ABOUT TOWN



November/December 2021



Christmas Opening Hours

Town Council Fri 24 Dec

0930-1300 hours
Mon 27 Dec - CLOSED
Tue 28 Dec - CLOSED
Wed 29 Dec
0930-1530 hours
Thur 30 Dec
0930-1530 hours
Fri 31 Dec
0930-1530 hours

Mon 3 Jan - CLOSED From Tue 4 January normal opening hours of 0930-1530 hours resume (0830-1630 hours for telephone enquiries)

TACTIC

CLOSED from Thur 23 December and re-opens on Tue 4 January 2022

MARKET

Fri 24 Dec 0830-1400 hours NO Market on Sat 25 Dec, Sat 1 Jan & Tue 4 Jan 2022

The market will return on Sat 8 Jan 2022

TIME FOR CHANGE?

At its meeting on 27 September 2021, Council resolved that following the declaration of a "Climate Emergency" by the National Association of Local Councils, at its Annual Conference in October 2019 and their excellent Case Studies Report as well as their detailed advice on how councils can take action on climate change, this Council declares a "Climate Emergency" and commits to the activities of this Council being carbon neutral by 2030.

This Council also commits to working with Central Bedfordshire Council in influencing and supporting the wider community of Leighton-Linslade to achieve the government's targets of net zero emissions by 2050. Read about COP26 (United Nations annual climate change conference) on pages 6 and 7.

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Christmas is BACK! - in the High Street!

The Christmas Festival returns from Friday 26 November until Sunday 28 November, with the big 'switch-on' and firework display

taking place at 1900 hours on the Friday evening.

Our festive market kicks off the weekend's festivities on Friday 26 November (1600-2000 hours) with handmade crafts and gifts for loved ones, alongside our festive fun fair and stage programme, featuring local acts and performances before the big switch on. The food court returns to Church Square offering the chance to sample street food from around the world throughout the evening.

Saturday continues with a full Charter Market plus guest stall holders, alongside street music from Sid Bowfin playing Christmas classics. Leighton Fun Runners will be holding their annual Santa Dash starting in Church Square at 1100 hours, where you can marvel at the sight of runners dressed as Santa Claus before they set off on their run before heading back to the High Street for some more fun on

Sunday 28 November

(1100-1500 hours) sees the return of street theatre and a festive market to the High Street with performances throughout the day from the Festive Funnels, Elves and the Goodometer and Ebor'n'Gum with handmade crafts and gifts aplenty. With street food from around the world returning to the High Street for the day and your last chance to ride on the fairground, there's something for everyone throughout the weekend.

The festival is bought to you in partnership with LBFirst, a

not-for-profit organisation representing High Street independent traders and Leighton/ Linslade residents.

* Strike a Pose! *

Throughout December, you will be able to send season's greetings to kith and kin in the form of a family photo under two large scale Christmas motifs. This year these

secured using Welcome Back Funds.

PLEASE NOTE; SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT SHORT NOTICE DUE TO CORONAVIRUS RESTRICTIONS. PLEASE SEE WEBSITE / SOCIAL MEDIA FOR LATEST INFORMATION. YOU SHOULD NOT ATTEND THE CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL IF YOU HAVE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19 OR HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO ISOLATE



Street Theatre and Story Telling

As the nights draw in and our Welcome Back to the High Street campaign moves into the festive season, Ghost Caribou and Ian Marchant will be joining us on Friday 10 December from 1530 - 1915 hours for a spectacular illuminated procession of street theatre and storytelling from a mystical world after dark.

Ghost Caribou's performance includes music, song and shadow puppetry alongside a story of lost homes and impossible migrations before continuing the journey into their hauntingly beautiful dream world of the night.

Performing intermittently between Ghost Caribou's performances is Ian Marchant and his classic vaudeville street show. Like a silent movie from the golden age set to a musical soundtrack. Marvel at his ability to juggle hats or crockery alongside his comic

> escapades, whilst enjoying the after-dark glow which his performance brings through the use of LED lights and illuminated

> > **HM** Government





COUNCIL MEETINGS

All meetings are due to take place in the White House starting at 1930 hours unless otherwise stated. Numbers are restricted to mitigate COVID risks. Please check the Town Council website for latest details and any changes.

