

May Day Fayre

MONDAY 4TH MAY 2026

10:00am - 4:00pm

Rotary



Leighton Linlade Rotary Club

Registered Charity No: 1214684

www.leightonlinladerotary.com




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President's Message

I am very pleased to invite you, and your family and friends, to the Leighton Linslade Rotary Club's annual May Day Fayre.

Please come and join us for a wonderful day of fun from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on 4th May in both the High Street and also Parsons Close Recreation Ground, where you will find our main arena, which is sponsored by 'Everyone Active'.

This is the 37th year that we have organised this event and once again we have a great line up of activities, entertainment, the fun-fair, food and drink and of course a wide variety of stands to browse, representing many of the town's businesses and organisations. I think you will find that there really is nowhere better to spend your May Day Bank Holiday Monday!

Leighton has been growing rapidly over the last few years, so if you are new to the town you may not know much about Rotary. Our 40 members volunteer their time and talents to tackle various community and fundraising projects, which apart from this event, include the Santa Float, Christmas Eve High Street Carols and 'Lantern Parade', our annual Senior Citizen's Tea Party and The Brains of Leighton Buzzard Charity Quiz.

We raise many thousands of pounds each year

which we give to a variety of local good causes and charities such as PTAs, Guides, Scouts and organisations like Helping Hands, Totally Leighton Buzzard and Reclaim Life. Also our own 'Yes We Can' sports scheme, which helps local youngsters who have a range of disabilities or special needs. I must also mention our new Neighbourhood Defibrillators initiative which is now up and running. Please have a look at page 28 and help us save local lives. If you would like to consider becoming a 'Friend of Rotary' and helping us with some of the above activities and/or events, please see page 71.

I would like to end my message by thanking the people of Leighton / Linslade for supporting our endeavours, all our sponsors this year, and also of course my fellow Rotarians for all their hard work. Well done team and I hope all visitors to the fayre have a great May Day!

Chris Roberts

Club President

www.leightonlinsladerotary.com

Leighton-Linslade Carnival

2026 Carnival Ambassador Selection

This year we are holding the Selection of the Carnival Ambassadors at the Royal British Legion Club on 10th May. This will run from 4.30pm until 6pm, when the Carnival Ambassadors selected will be announced.

Registration forms are available online at www.leightoncarnival.co.uk (until the midday on 10th May), and will be available on the door from 4pm. All registrations must have the declaration signed by a parent/guardian. Entry is open to all young people in school years 4-8, who have a parental address in Leighton Buzzard or Linslade or who attend a Leighton-Linslade Middle School.

The Ambassadors selected at the disco, who will represent the spirit of our town's young people, will be on the lead float in the Carnival Procession and will be in the arena for the prize giving.

They will hand out the cheques at the Presentation Night when the Carnival proceeds are distributed to local organisations and groups.

The Carnival Ambassadors will lay poppy wreaths on Remembrance Sunday, and are usually invited to take part in the switch-on ceremony for the Town Christmas lights.

Selection Disco

Select the 2026 Carnival Ambassadors

At the Royal British Legion Club
West Street, Leighton Buzzard

Sunday 10th May
4.30pm - 6pm

Open to school years 4-8

Free entry

Leighton-Linslade
Carnival

www.leightoncarnival.co.uk





Support our community's magnificent volunteer groups

– Cllr David Bligh, Town Mayor

Firstly, thank you to Leighton Linslade Rotary Club for inviting me to write a few words in their programme to help kick-off their fabulous 2026 May Day Fayre. Once again it is also my very great honour to be asked to represent the Town Council, as Mayor, as a member of the Fayre's opening party.

This programme is full of details of the May Day Fayre and highlights the proud sponsorship of many local businesses which not only greatly contribute to help the Rotary Club stage the Fayre, but also to finance many of the charitable activities they provide in so many, unseen, ways within our lovely Town and community. Acting as an umbrella, much of the Rotary Club's income goes to support small, specialist, groups. These, in turn, help sufferers of cancer and heart disease and their families as well as disability sport, just to mention a small number of the numerous local good causes they are actively involved with. In recent years they have also directly provided physical equipment in key locations around our Town such as defibrillators and blood kits, which can, literally, prove lifesaving to our residents.

