

May Day Fayre



MONDAY 5TH MAY 2025
10:00am - 4:00pm

Leighton Linlade
Rotary



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President's Message

A warm welcome to the Rotary Club of Leighton Linslade's 36th May Fayre.

This event is eagerly anticipated every year where the townspeople enjoy the fun and entertainment it provides.

This year will be no exception. You can see all the activities in this Programme, including schedules for entertainment at the Market Cross and, in the Recreation area next to Pulfords School, we have exciting performers including Medieval Knights, Dangerous Steve, the Royal British Legion Band and Pulfords School Maypole dancing.

I must say a big thank you to you, the people of Leighton Linslade for your continuing support. I would also like to extend my thanks to the Town Council, who always provide unwavering support for so much of what we do. Over the last year, we have had great success with our Laser Light Show, the Christmas Santa float, Carols in the High St and, more recently, the Seniors Tea Party. As a result of these events, and other activities, we've been able to donate over £55,000, mainly locally, to a range of good causes. We have distributed these funds to around 50 different organisations and charities including continued support to the food banks in town.

Our ongoing initiative Yes We Can, which provides inclusive sports, goes from strength to strength. It is now in its 8th year and are now up to 9 different sports. It provides opportunities for people with mental and physical health challenges and is the largest of its kind in Bedfordshire.

My chosen charity this year is Reclaim Life, located in town. It is all too clear that mental health has become a huge problem in our society. This Charity is successful in providing help to people with all sorts of mental health challenges. Consequently, the money raised from our 'Brains of Leighton Quiz' this year has been donated to them so they can assist and support Cedars School in helping children with mental health difficulties.

We have also bought 5 trauma/bleed kits and the Council have kindly agreed to install the bright red cabinets and contents in key locations in the town, hopefully never to be used, but can save lives if they are.

Another objective for this year is to run a Prostate Cancer screening event and we are pleased that this will take place on 7th June at the RBL Club for up to 250 men. This again could help to save lives. Our Facebook page gives more information on this.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow Rotarians who work so hard throughout the year to bring enjoyment, entertainment and support to the community of Leighton Linslade.

I look forward to seeing you all at the May Fayre from 10.00am Monday 5th May.

With best wishes,

Steve Bigrave

President, Rotary Club of Leighton Linslade

Leighton-Linslade CHILDREN'S TRAIL



Try the trail today!

The Leighton-Linslade Children's Trail is a public trail of 22 artworks celebrating children's stories. The trail has become a popular activity for families to do during the school holidays and weekends.



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The Curiosity Spotter - COMING SOON!

Our town is full of interesting and unusual historical objects, so we're making a new activity map that will guide you past some of the town centres more unusual features.

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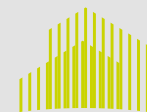
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A Day in the Life of the Leighton-Linslade Town Mayor



It is my great honour and privilege to serve our community as Mayor, not least to be invited by the Leighton Linslade Rotary Club to be a member of the party opening the May Fayre 2025.

Firstly, my official role is Chairman of Leighton-Linslade Town Council. This means I Chair meetings of the full Council of 21 Ward members, including myself every other month, although we have had a couple of extraordinary meetings since last May to discuss specific items which needed the focused attention of members of the Town Council such as the instigation of our Neighbourhood Plan.

Another part of my role is to find ways of fundraising for my nominated charities. This Mayoral year I have taken the slightly unconventional approach of choosing eight local voluntary groups: Reclaim Life, Citizens Advice Leighton-Linslade, Spectrum Community Arts, Freddie & Friends, MS Support Group for Leighton-Linslade, Hospice at Home, Macmillan Leighton-Linslade and Yes we Can. By a happy coincidence several of these are also the nominated charities of the Rotary Club, so we have been able to work closely together to share ideas and boost the profile of the groups more than usual. My own fundraisers have included organising dinners, an auction, a quiz, a Musical Bingo evening, the Spring Fair at Pages Park a Christmas Carol evening and Civic Service at All Saints Church and several other events. Of course, none of them would be as successful as they have been without the support of local residents, the organisations themselves and the fantastic support of Town Council Officers and Councillors. Particular highlights were going out with Rotary's Santa Float and knocking on doors to collect money for Reclaim Life – great fun and very successful, as was Rotary's Laser Light Show for bonfire night. Speaking of Christmas, I attended 10 Carol services and several other Christmas events, including the Christmas Lights Switch-On on the High Street.