NOVEMBER 2021

Mon 01 **Grants Sub Committee**

Mon 15 Policy & Finance Committee

17 Planning & Transport Committee Wed

Thu 18 Older Persons Sub Committee (1000 hours)

29 COUNCIL (Astral Park) Mon

DECEMBER 2021

Thu 02 Market Sub Committee (1030 hours)

Thu 02 Partnership Committee

06 **Grounds & Environmental Services** Mon

Wed 08 Planning & Transport Committee

Mon 13 Cultural & Economic Services

Remembrance Sunday | 14 November

At the time of writing, we hope that this year's Remembrance Sunday parade and service can take place as usual.

However, following the success of last year's live streaming of the events in Church Square, we intend to do the same again this year. This means you can watch from the safety and comfort of your own home if you prefer. For more details, please visit the Town Council website.



Mayor of Leighton-Linslade

Season's Greetings from the Mayor

Welcome to the festive edition of About Town. We hope that this issue will give you some helpful information as well as a run-down of what's happening in the next few weeks.

We would have been looking forward to the Rock of Ages concert, that has traditionally been held in

November, unfortunately the band and choir are not ready to return to the stage yet, but we are in talks to arrange something for the new year.

I know that for many, the run up to the Christmas period truly begins once Remembrance has been marked. We hope that the parade and service will return to normal this year and I look forward to playing a part in the commemorative services this year.

The annual Christmas Festival will take place during the weekend of 26 -28 November. In addition, this year there will also be a charity Christmas market on the 5 December and we are hoping to run a stall for the Mayor's Charities, so please come along and support us. We also look forward to the return of the Mayor's Christmas Carol Concert on Saturday 11 December at All Saints Church,1930 hours. Please keep an eye on the Town Council website and social media

May I take this opportunity to wish everyone a very happy festive season.

Supporting the Mayor's chosen charities:

channels for more detailed information.





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OLDER PEOPLE



"Soon to be launched by digital inclusion charity"

Citizens Online

Are you 55 years or over?

Can't get to grips with your smart phone?

Struggling to get onto Zoom?

Just need a bit of tech know how?

Leighton-Linslade Town Council is funding a FREE technical helpline for residents who are 55 years and over, soon to be launched by Citizens Online.

You'll be able to join face to face workshops and drop-ins too!

For more information and launch details go to: leightonlinslade-tc.gov.uk/55up/technology-helpline





To add a business to the directory, you simply click add listing on the site and follow the process. There is a contact form on there if you have any problems. The website address is:

www.leightonlinsladedirectory.co.uk

Take a look at our website...

What device do you use to visit websites?

Did you know that the Town Council website is optimised for viewing on mobile devices and that it's also one of the top 10% of accessible websites in the parish council sector? If you use a screen reader or text-to-speech app, if you use a keyboard rather than a mouse, or if you need to expand font sizes, you should find our website is very easy to navigate. We try to maximise accessibility of all documents we upload to our website and where this is not possible, we will endeavour to provide them in a different format upon request.

SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY

Small Business, Big Thank You!

You may remember our coverage last year of The Small Business Saturday tour 2020. It was significant for Leighton Buzzard as it was the first time that the campaign had visited our town. Due to Covid19 the tour was solely virtual, but the Small Business Saturday team and our community made the most of it.

We are delighted that Leighton Buzzard is back on the tour map for 2021. The tour is a core part of the Small Business Saturday campaign to engage small businesses, driving awareness and taking the campaign to all regions of the UK.

Following on from the purely digital COVID19 changes in 2020, the 2021 tour will be a hybrid model of digital engagement coupled with tour visits to communities across the UK.

The tour starts on the 1st November in Glasgow and ends on the 1 December in Central London. Stopping at 24 towns throughout the month, the fleet of Small Business Saturday zero emissions vehicles will be visiting Leighton Buzzard High Street on:-

Thursday 25 November between 1000-1400 hrs and we can't wait!

Pre-scheduled visits to small businesses in the town will share stories of community heroics, celebrate the role of small businesses in bringing communities

together and highlight the incredible ways small businesses adapted to get through the crisis.