My point in mentioning the good works carried out by our local Rotary Club is that all its members are volunteers. A significant part of the May Day Fayre, particularly the stalls in Parsons Close Recreation Ground, is to raise awareness, some much-needed money and to invite you to join one or more of the many amazing volunteer groups and clubs that operate in Leighton-Linslade and are exhibiting today.

The main theme of my time as mayor of Leighton-Linslade has been in recognising and supporting the work of several local voluntary groups – I'd help every single one if I could. Therefore, as well as enjoying all the music, dancing and the fun of the Fayre please also remember and recognise the selfless effort of the very many volunteers who provide their time, support, comfort and, in many cases a lifeline, to those most in need in so many different ways within our community. As the Town and surrounding villages continue to grow at pace volunteers are the glue that binds our community together and consistently makes this a great place to live. They deserve the recognition for their regular acts of kindness towards others in helping to make all our lives just a little easier and more joyful. I am in awe of them all and would encourage anyone who can find a few hours here and there to get involved with a group. At some point we will all be confronted by something life-changing and it would be so much better not to face it alone.

On behalf of the Town Council, thank you to all the members of Leighton Linslade Rotary Club for putting the May Day Fayre on for our community's enjoyment. I'm proud to be associated with the event and hope all our residents have a fantastic day and help to raise lots of money for local good causes.

Cllr David Bligh

Leighton-Linslade Town Mayor



LEIGHTON - LINSLADE
TOWN COUNCIL



A Community Effort

For more than six decades, Church Riverside Scout Group has been a constant presence in Leighton Linslade, providing young people with friendship, adventure, and skills for life. Since opening in 1960's, the Scout hut on Hockliffe Road has been far more than a building. It has been a place where generations of children have learned teamwork, resilience, leadership, and confidence, supported by dedicated volunteers from across the town.

In September 2024, that long standing hut was badly damaged when severe storms caused Clipstone Brook to burst its banks. Floodwater swept through the wooden structure, leaving it unsafe to use and forcing the sudden cancellation and relocation of meetings and activities. For many local families, it was a real shock. For the young people who relied on the hut as a weekly routine and social anchor, it was a heartbreaking loss.

From the very start, the response from the community was extraordinary. Rather than seeing the flood as the end of the story, leaders, trustees, parents, and supporters came together with a shared determination to rebuild, not just to replace what was lost, but to create something stronger, safer, and fit for future generations.

The decision was taken to fully rebuild the hut, improving flood resilience and ensuring

it could continue to serve the town for decades to come. This was a major undertaking for a volunteer led group, involving complex planning, fundraising, and coordination, all carried out alongside jobs, families, and existing Scouting commitments.

Local support made the difference. Donations large and small arrived from individuals, families, and businesses. Fundraising events were organised by Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, leaders, and parents. Community groups lent their time and expertise, and encouragement came from all corners of Leighton Linslade.



A key part of the rebuild was delivered by their lead contractor SD Carpentry, whose professionalism, skill, and collaborative approach helped turn plans into reality. Working alongside volunteers, they played a central role in transforming a damaged site into a modern, safe and welcoming Scout hut once again.

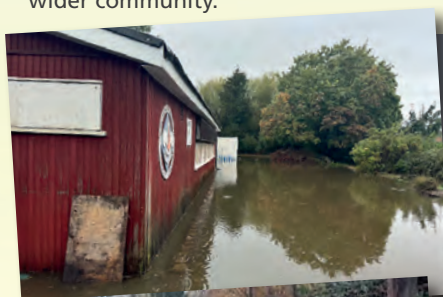
Among the many contributors, AW Group has played a particularly important part in helping us create a modern, sustainable and accessible home for local Scouting, ensuring young people can continue to enjoy friendship, adventure and skills for life for many years to come. Their generosity has been pivotal in helping us achieve our ambition of becoming net zero in energy use through solar generation, leaving a lasting legacy for both our young people and the wider community.

In March 2026, just eighteen months after the flood, the rebuilt Church Riverside Scout hut reopened. The new building stands as a symbol of what can be achieved when a community pulls together. It is warmer, safer, more resilient, and ready to support the next generation of young people.

The story of the rebuild is not just about bricks and mortar. It is about generosity, teamwork, and shared pride in supporting local young people.

Church Riverside Scout Group is deeply grateful to everyone who gave their time, skills, and resources.