As Mayor, I am often invited to visit schools, care homes and Town Council events such as Pride, the Big Lunch and at commemorative events such as Remembrance Sunday. In 2024 I was also humbled to be asked to lay wreaths at both Leighton Buzzard's and Linslade's War Memorials to remember the D-Day Landings of 1944 during WWII. This coming Thursday, the 8th of May, I will be helping the Royal British Legion of Leighton-Linslade to mark the 80th anniversary of the end of WWII in Europe at a ceremony at the Beacon in Parsons Close. I am also delighted to have opened several new businesses in the Town and to have helped others celebrate significant milestones in their history.

So being Mayor is packed full of events and responsibilities, of which opening the Rotary Club's Spring Fair today will be yet another highlight – I hope you and yours have a fantastic day and help Rotary to raise lots of money for local charities.

Cllr David Bligh

Leighton-Linslade Town Mayor



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- 08 Jun Bedford Brass
- 15 Jun Watford Band
- 22 Jun Winslow Concert Band
- 29 Jun Leighton-Linslade Concert Band
- 06 Jul Bradwell Silver Band
- 13 Jul Toddington Town Band
- 20 Jul Olney Brass
- 27 Jul Bedford Town Concert Brass
- 03 Aug Woburn Jazz Big Band
- 10 Aug The Heath Band
- 17 Aug Chinnor Silver Band
- 24 Aug Jazz Town
- 31 Aug Mainline Big Band
- 07 Sep Bedfordshire Band of the Royal British Legion

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Over 30 years of history Leighton Linlade May Day Fayre

Leighton's first May Day Fayre was held on 7 May 1989.
It marked the rebuilding and reconsecration of All Saints Church following the fire four years earlier.

A committee was formed partly of members of the church council and a couple of volunteers from Leighton Linlade Rotary Club. A past president, John Bowl, liked the idea and took up the reins.

Our first Fayre was a modest one by today's standards. But it set a precedent for the town to come together and for charities to engage with people and make some money.

There were a few kiddie rides provided by Tom Smith and Pulfords School performed the now traditional May Pole Dance.

That particular year it coincided with The Wilkes Walk where a procession passes from the Church to the Alms Houses and a choir boy or girl is stood on his or her head whilst the will of Edward Wilkes is read.

All Saints Church



The Wilkes Walk



1920s Gargoyle

Edward Wilkes was the benefactor that had the houses built.

It was thought that it would be a good idea to run one the following year and John Bowl was able to persuade the Rotary Club to adopt it.

Thirty of more years on it is a much larger event and now fills the High Street and Parsons Close Recreation Ground. It is now much anticipated by the people of our town.

All Saints Church fire



Leighton Buzzard High Street



Pullford's School Maypole Dance



PAY A VISIT

If you have recently moved here - put the date (5 May) in your diary and pay a visit. A glance through this programme should persuade you!

MISSED OUT ON BEING IN THE PROGRAMME?

Let us know for next time! Become a Friend of the Rotary and support us in your own way.

enquiry@leightonlinladerotsry.com



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Q: How does it work?

A: You bring your own containers, weigh them empty, fill them with the products you need, and then weigh them again. You pay for the product based on the weight minus the container's weight.

Q: What types of containers can I use?

A: You can use any container that works for you! Make sure they have a secure lid to avoid spills. Refilling your washing up bottle or laundry bottle is a great way to start! We also have free containers to use in store, and you can buy paper bags for 5p.

