to £500 to a variety of Community Groups throughout Leigh. This can be used on community projects or for room hire bursaries. The deadline for the next round of applications is 31st March 2019.

For more information contact the Council Offices or visit our website at leighonseatowncouncil.gov.uk/grant-scheme where you will find the application pack.

Our grants have recently been awarded to Southend YMCA, Boomerang Bags & North Thames Fisheries Local Action Group.

EVENTS

FEEL THE LOVE QUIZ NIGHT

The Councillors of Leigh-on-Sea Town Council are working together to put on a Love themed Quiz Night at Leigh Community Centre to raise money for this years Chairman's Charity - Southend YMCA. The quiz will be held on Friday 8th February, and will start at 7.30pm. Doors open from 7pm, tickets will be £5 per person. Teams of a maximum of 8 players, bring your own drink and nibbles! To enter call 01702 716288.

LEIGH FARMERS' MARKETS

Our Christmas Farmers' Market was a great success with 28 stalls attending bringing festive fayre to Leigh-on-Sea. A lucky visitor to the market also won themselves a Christmas Hamper with donated items from every stall. The Market is taking a break this month but will be relaunching from February on the third Friday of every month. 9am - 1pm at Leigh Community Centre. 2019 DATES:

15th February | 15th March | 12th April | 17th May | 21st June | 19th July | 16th August | 20th September | 18th October | 15th November | 21st December

SCHOOL HOLIDAY ACTIVITY PROGRAMME

Leigh Community Centre has an exciting array of "Under the Sea" themed activities coming up over the February half-term, starting Monday 18th February with lots to do for little ones, including puppet shows, arts and crafts and drama workshops. All of our activities are affordable and are a great way to get children to try new things! Full details of our events will be released at the end of January for more information visit our website www.leighcommunitycentre.com.

ANNUAL COMMUNITY MEETING 2019

Put the date in your diary for this year's Annual Community Meeting, which will be held at Leigh Community Centre on Friday 22nd March from 7pm - 8pm. Doors will open at 6.30pm for our community groups displays about their work and activities, our 'Good for Leigh' winners will be announced and we will have an interesting talk from Environment Agency & Anglian Water talking about water quality at Bell Wharf Beach. There will also be a lot of information available about the upcoming elections and most importantly the chance to have your say about issues effecting you in the Town. This is your meeting, don't miss out!

THE 2019 ELECTIONS

Don't forget that 2019 is Election Year at Leigh-on-Sea Town Council. In May, all sixteen Councillor positions will be up for re-election across the 8 wards of Leigh-on-Sea. If you would like to know more about becoming a Councillor with us then please contact the Town Clerk for more information.

Don't forget to keep an eye out on our social media channels, website and in the local press for more information on what the election means for you.

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Town Clerk:
Helen Symmons
Chairman:
Cllr Valerie Morgan