This hut belongs to the whole community, and its future has been shaped by the people of Leighton Linlade.



Looking ahead, the Scout hut is intended to be a shared community asset. Local small businesses, start ups, and charities who may benefit from an affordable space to meet, plan, or operate are warmly invited to get in touch.

We would be delighted to explore how the hut might be able to support good causes and positive initiatives within our town, so please email:

enquiries@crscouts.org.uk



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LEIGHTON - LINSLADE MAY DAY FAYRE

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Support the Black Cats!

Support Unit 13, Bedfordshire Black Cats on their journey to the World Scout Jamboree!



Members of Unit 13, Bedfordshire Black Cats will be running a tea and coffee stall at the May Day Fayre to help raise funds for their trip to the 26th World Scout Jamboree, being held in Gdansk, Poland in July 2027.

The World Scout Jamboree is an incredible international event that brings together thousands of Scouts from across the globe who are working hard to raise the funds needed to take part in this once-in-a-lifetime experience.



UNIT 13
WSJ2027

Please stop by the stall!

Enjoy a cup of tea, coffee, or a sweet treat. Every purchase helps support Unit 13 on their journey to Poland and help them represent Bedfordshire on the world stage.

Thank you for supporting the Bedfordshire Black Cats!



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Tue 5 May 6pm



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Sat 16 May 8pm



**THE (ALMOST) COMPLETE
HISTORY OF BRITAIN**

Thu 21 May 7.30pm



**HOLMES AND WATSON: THE CURIOUS
CASE OF THE MASKED MAGICIAN**

Wed 27 May 2.30pm



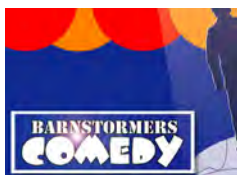
**NATIONAL THEATRE LIVE: THE
PLAYBOY OF THE WESTERN WORLD**

Thu 28 May 7pm



ELVIS: THE LEGEND LIVES ON

Fri 5 Jun 8pm



BARNSTORMERS COMEDY

Sat 6 Jun 8pm



OASIZ 2026

Fri 12 Jun 8pm



**NATIONAL THEATRE LIVE: LES
LIAISONS DANGEREUSES**

Thu 25 Jun 7pm



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PIZZA BOX**

Sat 27 Jun 2pm



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Sat 27 Jun 8.30pm



**LB DRAMA GROUP
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Thu 2 - Sat 4 Jul



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Fri 14 Aug 8pm



THE MCDUGALLS

Sat 22 Aug 2pm



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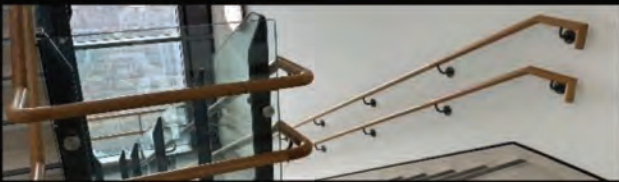


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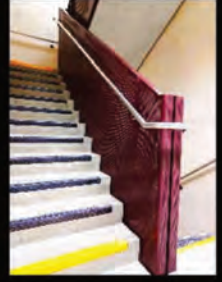
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spinal cord injury

Helped train over 2,260
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needs of people with
spinal cord injury

Ran 108 community
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come together

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Families often tell us that Keech Hospice feels nothing like what they expected. Joyce's son remembers how his mother "wasn't just looked after — she was heard. She felt seen, valued and understood," describing a place that "felt like home, but with all the care we didn't know we needed."

Dave, living with lymphoma, shared that Keech gave him "care, compassion, dignity" and a sense of belonging that mirrored the love of his own community. "I don't know what my family and I would have done without them," he said, calling the hospice an extension of the values that have guided his life.

For Sonia, Keech supported her husband David through motor neurone disease, giving them both the space and strength to keep living the life they loved. She remembers how Keech

helped them "keep laughing, keep loving, and keep living," wrapping their family in gentle, practical support at every stage.

Children's families describe that same warmth. Claire, mum to Lily, says Keech is vital in their journey through complex medical needs, years of seizures, and emotional strain on the whole family. She calls Lily "a resilient, sassy little girl," and credits Keech with helping both Lily and her brother Noah feel supported during the hardest times.