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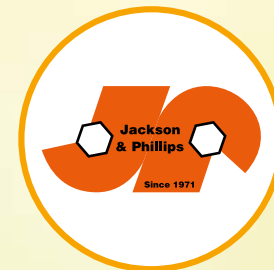


A BIG Thank You

The Leighton Linslade Rotary Club extends its sincere thanks to the following local companies who have sponsored the event safety and security staff present at the May Day Fayre today.

As a community we look out for each other but sometimes we need a bit of help to make these events safe and secure for everyone.

A special thanks to Jackson & Phillips for sponsoring the Main Arena in Parson's Close Recreation Ground.



Please also show your appreciation for all of the local companies who support this great event by advertising in the programme.

MISSED OUT ON BEING IN THE PROGRAMME?

Let us know for next time! enquiry@leightonlinsladerotary.com

WANT TO VOLUNTEER TO HELP OUR ROTARY CLUB?

'FRIENDS OF ROTARY'

To help us continue our good work in the community and run our traditional activities (such as the Santa Float, Christmas Eve's Carols in the High Street, our 'Yes We Can' programme and of course our annual May Day Fayre), we have created a new group for local volunteers called 'Friends of Rotary'.

This group will become actively involved in helping us to run our fundraising events and community service projects and make a real difference to the lives of people who need some extra help.

Friends of Rotary members will be invited to a selection of our meetings and social events and have an opportunity to make new friends, do some real good in and around our town and have a lot of fun in the process! You can find out more about this great opportunity and how to apply to join the group on our website www.leightonlinsladerotary.com



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The Peppercorn Centre

Plans for an arts and heritage centre for
Leighton Linslade, which would provide a 140-seat
theatre and museum space off Market Square called
the Peppercorn Centre, are well under way.

In order to help fulfil the urgent needs of the cultural life of the Leighton Linslade community, the Peppercorn Trustees have been in talks with TK Furniture, a long established family business in Hockliffe Street, to convert a warehouse and a two storey building behind their shop into a new venue for an arts and heritage centre. There is a separate entrance to the premises from North Street, which leads onto a spacious courtyard.

Peppercorn's plan is to convert the premises into a flexible space for theatre, musical performances, arts exhibitions, museum, rooms for hire for meetings and classes. Their community cafe would double as a wine bar during evening performances.

The Peppercorn Trustee's are now approaching a number of charitable and grant giving organisations so that they can purchase the buildings and convert them into a modern and sustainable facility.

So far Peppercorn, a not-for-profit company, has kept a low profile. Originally the trustees wanted to build a centre from scratch on land south of the High Street owned by Central Bedfordshire Council but the council has yet to come to a decision about the future of that site.

After discussions and meetings with some of the large number of creative people in the town, many of whom struggle to find venues to display their work, there is widespread support for Peppercorn's scheme. The local MP Alex Mayer is supportive and has already mentioned Peppercorn in Parliament during a debate on the importance of arts and heritage to communities.



Peppercorn is now trying to actively raise funds and get volunteers from the community to help push forward with their plans.

If you'd like to join their fundraising campaign, or know someone who would be willing to donate, please contact them via email:

info@thepeppercorn.org.uk



Reclaim Life

Reclaim Life is a charity based in Leighton Buzzard and since we started in 2010, we have supported over 2000 individuals facing emotional distress.

At Reclaim Life, we believe that everyone deserves the chance to reclaim their happiness and emotional wellbeing. That's why we offer our free, therapeutic life coaching programme, delivered with care and dedication by our incredible team of volunteer life coaches.

Through five personalised coaching sessions, our life coaches empower individuals to understand their emotional needs, learn effective coping strategies to help manage stress, anxiety, anger, trauma, and depression.

Our approach is built on the principles of the Human Givens, integrated with other proven tools and techniques in a structured coaching model. Our programme provides guidance and tools to help people gain confidence, set and achieve goals, meet their emotional needs and feel back in control of their life.

