

ABOUT TOWN Sept-Oct 2023 EDITION

Introduction

Hello, welcome to our September/October edition of About Town, in this issue we highlight the wonderful work our grounds team do, with the achievement of 3 green flag awards. Inside you will also find an article from one of our work experience students, we are so glad that it was an enjoyable experience here at The White House.

Community Champions

Do you know someone who quietly gives their time to benefit the local community? If they have volunteered for over 5 years, they could be eligible to receive a Community Volunteer Award. You can find more information and how to make a nomination on our website (deadline is Tuesday 31 October). Up to three 2024 awards will be presented at the Mayor's Civic Service in February 2024.

Mayor's News

It's hard to believe I am nearly a third of the way through my year as Town Mayor already. After a packed summer of community events and engagements, I am now looking forward to the weeks ahead. Having held my first two charity fundraising events in July and August, we are now well on the way towards raising much needed funds for KidsOut, the All Saints Preservation Trust and the Leighton-Linslade Homeless Service which provides the community food bank.

My next event will be a Ceilidh on Saturday, 7 October which promises to be great fun. Why not come along for some great music and dancing? To find out more visit the Town Council website.

SAVE THE DATES!

Rock of Ages Concert 25 November.

Christmas Carol Concert 09 December.

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COUNCIL MEETINGS

All meetings take place at the White House commencing at 1930 hours unless otherwise stated. Please check our website for any changes and for meeting agendas.

SEPTEMBER 2023

- Mon 04 Grounds & Environmental Services
- Mon 11 Cultural & Economic Services
- Wed 13 Partnership Committee
- Mon 18 Policy & Finance Committee
- Wed 20 Planning & Transport Committee
- Mon 25 COUNCIL (Astral Park)

OCTOBER 2023

- Mon 09 Personnel Sub Committee
- Wed 11 Planning & Transport Committee
- Mon 16 Community Safety Sub

GRANTS

The deadline for local charity, community and not-for-profit organisations to apply for grant funding of up to £500 is Friday 20 October. Check our website for guidance notes and application forms.

Community Events

Last Night of the Proms, Saturday 9 September

Celebrating the best of British and concluding our Music in the Park concerts for 2023, Proms in the Park decorates the Bandstand in Parson's Close Recreation Ground Red, White & Blue for the evening. Starting from 1900 hours with a live musical performance from Milton Keynes Brass, the event will also show the Last Night of the Proms Live from the Royal Albert Hall in London.

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Last Night of the Proms is the perfect opportunity to meet with friends, family and loved ones for an evening of Pomp and Circumstance, Rule Britannia and some classic sea shanty sing-alongs, followed by a live firework finale (subject to weather conditions).

[Films in the Park - Saturday 9 September](#)

Taking place in Parson's Close Recreation Ground and suitable for the whole family.

This year's films have been chosen by a poll on our Facebook page and we will be screening The Super Mario Bros. Movie at 1200 noon and Matilda The Musical at 1400 hours while the splash and play, adventure playground, beach and Parson's Close Kiosk will all be open for visitors to enjoy throughout the films.

[Back in July thousands enjoyed a spectacular day attending the Linslade Canal Festival and positive feedback was received.](#)

"Please pass on my thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make the Canal Festival such a successful and enjoyable event."

"We realise organising festivals in the current climate is difficult and applaud your Council's decision to hold the festival when so many others have been cancelled."

[Neighbourhood Plan](#)

Many residents will be aware that towns and villages across the country have been developing Neighbourhood Plans. Why? Well, a Neighbourhood Plan has weight as a statutory planning document and therefore must be taken into account by the local planning authority when determining applications for development. Plans can cover all or part of a parish and may contain a range of policies in respect of housing, employment, design, heritage and transport. A Plan may include specific site allocations for housing, designate green areas as Local Green Spaces and could include a design code for the architecture of new buildings, particularly in a historic environment.