And stories like Katie's show that hospice care is about living well today. After a stroke and cancer diagnosis at 36, she said, "I walked into a place that was warm, spotless, welcoming... somewhere I could just be Katie again." Through rehab, wellbeing sessions and emotional support, she rebuilt her confidence and sense of self.

These voices are the heart of Keech Hospice. When you sign up to stay in touch, you'll hear more stories like these — stories of courage, dignity, and hope. You'll also discover ways to get involved, from attending events to volunteering your time.

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Leighton Fun Runners

Leighton Fun Runners (LFR) is a friendly, welcoming running club based at Leighton Buzzard Cricket Club on Bell Close.

Open to all adults aged 18 and over, we pride ourselves on creating a supportive environment for runners of every ability, whether you're just starting out or training for your next big race.

Those looking to start running, please look out for our Couch to 5k courses held twice a year. Ten weeks to 5k with like-minded people ran by our coaches and supported by our members.

Running is one of the most accessible and rewarding ways to stay active. It not only improves physical fitness, boosting heart health, stamina, and strength, but also has powerful mental health benefits. Many of our members find that running helps reduce stress, improve mood, and provide a valuable sense of achievement. Even better, it's something you don't have to do alone. At LFR, you'll always find encouragement, camaraderie, and a great group of people to share the miles with.

One of the highlights of our calendar is the Leighton 10k race we organise each September. This brings together runners from all over, offering a fantastic atmosphere and a chance to challenge yourself on a well-organised course. Whether you're aiming for a personal best or simply want to enjoy the experience, it's a day not to be missed.

We're also proud to support charitable causes. This year we are supporting MENCAP LB, a local charity doing vital work in the community. Being part of LFR means being part of something bigger, using running to make a positive difference. Beyond running, LFR has a lively social side, with a range of events throughout the year that help members connect and have fun off the road as well. If you're looking to get active, meet new people, and be part of a supportive community, Leighton Fun Runners would love to welcome you.

Please find us on Facebook or contact us by email at enquiries@lighttonfunrunners.org.uk



Pay A Visit on the 4th May!

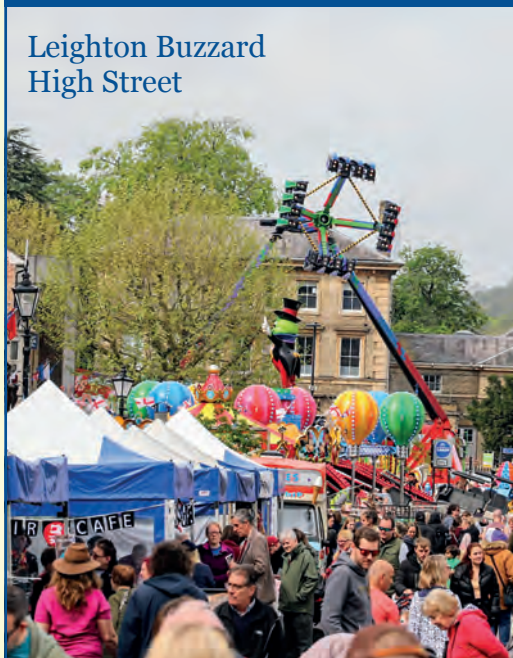
If you have recently moved here - put the date (4 May) in your diary and pay a visit. A glance through this programme should persuade you!

MISSED OUT ON BEING IN THE PROGRAMME?

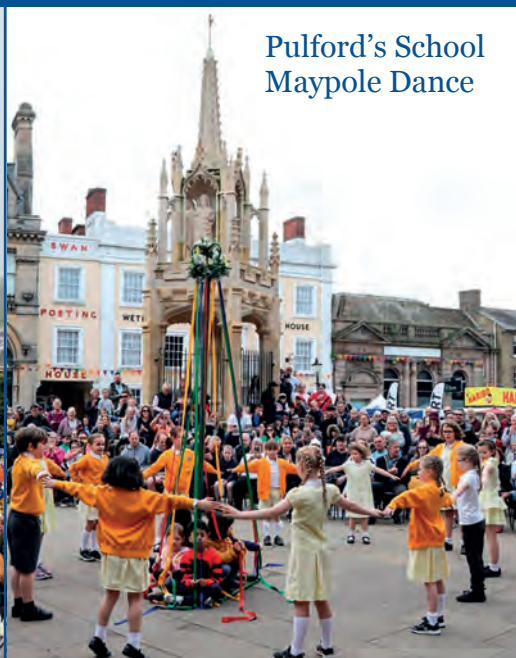
Let us know for next time! Become a Friend of the Rotary and support us in your own way.