In June 2022, we opened the Reclaim Life Centre in Bridge Street. The Centre has become a vital resource in the heart of the community, as the demand for mental health support has grown. This is reflected in a significant increase in self-referrals and people visiting the centre seeking someone to talk to.

At Reclaim Life, we believe in providing timely support when it's needed the most and this is made possible by the unwavering dedication of our volunteers.

We can only continue to be able to do what we do and offer our service to the community through kind donations and continuing fundraising. We would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to Leighton and Linslade Rotary for their support.

We also have Serendipity, our charity shop, which is open on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays from 10 am to 4pm.

We support anyone aged 18 and over. If you or someone you know is struggling, or you wish to find out more, come and talk to us. You can contact us via email, our website, phone, or simply drop by our Reclaim Life Centre, Monday to Friday, 10 am – 1 pm.

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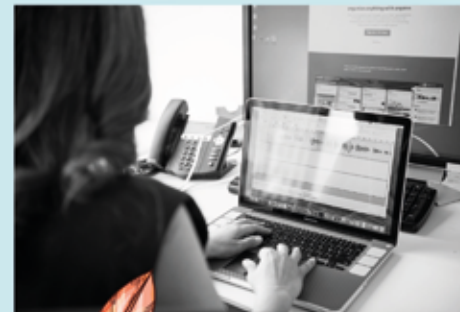
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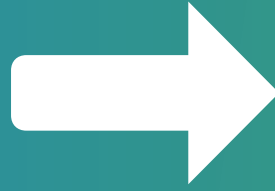
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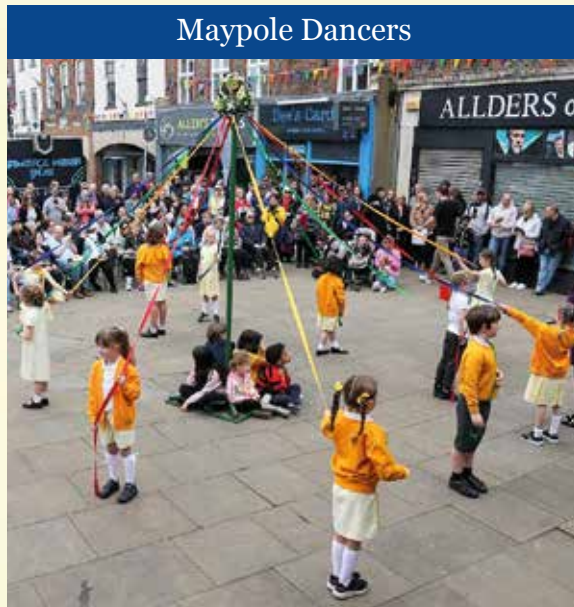
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Find out more today!

In the High Street

- 09:45** - Fiona Harrison - A voice in a Million
- 10:30** - Pulfords Maypole Dancers
- 11:00** - Leanne Hughes Theatre School
- 11:45** - Leighton Buzzard Festival Singers
- 12:25** - Rock & Roll Dancers



Maypole Dancers



Leighton Buzzard
Festival Singers

Information & Emergencies

Ask at the Market Cross or at the Rotary control point in the Recreation Ground.
Look for the Rotary emblem signs or ask a Marshall.

In the High Street

- 12:55** - Swing Dance MK
- 13:30** - Royal British Legion band
- 14:30** - Fiona Harrison - A voice in a Million
- 15:20** - Calamity's Fling



Swing Dance MK

The Rotary Club are very grateful for the support of ALL our sponsors and advertisers

In addition to the May Day Fayre, the Rotary Club of Leighton Linslade organises the Laser Lightshow, the Santa Float in December and Carols in the High Street on Christmas Eve – all profits go to local, national and international charitable good causes.