In June 2023, the newly elected Town Council decided to pursue the development of a Neighbourhood Plan and since that time, has been undertaking scoping work to

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ascertain the likely scale and content of a future plan. This initial work is necessary to determine the anticipated costs and the resources which will be required to complete the project.

The council is keen to work with the community to create a vision, underpinned by clear policies, for any future growth in our town. We will be bringing you regular updates and invitations to get involved in About Town, but you can also find out more by following us on social media or keeping an eye on our website. We want to know your thoughts about the town and we will need your help to develop the aims, proposals and policies which will form the content of the Leighton-Linslade Neighbourhood Plan.

Green News

Leighton-Linslade Town Council has once again secured green flag awards for Vandyke Cemetery, Pages Park and Parson's Close Recreation Ground.

The summaries for each area acknowledged how well managed and maintained all the areas were and how professional the approach to the maintenance was by the Town Council's Grounds Team.

The installation of the new play area at Parson's Close Recreation Ground was noted as a fantastic addition to the site and provides the 'wow' factor for users.

The summaries for each area recommended a review of how the Town Council will manage its greenspaces in the future so that it can better deliver its aspirations to support the green agenda, biodiversity and address climate change. It was acknowledged that there is a Team in place that can help deliver these objectives.

For Vandyke Cemetery the summary noted that there was potential to provide more habitat opportunities as well as developing a wider understanding of the role of cemeteries within the community as places of reflection and sharing.

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The Town Council is rightly proud of its achievement retaining Green Flag status at these prestigious sites and will continue to deliver a high standard of maintenance to all the areas it is responsible for delivered by its highly professional Grounds Team.

The opportunities to deliver the green agenda is a very exciting opportunity and something the Town Council has fully embraced.

[My week as a year 12 student from Vandyke having work experience at the Town Council.](#)

This past week has taught me so much and I'm grateful to the officers of the Council for accommodating me and being so welcoming. As I entered the White House on my first day of work experience I was nervous but also very excited. I spent my week learning about the roles in each of the departments and understanding how everyday aspects of the town are run.

I started off the week with a tour around all Council run parks and the buildings they hire out, learning about the spaces the Council provides that help locally run community groups. Also learning the ins and outs of allotments, and understanding the process of acquiring one. I then learnt about the 55up scheme where I was able to help compile data from surveys asking for people's opinions on ways to improve our community from the point of view of people over 55. I enjoyed this as it helped me be able to see our town differently, not just from the point of view of a 17 year old sixth form student. I then got to understand the running of the councillors committees and meetings and the roles that officers play in informing and working under the councillors. I've learnt that a large part of being an officer at the White House is justification- as you use public money for the running of public services you have to justify each of your actions in the way you spend the money. This is then overseen by Councillors on top of their decision making responsibilities. I've also discovered a lot about the running of social media for the Council and the market. This interested me greatly as I was able to help and I felt that each person I worked under really listened and valued my advice which has been another great benefit about being able to experience work life here. I also got the opportunity to visit the youth centre TACTIC and be part of their Chatty Cafe group where

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I was able to talk to people I wouldn't normally see in my everyday and gain advice from others - I found a big part of my week here has been listening to others which I feel has broadened my understanding of the community in Leighton Buzzard and makes me feel more welcome in my own home town. I was also able to help in Canal Festival prep, learn about finance, understand the running of the market, the role of the Mayor and asked for my input of how Leighton Town Council can facilitate people of ages 17-25. Overall it's been a very informative week finishing it off with meeting Councillor Goodchild, so thank you for this opportunity Leighton-Linslade Town Council.

BOX RELEASE

Following our summer break, this popular activity will re-commence on Thursday 21 September at Pages Park.

These sessions aim to improve discipline, self-esteem and resilience, which better equip young people to manage life challenges and positively impact on their interactions with their peers, school, family and community. It is based on the premise that this kind of programme can be effective in reducing antisocial behaviour by improving young people's health and wellbeing, educational attainment and social situations.