enquiry@leightonlinladerotary.com

Leighton Buzzard
High Street



Pulford's School
Maypole Dance



Parson's Close Recreation Ground

In the High Street

10:00 - Fiona Harrison - A Voice in a Million

10:50 - Pulford School Maypole Dancers

11:25 - Leanne Hughes Theatre School

12:10 - President's Welcome

12:15 - Scooter Judging & Awards

Royal British Legion Band



Maypole Dancers

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

12:40 - Swing Dance MK

13:25 - Royal British Legion Band

14:40 - Glee Club UK (Leighton Buzzard)

15:20 - Fiona Harrison - A Voice in a Million



Leanne Hughes Theatre School

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.



Glee Club UK

In the Recreation Ground

Arena

11:00 Little Nippers

11:40 Hawk Walk

12:20 Dangerous Steve

13:00 Infinite All Stars Cheerleading

Little Nippers



Dangerous Steve



Refreshments etc • Rotary Club BBQ • Children's rides • Inflatable slides
The Carnival Committee are hosting a Silent Disco at the Bandstand from
2.00 pm until 3.30 pm

In the Recreation Ground

Arena

13:45 Hawk Walk

14:25 Little Nippers

15:10 Dangerous Steve

Hawk Walk



Keep a look out...
Infinite All Stars Cheerleading



The OLLIE Foundation

Supporting Our Community, One Conversation at a Time

Who We Are

The OLLIE Foundation is a suicide prevention and well-being charity on an important mission, to ensure that no-one feels that suicide is their only option. We do this by offering accessible in-person and online awareness talks, events and resources that help people feel more confident supporting others to stay safe, because at OLLIE we believe, wholeheartedly, that One Life Lost Is Enough.

The charity was founded in 2016 by three parents who had each faced the unimaginable loss of a teenage son to suicide. Fuelled by love, courage and a determination to protect other families, they pledged to create something powerful, a charity rooted in compassion, honesty and practical tools that empower communities. Their legacy continues to guide OLLIE today.



OLLIE's 10th year

Like all charities, OLLIE has grown, changed and adapted alongside the needs of the community. This year marks an important moment of transition. As OLLIE enters its next chapter, the charity is returning to its roots, the power of lived experience, heartfelt human connection and local impact.

We remain focused on supporting young people, families and communities with tools that genuinely help. This includes our suicide prevention talk REACH, our well-being talk Balance and Empowering Conversations, which supports schools to better understand the language and practical tools used in suicide prevention.

If you're worried about someone in your life and feel unsure how best to support them, you're not alone. Many people tell us they want to help but don't know what to say or where to begin.

Our REACH talk is designed to offer practical guidance, language and reassurance to help you feel more confident supporting someone who may be struggling.

REACH
Suicide Prevention Talk

- Ready to respond
- Engage with care
- Ask directly
- Connect to support
- Help them stay safe

Book your place now:
<https://theolliefoundation.org/what-we-do/calendar/> or scan the QR code.

Join us for our brand-new suicide prevention awareness talk.
Be part of this important conversation and spread the hope.

Would You Like To Support OLLIE?

There are many ways to support the work of The OLLIE Foundation, and every gesture, big or small, truly makes a difference. As a charity with no government funding, we rely entirely on the generosity of our community to keep delivering life-saving training, resources and support. Whether you would like to make a one-off donation, pledge a small monthly gift, or volunteer your time and skills, you'll be helping us reach more people who need us. In fact, if everyone who knows OLLIE pledged just £1 a month, it would transform our future, giving us the stability to plan ahead and continue supporting young people and communities with confidence. Your kindness keeps this work alive.