Leanne Hughes Theatre School

Fiona Harrison



In the Recreation Ground

Arena

- 10:30** Dog & Duck
- 11:00** Dangerous Steve
- 11:40** Medieval Combat Society
- 12:20** Milton Keynes Pipe Band
- 13:00** Dog & Duck



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The Carnival Committee are hosting a Silent Disco at the Bandstand from
2.00 pm until 3.30 pm

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- 13:45** Medieval Combat Society
- 14:25** Milton Keynes Pipe Band
- 14:45** LPR 24 Hour Football Finale
- 15:15** Dangerous Steve



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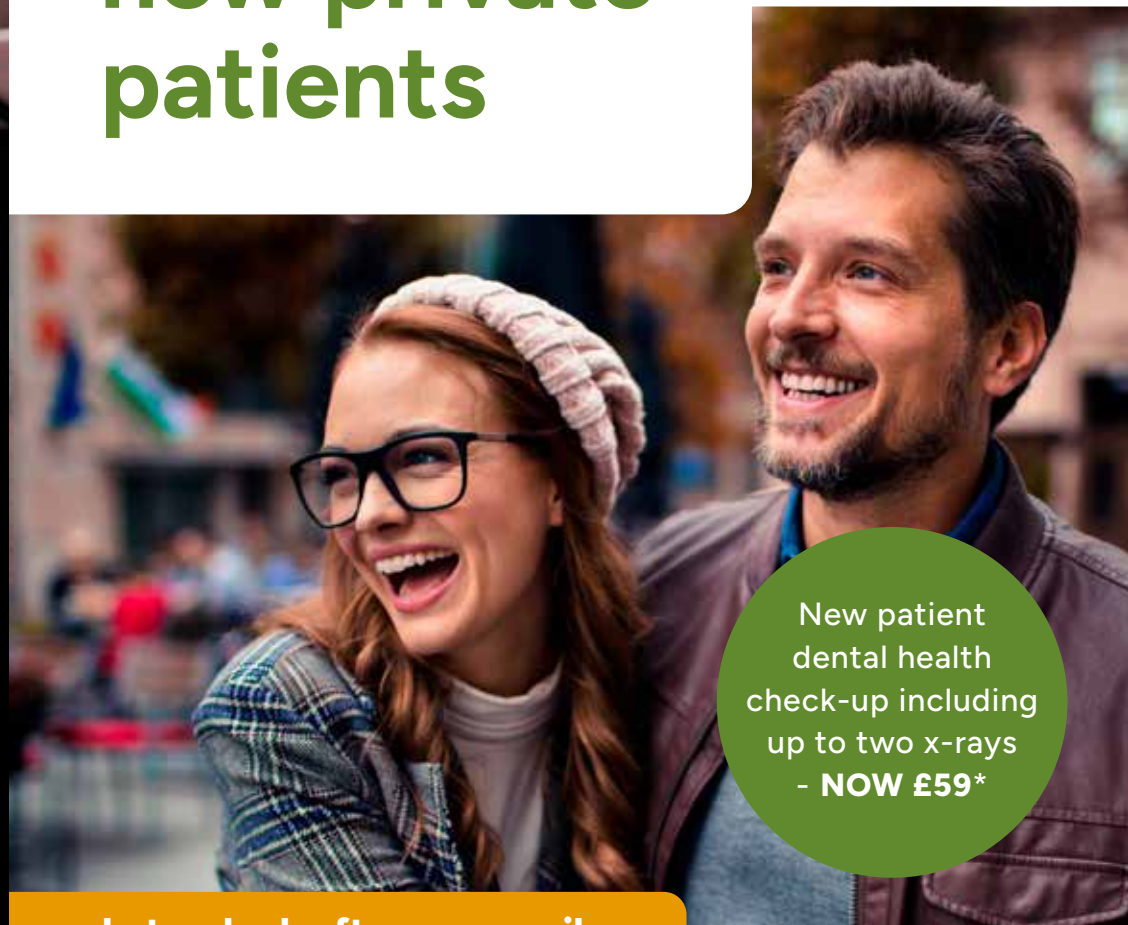
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Toilets and Taps for Nepal

2024 was an important year for Leighton Linslade Rotary with the completion of its International Committees project in rural Nepal south of Kathmandu.