We will be supporting the visit as part of our Welcome Back to the High Street funded activity helping to spread the word with some additional promotion.

You can follow the campaign on social media by following: #SmallBizSatUK

- //twitter.com/SmallBizSatUK
- www.facebook.com/ SmallBusinessSaturdayUK
- www.instagram.com/ smallbizsatuk/
- smallbusinesssaturdayuk. com/





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Discover your Local HISTORY

Ancient treasures helped secure a living income

Workers in the Leighton
Buzzard quarries who were
often poorly paid in the
Victorian era used to watch

out for fossils.
They were often found

in the clay that had to be removed before the valuable sand underneath could be extracted.

In those days the so-called overburden was shifted by hand in wheelbarrows so the fossils were easily spotted. One of the hobbies of Victorian gentlemen was collecting fossils so finding specimens like the ammonite

above and selling it to a fossil shop was a useful way of supplementing your income. In the 1911 census there were several entries under "occupation" in which householders in Leighton Buzzard area described

described themselves as sand worker/ fossil hunter.



This fossil came from a quarry at Heath and Reach and could be 200 million years old.

For more information visit our website: www.lbdahs.org.uk

What Local HISTORY will you discover in the next issue ...



Teenage Advice & Information

01525 373838



Christmas Gifts for Older People aged 65+

Christmas is not just about opening our presents, it's about opening our hearts and this year TACTIC will be opening their hearts to the Older People of Leighton Linslade Community by presenting them with a goodie bag.

Would like to receive one of our goodie bags?

Then please call us on 01525 373838 with your name, address and contact details.

50 bags are available on a first come first served basis. Don't miss out!!! Goodie bags will be delivered in December.

Merry Christmas from the TACTIC Team!

For more information contact: TACTIC on 01525 373838.





REGISTER YOUR IDEAS WITH US

Electric vehicles and charging thereof, is going to be an issue going forward. It will be particularly important for those who do not have their own drive or who will have to charge while visiting the town. Central Bedfordshire Council is inviting residents to let them know where future charging points will be needed.

Go to our website and register your ideas about locations:

https://www. centralbedfordshire.gov. uk/info/55/transport_ roads_and_parking/580/ electric_vehicles.



LEIGHTON BUZZARD MARKET

Are you a young trader of the future?

The Town Council are committed to supporting the market traders of the future and as such, have set up the YTS to support young

people (age 16-30) to have a trial period of trading on our market.

We are working collaboratively with Young Enterprise and The Prince's Trust, as well as local schools/colleges/

who may be interested. Under the scheme, young traders can trade on the Charter Market for up to one year.



Benefits include:

Vibrant open-air setting, working alongside more experienced traders.

Prime town centre location.

Growing population.

A reduced fee of £15 per pitch (including a gazebo stall already set up).

Free Taster Membership of the NMTF, including Public Liability Insurance, marketing, advice and guidance.



Whether you are self-employed, a small business or an entrepreneur, we would love to hear from you!

universities to

identify people

Join the Market for £15

The Start-Up Pitch initiative provides the platform for creating new market traders. It gives local businesses who have not traded on a market, the opportunity to test the market with a product.



Have you and a mate got different ideas? Share a pitch for only £10 each ... We understand the challenges you may face in supplying or producing stock to fill a full pitch; therefore, we are also offering a 'Share a pitch' option for only £10 each. This needs two interested parties for us to be able to facilitate the share. If you know someone, buddy up and contact us. You can take advantage of this opportunity if your business is based within the prefix of postcode LU7, T's & C's apply.



Charity Market

Sunday 5 December sees the return of our Annual Charity Market, we are currently recruiting for stalls from registered charities and constituted community/voluntary groups. The fee is £12 for a pitch for this speciality market, to be held in the High Street. Please get in touch if you are interested. T's & C's apply.





WHAT IS COP26?

COP stands for Conference of the Parties. It refers to the 2021 edition of the United Nations annual climate change conference. Every year world leaders meet to make important decisions about how humanity tackles climate change. In November the UK will host this year's meeting, the UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow.