VOLUNTEERING WITH OLLIE

**If you are interested
please reach
out to us here:**



DONATE TO OLLIE

**Either as a monthly
supporter or with a
single donation, you
can give here:**



A Note If This Has Raised Any Concerns

Topics around mental health, suicide and supporting someone who may be struggling can feel heavy. If anything in this article has brought up worries for you about yourself or someone you care about, please know you don't have to navigate it alone. Many people tell us they are concerned about someone in their life but feel unsure what to say, how to ask, or whether they might make things worse. Feeling uncertain is very common, and support is available to help guide you through these conversations. If you're worried about someone, you might find it helpful to explore the guidance and resources on The OLLIE Foundation website, which offers practical advice, language and confidence to support someone who may be struggling.

IF YOU NEED IMMEDIATE SUPPORT

If you feel you need to speak to someone right now, confidential support is available:

Samaritans – Call 116 123 anytime, day or night

Shout – Text SHOUT to 85258 for free,
confidential support via text

CALM – WEBCHAT <https://www.thecalmzone.net/get-support>

Papyrus - CALL 0800 068 41 41

You matter. And support is always available.

www.theolliefoundation.org

contactus@theolliefoundation.org

Registered charity number: 1167116

We're here when you need us

CALL (Citizens Advice Leighton Linslade)



Citizens Advice is a readily recognised name when it comes to signposting people to where to go to get accurate, reliable assistance for a wide range of problems, problems that virtually everyone will encounter at some point in their life.

At CALL (Citizens Advice Leighton Linslade), we are proud to have been assisting our local community for more than 50 years now. Over the years CALL has seen many changes in terms of both the emphasis and complexity of the issues they are being asked to resolve, as well as the way they have continued to evolve, to adapt to how they maintain their client relationships.

Providing confidential advice, free information and guidance that benefits people to resolve a range of challenges that can affect anyone's life, is the very beating heart of what Citizens Advice is about, as they support the local community with help on a range of issues including: benefits; debts; relationships; employment; housing; bereavement and consumer queries.

As the decades have gone by, they have reacted to demand and now operate on many e-and digital platforms as well as continuing their face-to-face and telephone interactions. However, the one thing that hasn't changed is the need for us to offer

advice and support to the local community at often their most difficult times.

Even though most people have heard of Citizens Advice, many are unaware that they are a registered charity who are totally reliant on funding and a vital, small army of volunteers who offer their support to provide free information and confidential advice.

At its very heart at CALL, we rely on our dedicated support team of trustees, 40 volunteers and 7 members of staff who collectively helped 2,205 local people with 9,617 different issues, in just 2024 - 2025 alone.

Kash Prashad, Chief Officer at CALL explains "we are seeing the variety and complexity of issues increasing, which means we are needing to be involved for much longer periods of time to provide the ongoing support, information and advice needed". Kash continues "this means that we, in turn, need the assistance of the local community to support us, so that we can continue to be at the frontline to be here for people when they at their most vulnerable".

Half a century on, the requirement for CALL is greater than ever and with local support, they can continue to help those who need their assistance when they are needed, today as well as into the future.

To help CALL to continue to support our local community by becoming a Adviser or Trustee to help them to continue their work, please consider a volunteering role.

To find out more visit www.leightonlinladedcab.org.uk

If you can give us a donation visit www.leightonlinladedcab.org.uk/donate as any amount, no matter how small, will assist us to continue to support the local Leighton Linslade community into the future.



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2026 DATES

- 07 Jun** Chiltern Hills Brass
- 14 Jun** South Beds Concert Band
- 14 Jun** Hemel Hempstead Band *
12.30 - 2.30pm | Linslade Recreation Ground
- 21 Jun** Luton Concert Band
- 28 Jun** Shambles Big Band
- 05 Jul** Heath Band
- 12 Jul** The Woburn Sands Band
- 19 Jul** Dunstable Town Band
- 26 Jul** Towcester Studio Band
- 02 Aug** Leighton-Linslade Concert Band
- 09 Aug** Kidlington Concert Brass
- 16 Aug** Jazz Town: Combo
- 23 Aug** Ampthill Town Band
- 30 Aug** Milton Keynes Brass
- 06 Sep** Bedford Town Band

3.00PM - 5.00PM

Parson's Close Recreation Ground



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Loving Laos

As a disabled pensioner, I'm a very unlikely traveller to find supporting education in Laos a small country in South East Asia.

Friends ask me what's the attraction and why do I travel to such a distant place.

My answer surprises many. I joined Rotary as I admired its work at home and internationally where it helped many communities.