Supported by Leighton Town Boxing Club, the sessions are supported by a Lead sports coach to teach skills and techniques in a fun way whilst encouraging teamwork.

Sessions are FREE and run weekly from 1700 hours until 1800 hours.

DON'T MISS OUT! PLACES ARE LIMITED!

To reserve a place or for more details please contact TACTIC on 01525 373838 or email: tactic@leightonlinslade-tc.gov.uk.

VINTAGE MARKET HAILED A SUCCESS!

We were delighted that our first Vintage Market was a success in July and are looking forward to hosting the next one on Saturday 30 September. Join us for a good selection of vintage and retro homewares, clothes, accessories, collectables and rare finds.

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We are building a database of vintage sellers and will be inviting more to join us, with no requirement to come to each one, so if you're interested in trying us out, get in touch!

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

LAUNCH EVENT, Saturday 7 October 1200 - 1500 hours

Opening remarks by Mayor Kevin Pughe and Ken Breinburg. Information about events being held throughout October.

Venue: Leighton Buzzard Library Theatre lounge area (1st floor), lift access. Light refreshments available: Caribbean snacks tea & coffee/cold drinks.

During October: African Nights

- Afrobeats Music, Afro-Caribbean Food, African's Beauty Nuggets (tbc).
- Crooked Crow bar- food and music.
- Ollie V's Bar- music and food.
- Tuesday Market stall - Kelon George & Gavin Myers.

Other Events Planned

- Saturday 14 October: Day Workshop "The Scramble for Africa"- led by Ken Breinburg. Venue: Southcott Community Centre.
- Wednesdays 11, 18, 25 October: 1900 - 2130 hours (2 hour group learning sessions) led by Ken Breinburg, Gavin Myers & others. (tbc) Venue: Meeting Room 4 with kitchen upstairs in the Library building.
- Saturday 21 October: 1200 noon - 1400 hours. A workshop for white people on "The Importance of Tackling Racism in a Climate Crisis" facilitated by Christine Sheppard & Sam Silverlock. Venue: Lounge of the Library Theatre.

COUNCIL SERVICES

Leighton-Linslade Town Council Tel: 01525 631920

Allotments

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Cemeteries

Christmas Illuminations

Community Events & Promotions

Grants to Voluntary Organisations

Markets

Multi-Storey Car Park Toilets

Parks and Open Spaces

Pavilions - Astral Park, Pages Park, Linslade Memorial Pavilion

TACTIC Teenage Advice & Information Centre

[Central Bedfordshire Council Tel: 0300 300 8031](tel:03003008031)

Community Safety

Education

Health & Social Care

Housing

Homelessness

Leisure & Countryside

Planning

Transport, Roads & Parking

Waste & Recycling

[You can pick up a copy of About Town from any of these main locations:](#)

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

Please visit our website for a full list of locations.

[Advertise your business with Us!](#)

PRICING GUIDELINES

1/8 page 8.7 x 6cm (landscape) £32.87 + VAT

1/4 page 8.7 x 12.7cm (portrait) £54.81 + VAT

1/2 page 18 x 12.7cm (landscape) £86.94 + VAT

Full page 21 x 29.7cm £175.23 + VAT

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EDITORIAL DEADLINE for November/December 2023 - (Friday 22 September). For more information contact: 01525 631915. We reserve the right to review pricing.

ADVERTS

Free Flow is a company based in Linslade. Offering a complete drainage service for blocked drains, drain jetting, camera inspections, and excavation and repair. 24hour emergency drain clearance. Telephone 01582 634070 or mobile 07928 652013. Email freeflowmk@gmail.com

Austin & Carnley - Solicitors based in Leighton Buzzard providing CONVEYANCING, COMMERCIAL, CRIMINAL DEFENCE,- EMPLOYMENT, FAMILY- LITIGATION - PRIVATE CLIENT. Telephone 01525 372140.

Home Instead – Care Professional company based in Luton offering respite and short break care, long term care, live in care and dementia care. Telephone 01582 742275

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