It is said that this year's COP26 will be a decisive moment – climate change is a clear and present danger to all people and our planet. The real-world consequences of rising temperatures are already all too visible. COP26 is the biggest summit the UK has ever hosted and is the most significant climate event since COP21, the 2015 United Nations climate conference which resulted in the Paris Agreement.

If you read our September/October newsletter, you may have joined in with sending your message to UN country leaders using the published template. Fairtrade Leighton-Linslade has led with gathering submitted messages and sharing them along with other non-governmental organisations known as NGOs.

One of the Fairtrade standards is the environment:-

While you can't protect the planet without protecting its people first, rigorous Fairtrade Standards support farmers to protect the environment and Fairtrade Premium is enabling them to invest in climate resilience and adaptation

How we live in England impacts on small Fairtrade farmers across the world. This is why COP26 and the agreed actions that come out of the gathering of nations is important.

A CHANGE OF HABITS MAKES FOR A MORE SUSTAINABLE

LIFE

Home

Audit your home and increase insulation where you can. Find out what you can do energysavingtrust.org.uk/

Put on an extra layer of clothes before turning up the heating.

Buy clothes that can be washed at 30 degrees.

Travel

Stop taking those quick trips out in the car, combine your journeys.

Car share, take the bus and sometimes walk instead. It may take a little more planning in the first stages yet once you create the new habit, its second nature.

Leaving the car behind is a great option but not always possible. You can become an efficient driver which helps your own pocket as well as the earth.

energysavingtrust.org.uk/advice/ efficient-driving/

Food

You don't have to become a vegetarian but cutting your intake of meat for one day a week will help the earth. meatfreemondays.com/

Use your fridge and freezer better. Plan your meals to avoid overbuying and wasting. www.lovefoodhatewaste.com/

Buy veg and food items out of plastic wrapping and batch cook your meals.

Voice

Talk to others and find out what they do for good tips and maybe share what you do with others.

Inspire others. Actions can speak louder than words.

Change your energy providers to a green tariff company - make your choices your voice.

BE CURIOUS | LIVE MORE SUSTAINABLY | MAKE A CHANGE



us on our Facebook page - Fairtrade Leighton- Linslade, using the template from the last issue of About Town. We are working with the UK-wide network of Fairtrade communities to get these messages to Glasgow for COP26 in November".

It really is possible to be a part of making a difference to climate issues. Small individual steps do make a difference and you can contribute to a better future for all. Consider implementing changes in habits for a more sustainable life (see illustration on opposite page).

Community Energy Leighton-Linslade (CELL)

Are you a community organisation aiming to make energy use changes?



To tackle climate change, action needs to take place from National, to local to individual level. One group supporting energy initiatives at a local level is Community Energy Leighton-Linslade (CELL), a group that received

seed funding from the Town Council and whose aim is to work with local and community organisations who are looking to reduce their energy related carbon footprint.

FOLLOW US ON: Community Energy Leighton-Linslade

citizens advice

Citizens Advice Leighton Linslade has been supporting residents in Leighton Buzzard and the surrounding areas for more than 45 years. Over 50 volunteers have been trained to offer free, impartial and confidential advice to whoever needs it, whatever their problem. They are ably supported by 6 paid staff who ensure that any advice given is of a high quality and meets nationally accredited standards.

How can I get help?

You can ring us on 01525 373878 or 01525 374589. Our volunteer advisers are available Monday to Thursday 1000-1300 and 1400-1600 hrs and Friday 1000-1300 hrs. We have an answerphone to take messages and aim to call you back in the next advice session if possible. We also have an online enquiry form on our website here: www.leightonlinsladecab.org.uk/get-advice/email-us/. Due to continuing Covid restrictions our office is not suitable to see clients, but we hope to be able to in the future.

What sort of problems can you help me with?

We try to help you with whatever problem you might be facing, our volunteer advisers are trained to answer queries about Benefits, Employment, Debt/Money, Consumer, Housing, Family, Immigration and Health issues. We also have a great deal of resources through our partnerships with other agencies.

Are you a Government Agency or connected to the Government in any way?

No. We are an independent Charity with no links to any government agencies like the DWP or HMRC. Our advice is totally confidential and we will never pass on any information to another party without your express permission.

Are your offices in different areas all connected?