Laos is a very poor country, about the size of Britain and with a population of only 7 million. I visited as a tourist in 2007 and 2008 and found Rotary wasn't allowed to operate by the government.

I found a small charity called LEOT and offered my help. Over the years I have visited many times supporting LEOTs activities. In 2012 we built and opened a small School. In 2017 we started building and repairing rural schools. We started our 20th School this month. Laos is now my second home where I spend nearly 3 months each year.

LEOT is unusual as it splits its effort between helping older students and building Schools for younger students. I spend most of my time at the LEO School in Luang Prabang and visiting rural Schools with my assistant.

To date the LEOT School has provided education for over 2500 students and our rural building projects have benefitted more than 10000 children with much improved facilities.

This year our school has provided lessons for 160 students during the week and 90 students at the weekend. All students learn English and Computer studies. We also provide shorter courses in keyboard skills, Hospitality English and Career development.

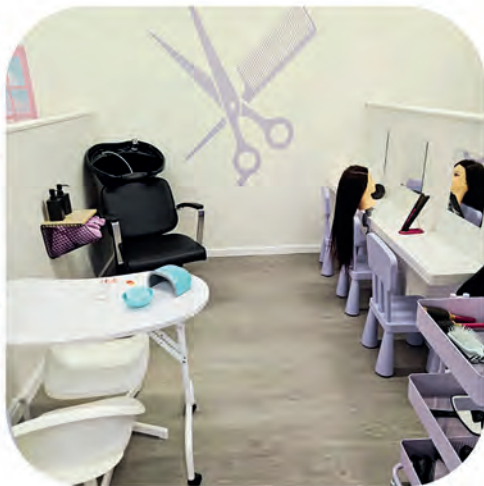
To increase knowledge of the Environment we have planted a forest garden and run a recycling project. We are very proud of our team of Lao teachers who are supported by foreign volunteers.

February of each year is very special when we spend 2 days carrying out oral exams for every student. Although a few students found their tests very demanding with some underperforming due to nerves, we were very pleased with the results as many students achieved good or outstanding results.

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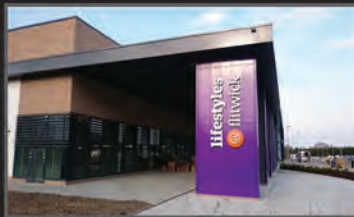
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As a charity, the aim of Leighton Linslade Helpers is to ensure there is as little food waste locally as possible, and as many people as possible, in our community, have access to the food they need no matter their circumstances.

We do this via our Food Bank and Community Fridge

From the Food Bank we provide fortnightly food parcels consisting of packet, tinned and ambient foods. It won't replace the need for people to shop for themselves, but it will provide some basics ensuring they have access to at least one meal per day.

Since November 2025 we have seen 100% increase in the number of food parcels we are asked to provide, a clear sign of how the current financial crisis is still having an impact on everyone.

This has seen our monthly shopping bill increased to over £3000. This means public donation bins in the supermarkets and the can drive appeals our volunteers do outside the supermarkets are even more important to us being able to continue our work.

The support of the community donating when they shop is immeasurable.

If you find yourself in need of support, please do go to our website and complete a help form and we will get back to you as soon as possible. You do not need to be referred to us.

We also run the Community Fridge on Waterborne Walk, collecting excess food at the end of each day from the local supermarkets and other food outlets. Back at the shop we quality check everything and display it within government food safety standards. We open to the local community five days a week and anyone is welcome to visit a maximum of twice a week and take away a standard sized shopping bag of food with them. We do not charge for these items but if people are able to donate, we are very grateful as it helps towards the rent and utility bills and keeps us operating.

If our volunteers did not go out every night of the week collecting the food or running the community fridge as they do, all this food would go straight into landfill and be wasted. This would be a great shame when you understand how much food poverty there is in our area.

We see on average 600 people a week through the door, some because they believe in the green initiative, others because it allows families to have access to fresh food they may not otherwise have.

Running all this support is a team of some 70 dedicated volunteers, giving up their time to ensure the local community has access to affordable food. Between us, we work long and sometimes unsociable hours, it's a great team, and without each person that helps we could not do the work we do.

From April we will be working with Central Bed Council and DWP to consider other ways we may be able to help people with one off, small emergency funding requests. The planning for this is still underway so we don't yet know what that will look like.

