

ABOUT TOWN Nov-Dec 2023 EDITION

Introduction

In this issue of About Town, we're embracing the festive spirit as we gear up for our Christmas Event, running from 24 - 26 November. It's a cherished yearly tradition that illuminates our High Street with the glow of Christmas lights and sets the stage for live music and spectacular fireworks. While the event is typically bustling, let's not forget the importance of supporting our local shops on the High Street throughout December as you shop for Christmas. Our community boasts a wonderful array of independent stores that could use our support during these times.

With the New Year approaching, it is time for About Town to get a new look and feel. The newsletter will now be distributed to homes in the parish to keep residents up to date with community initiatives, town council news and all things Leighton-Linslade, we look forward to receiving your feedback on the publication going forward.

Mayor's News

As we enter November, our thoughts turn to Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday, providing an opportunity to remember and honour those who served and gave their lives to protect our freedoms. Please see inside this edition for more details of this year's Remembrance Sunday programme.

At the end of the month, the annual Christmas Festival takes place (see opposite page) and I look forward to seeing many of you there for the official lights switch-on, fireworks display, stalls and entertainment. This is always a fantastic start to the run-up to Christmas. Don't forget to shop local for those all-important Christmas gifts. You can find the town centre shopping directory on the Town Council website.

In terms of charity fundraising, the Rock of Ages Concert takes place at the Hockliffe Street Baptist Church on Saturday 25 November at 19:30 hours. This is a free event and no ticket is required but there will be a retiring collection for this year's charities. A

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Christmas Carol Concert will be held at All Saints Church on Saturday 9 December at 19:00 hours and this is also free and unticketed.

May I end by wishing you and your loved ones a happy and healthy festive season.

SAVE THE DATES!

Rock of Ages Concert 25 November.

Christmas Carol Concert 09 December.

COUNCIL MEETINGS

All meetings take place at the White House commencing at 19:30 hours unless otherwise stated. Please check our website for any changes and for meeting agendas.

NOVEMBER 2023

Wed	01	Planning & Transport Committee
Mon	06	Grants Sub Committee
Fri	17	Market Sub Committee (10:00 hours)
Mon	13	Policy & Finance Committee
Thur	16	Older Persons Sub Committee (10:00 hours)
Wed	22	Planning & Transport Committee
Mon	27	COUNCIL (Astral Park)

DECEMBER 2023

Mon	04	Grounds & Environmental Services
Thur	07	Partnership Committee
Mon	11	Cultural & Economic Services
Wed	13	Planning & Transport Committee

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COMMUNITY EVENTS

Christmas Festival to light-up the High Street

24 - 26 NOVEMBER

Our Christmas Festival Weekend kicks off the festive season in Leighton-Linslade and runs from Friday 24 – Sunday 26 November in the High Street.

On Friday evening from 16:00 hours onwards our festive market featuring handmade crafts and gifts, funfair and a stage programme packed full of local acts and performances, provides something for everyone before and after the switch on ceremony and fireworks display at 19:00 hours. The festive food-court in Church Square includes freshly made hot street food, perfect for a winters evening and our elves begin their long weekend of cheekiness.

On Saturday, the Leighton Fun Runners Santa Dash will take place from Parson's Close Recreation Ground with hundreds of Santas charging through the streets of Leighton-Linslade. Our festive markets continue with the Charter Market taking place alongside the Handmade and Craft Market who will be joined by Sparky The Robot and local performing groups bringing some festive cheer to the Town Centre.

From 11:00 hours on Sunday, our festive shopping opportunities are back on the high street, perfect for those looking for a unique gift for that loved one. There will also be performances from Wendy Sings & LSJ Trio, while Sami Sleigh, Lairy Fairy & The Christmas Puddings alongside some naughty Sofa Driving Santas will fill the market with the sounds of laughter, mischief and mayhem. There's also the opportunity to purchase hot food and drink, with a last chance to visit the funfair in the Town Centre.

CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL FEATURING

- Christmas Market
- Food Court
- Fun Fair
- Santa's Grotto
- Razzamataz
- Leighton Buzzard Children's Theatre

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- Glee Club
- Rhubarb Party Band
- LSJ Trio
- Wendy Sings
- Leighton-Linslade Concert Band
- Sparky the Robot
- Sami Sleigh
- Sofa Driving Santas
- Lairy Fairy & The Christmas Puddings

Visit our website or follow our social media channels for more information on timings.

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YOUR NEW LOOK ABOUT TOWN IS COMING!

Distribution

Exciting news! From Spring of next year About Town will be delivered straight to your doorstep! We're sending out our newsletter to every household in the parish of Leighton-Linslade, so you'll never miss out on the latest Town Council and Community news, keeping you connected and informed about important developments and events.

How Many Issues?

Mark your calendars and stay tuned for the publication dates! It's going to be an incredible year of community news with Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter editions planned and we're also expanding from 8 to 12 pages.

New Feature! What's-On for Children/Older People

'Get ready' as we will bring you a selection of activities and events that are being organised in and around the town for young and older people alike to enjoy.

Got any Good News Stories?

Each issue will feature a story from our amazing community. Do you, your group or school have an awesome community story to share? Get in touch by emailing louise.salmon@leightonlinslade-tc.gov.uk.

High Street News

Stay in the loop with our Town Centre News. From shiny new shops to beloved old haunts, we've got them all covered. Plus, get the latest buzz on our Award-winning Charter Market!

ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS WITH US!

Contact us to discuss your advertising requirements.

Email: linda.wallis@leightonlinslade-tc.gov.uk.

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Volunteer and Help Your Community

Community Speed Watch is a scheme to help people reduce traffic speeding through their neighbourhood and enables volunteers to work within the parish to raise awareness of the dangers of speeding and to help control the problem locally.

Contact: WatchSchemes@beds.police.uk or telephone 07590 449815 for more info.

UPDATE ON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

At its meeting on 25 September, the Council appointed consultants Oneill Homer to help us with scoping work on a Neighbourhood Plan.

The scoping work will aim to make recommendations on the designated neighbourhood area, policy areas to be included and likely timescales and resources needed to undertake the plan development.

A Neighbourhood Plan page has now been set up on the Council website and you can keep up to date on latest news there.

Fancy a Movie?

Have you heard about the Movies for the More Mature film club? Leighton Buzzard Library Theatre, supported by the Town Council, offer discounted movie tickets for residents of the Parish who are aged 55 or over. Showings take place on Wednesday afternoons and include free refreshments!

Membership to the scheme is free! All you need to do is visit the Town Council Offices on Hockliffe Street; opening hours Monday-Friday between 09:30-15:30 hours with evidence of age (eg. passport) and address (eg. utility bill).

To book tickets and browse upcoming movies, you can book online at centralbedfordshire.ticketsolve.com/ticketbooth/shows or scan the QR code. Look for the 'MMM' icon to find Movies for the More Mature film club listings.

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Visit the Box Office at Leighton Buzzard Library Theatre, which is open on Tuesdays 10:00-15:00 hours. Phone the Box Office between Monday and Saturday 12:00-15:00 hours on 0300 300 8125. Please note that this number will take you through to the Grove Theatre Box Office, where they will be able to process bookings for Leighton Buzzard Library Theatre.

Do you need help with technology?

If you're looking for someone to help you with technology – whether that's arranging for video calls at Christmas, doing your festive shopping online or finding out how to access online services – why not get in touch with Citizens Online? Our friendly volunteer Digital Champions can provide advice over the telephone or meet you in a Town Centre location to help. We may even be able to help you source a loan device or internet connectivity. To make contact, just call 0808 196 5883.

Looking for something FUN to do on a crisp, sunny winter's day?

Wrap up warm, put on your gloves, grab a pencil and take a brisk walk into town to complete our family-friendly Living History Trail.