Every Citizens Advice office operates as a separate independent charity in terms of their day to day running and financial affairs. We are all part of a National membership organisation so we share resources and our case management system. That means that if, for example, you move to a different area and need our help with an ongoing problem, your local office will be able to see what you told us so you don't have to start all over again.

Steve's Story - a local client's journey

Steve came to us during the pandemic because he'd lost his selfemployed income as a taxi driver and needed help. We helped him over the telephone to claim Universal Credit and made a referral to the Food Bank so he could get some much needed groceries for himself and his family. Whilst speaking to Steve, our adviser asked if he needed any help with debt/money and Steve told us that he and his family were having to ration hot water and heat because they could not afford to top up the meter. When they did have money to top up, most of it was going towards the arrears. We helped Steve get in touch with his energy provider and ask them to reduce the repayment of the arrears. Steve has continued to ring us when he needs help with other issues, like budgeting and help with debt.

Steve's story shows how our advisers can move seamlessly from one problem to another Contact us on: making sure that we give a

01525 373878 or 01525 374589

truly all-round service.

MEET YOUR TOWN COUNCILLORS







RARNARAS Cllr Mark Freeman Independent Tel: 01525 379216 Mark.Freeman@ leightonlinslade-tc gov uk



BARNARAS Cllr Russ Goodchild leightonlinslade-tc gov uk



BARNABAS Liberal Democra Tel: 07973 318383 Steve.Owen@ leightonlinslade-tc.gov.uk



LANDS Conservative Tel: 01525 375308 Dave.Bowater@ leightonlinslade-tc.gov.uk



Cllr Amanda Dodwell Tel: 01525 378418 leightonlinslade-tc.gov.uk



GROVEBURY Tel: 07476 868787 Robert.Yates@ leightonlinslade-tc.gov.uk



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PLANETS Cllr Stephen Jones Tel: 01525 631874 Steve.Jones tonlinslade-tc.gov.uk



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PLANTATION
Cllr Tony Morris (Deputy Mayor)
Conservative Conservative Tel: 07956 311450 Tony.Morris@ leightonlinslade-tc.gov.uk



PLANTATION Cllr Brian Spurr Tel: 0300 300 8558 Brian.Spurr@ leightonlinslade-tc.gov.uk



LESTON Cllr Victoria Harvey Independent Tel: 07815 817108



ST GEORGE'S Cllr Pat Carberry Labour Tel: 07801 575346



ST GEORGE'S Labour Tel: 01525 370695 Daniel.Scott@ leightonlinslade-tc.gov.uk



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SOUTHCOTT Conservative Tel: 01525 371204 Gordon.Perham@ leightonlinslade-tc.gov.uk



SOUTHCOTT Cllr Peter Snelling Liberal Democrat Tel: 01525 376760 Peter.Snelling@ leightonlinslade-tc.gov.uk

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EDITORIAL DEADLINES 2022

Jan/Feb 2022 (Mon 15 Nov) March/April 2022 (Mon 24 Jan) We reserve the right to review pricing. For more information contact Vivien Cannon on 01525 631924.

You can pick up a copy of About Town from any of these main locations:

Aldi (Vimy Rd), Iceland, Library Theatre, Multi Storey Car Park, Tesco and Train Station





Leighton-Linslade Town Council is responsible for:



- Allotments
- Cemeteries
- **Christmas Illuminations**
- Community Events & Promotions
- **Grants to Voluntary Organisations**
- Markets
- · Parks and Open Spaces
- Pavilions-Astral Park, Pages Park, Linslade Memorial Pavilion
- TACTIC-Teenage Advice & **Information Centre**
- Multi-Storey Car Park Toilets

Central Bedfordshire Council is responsible for:



- Community Safety
- · Health & Social Care Education
- Housing
- Homelessness
- Planning
- Leisure & Countryside
- Waste & Recycling
- Transport, Roads & Parking

We welcome your



We welcome your feedback on the services we provide. Please email any comments you may have to: info@leightonlinslade-tc.gov.uk



Whilst every effort has been taken to provide accurate information, the Council does not accept any liability for error or omission for information on services it is not directly responsible for. The Town Council does not necessarily endorse any business using advertising space.

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