Typical school toilets



Our goal was to provide toilets, washing facilities, hygiene kits and training in 4 schools in Makwanpur a very poor district with inadequate school toilets. The project was headed by LeightonLinslade with the support of 5 local Clubs and a District Grant from our local Rotary District.

Our picture shows typical school toilets, they are old, dirty lacking any washing facilities. They do not have separate facilities for girls. Older girls do not attend school during their periods as schools do not have provision for them. The drop out rate for girls is very high and little is done to support them.

A member of our team visited a school with 200 children plus staff. The school had only one toilet.

It's exciting to report our projects success. 2 small schools have new toilets, one medium sized school has toilets, one large school has toilets. We have delivered 1200 hygiene kits and provided hygiene training at all schools. We are currently working on a new project.

WANT TO VOLUNTEER TO HELP OUR ROTARY CLUB?

'FRIENDS OF ROTARY'

To help us continue our good work in the community and run our traditional activities (such as the Santa Float, Christmas Eve's Carols in the High Street, our 'Yes We Can' programme and of course our annual May Day Fayre), we have created a new group for local volunteers called 'Friends of Rotary'.

You can find out more about this great opportunity and how to apply to join the group on our website www.leightonlinsladerotary.com





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RAF Battle of Britain Memorial Flight

We are delighted to share the news that the RAF Battle of Britain Memorial Flight have agreed to provide a Flypast for the 2025 May Day Fayre.



Many in the community will know that a Flypast was scheduled for 2024. Unfortunately tragic events took place last year and the RAF lost a distinguished pilot when one of its Spitfires crashed. Rotary sent our deepest condolences.



However in true RAF spirit the flight has bounced back and we are this year to be graced by not just one but two legendary aircraft; a Dakota famed for its role in D Day and the wonderful Avro Lancaster Bomber made famous by Guy Gibson and 617 Squadron.

We hope the whole community will give them a big Leighton Linslade welcome.



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Experience the Best of Leighton Buzzard Market

Whether you're a regular visitor or haven't been in a while, there's always something new to discover at our bustling market.

Leighton Buzzard Market has long been at the heart of our town, referenced in the Domesday Book in 1086 and obtaining Royal Charter in 1208. Today the market offers a fantastic selection of stalls and a lively atmosphere twice a week.

Every Tuesday and Saturday, the market comes alive with a diverse range of traders selling everything from fresh local produce and artisan bread to handmade crafts, clothing, homeware, and more. Shopping at the market isn't just about finding great products—it's about enjoying a personal touch, supporting independent businesses, and being part of the community.

Throughout the year, we host a variety of exciting events that bring even more vibrancy to the town centre. Our themed market days, such as the popular Christmas Market, the Handmade and craft market, vintage market and Creative Buzz events offer something for everyone, whether you're looking for seasonal gifts, unique crafts, or delicious treats from local food vendors.

We also run regular entertainment and family-friendly activities to enhance your market experience. Live music, street performers, and community events create a fantastic atmosphere, making the market a great destination for a day out. Keep an eye out for special appearances from local artists and musicians, as well as interactive workshops and demonstrations that add an extra element of fun to your visit.

Supporting Leighton Buzzard Market keeps local tradition alive and helps our town thrive. Markets like ours play a vital role in sustaining the local economy, fostering a strong community spirit, and promoting sustainable living.

So next time you're in town, why not take a stroll through the market? Enjoy the stalls, soak up the atmosphere, and take part in one of our fantastic events. Whether you're picking up fresh produce, finding a special gift, or simply enjoying the buzz, Leighton Buzzard Market is the perfect place to be.

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