Pick up the new Living History Trail workbook and see if you can follow the trail around town, filling in the sheet as you go. There are 12 stops on the trail to find, with each stop opening a little door into the lives of the people who once lived and worked in Leighton Buzzard.

The trail will have you looking for swans, gargoyles, shadows, numbers and boot scrapers! It's a great way to develop imagination and conversation as you explore the town.

Collect your workbook from the Library or Town Council offices at the White House, then use the map on the back (and the blue plaques on the floor) to navigate around the town.

For additional images and audio to support the trail, download the Buzzard Trails App.

For further information about all our trails, visit:
www.leightonlinlade-tc.gov.uk/buzzard-trails

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Older Persons Christmas Meal - 19 December

It's that time again ... and TACTIC will be delivering their annual Christmas Meal for the local residents of Leighton-Linslade on Tuesday 19 December at Astral Park (12:00 – 14:30) hours. While Christmas is promoted as a time of family togetherness, for some the chance to spend some time eating and socialising can be more precious to someone who lives alone, than you may realise. A traditional 3 course meal all cooked by a professional chef and presented by the TACTIC staff and young people volunteers. Relax, enjoy the festivities and join in our quiz and sing-along to round off the afternoon. We understand Santa will be paying us a visit during the afternoon and the 'Rock of Ages' choir will provide some tuneful Christmas melodies, as well as helping with our raffle. Socialise, meet new people, sing a long and chat to our young people volunteers.

If you're 65+ or over, why not come along? It's Completely Free!

Spaces are limited so please contact Sash at TACTIC on 01525-373838 to reserve your place or email: sasha.king@leightonlinslade-tc.gov.uk

Feeling adventurous?

Then why not try your hand at running a market stall.

The picturesque medieval High Street provides a diverse selection of independent and High Street branded shops. A cornucopia that market traders fit into very well. Access to the High Street is reduced to accommodate the twice weekly thriving Charter Market (Tuesday and Saturday).

The market attracts visitors from beyond the Parish due to its range of products, regularity of trading and a town centre directly accessible by foot, car or bus. So there's never been a better time to start trading on our market.

Competitive pitch fees, including special Start-up Pitches from only £15 including gazebo, table, refuse collection & parking.

Interested? Then don't delay call the Market Manager on 07812 088116 or email: Markets@leightonlinslade-tc.gov.uk

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COST OF LIVING CRISIS.

HERE TO HELP ...

Do you need help with rising costs of living? For free, confidential advice please contact Citizens Advice Leighton-Linslade on 01525 374589 or visit their website. You can also find sources of information and support on the Central Bedfordshire Council website: www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/165/support_with_the_cost_of_living.

The Town Council is pleased to be working with local groups and organisations to help support initiatives such as warm spaces this winter. If you are part of a group or organisation providing additional community support this winter, you may be eligible for town council grant funding. Find out more on our website: www.leightonlinslade-tc.gov.uk/grants-and-awards.

REMEMBRANCE

This year's Remembrance Sunday parade and service will take place on 12 November, with the parade leaving Lake Street at around 10:35 hours, followed by the formal wreath laying and blessing in Church Square from 11:00 hours. A service inside All Saints Church will follow, to which all are warmly invited to attend. The ceremony will be live-streamed for those unable to attend in person.

Following on, an act of Remembrance will take place at the Linslade War Memorial at 12:45 hours. This will be recorded and made available online afterwards.

The Town Council would like to thank the local residents who have donated knitted and crocheted poppies this year. We are delighted to be able to build on last year's display which was so well received by our community. Watch out for the poppy display on the River Ouzel bridge and in Linslade Garden of Remembrance for the days leading up to Remembrance Sunday.

COUNCIL SERVICES

[Leighton-Linslade Town Council Tel: 01525 631920](tel:01525631920)

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](#)

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.

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.

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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

AW Energy - We are a Renewable Energy and Land Development business, based in Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire. Find a Kemsley Drive EV Charging Station located off Lawson Road, (Near the Co-Op) Leighton Buzzard, LU7 3RG

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