To everyone that volunteers with us, that supports us, or uses our services,
We say a huge THANKYOU. We could not do this without you

Volunteers *Wanted*



As the charity is ever growing, so is the need to build upon our dedicated team.

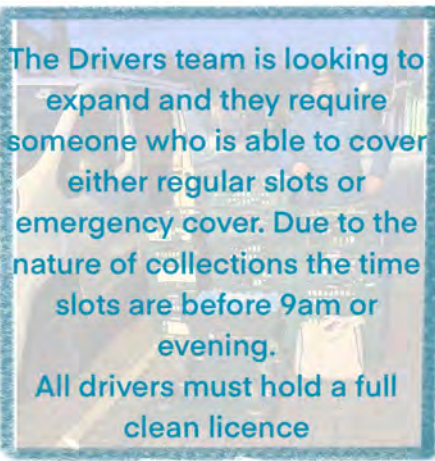
We are looking for volunteers in these areas;

The Community Fridge
Warehouse
Market
and Drivers

www.leightonlinladehelpers.org.uk

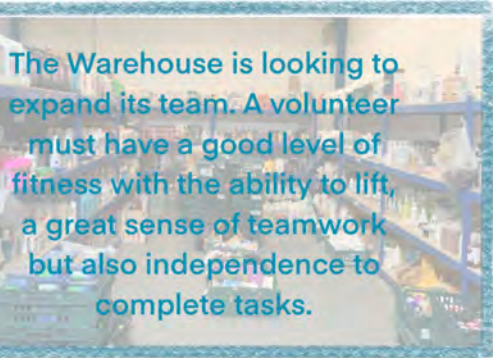


The Market requires someone who doesn't mind an early start, who can multi-task and who has great people skills. Someone with a passion for the charity.



The Drivers team is looking to expand and they require someone who is able to cover either regular slots or emergency cover. Due to the nature of collections the time slots are before 9am or evening.

All drivers must hold a full clean licence



The Warehouse is looking to expand its team. A volunteer must have a good level of fitness with the ability to lift, a great sense of teamwork but also independence to complete tasks.



We are also in need of extra Drivers willing and able to drive our van, helping with stock and food parcel deliveries.

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Leighton-Linslade Carnival 11th July 2026



Carnival day starts early with Parsons Close Recreation Ground set up with a live entertainment arena, stalls, funfair rides, food and so much more – all ready and waiting for the procession to arrive later in the day.

Stalls - If you are a registered charity or a not-for-profit group, and will be fundraising, you should apply for a Charity Stall, if not fundraising apply for Public Relations Stall. Commercial traders should apply for a Commercial Stall whilst small run-from-home businesses that are not a primary source of income should apply for Cottage Industry Stall.



Procession - There are three sections in the procession – Schools & Children's Organisations, Open, Walking & Cycling. A prize of £50 is given to the winner in each section, rosettes are given to the first three in each section and every group entering the procession receives a certificate of participation. Walking groups have the option of starting at Tiddenfoot (approx 3 miles) or Bridge Street (approx 2 miles). In



conjunction with our Rotary friends, we expect to have some sedan chairs in the procession this year.

Over the years Carnival has supported dozens of groups by helping to raise awareness of these groups as well as awarding monies to allow groups to continue their great work in the local community.

For more information, and booking forms for stalls and procession, visit www.leightoncarnival.co.uk



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Leighton Town Football Club, competing at Step 4 in the Southern League Division One Central, is proudly based in the heart of Leighton Buzzard. Located at Bell Close, the club is easily accessible and has long been a hub for events and social gatherings.

This season, we've welcomed an average of over 500 supporters at our home games, a fantastic show of local backing that continues to grow. We're now looking to build on that momentum and encourage even more of the community to come along, get involved, and support their local club.



There is a real community feel around Leighton Town, with supporters, volunteers, players, and families all coming together to create a welcoming and inclusive atmosphere on matchdays and beyond. From familiar faces on the terraces to new supporters discovering the club for the first time, there is a strong sense of belonging that makes everyone feel part of something special. As Club Chairman Sean Downey puts it, ***"It's more than just a football club, it's a community,"*** something that is felt by everyone who walks through the gates. The club takes pride in its close connection to the local area, providing a space where people of all ages can come together, enjoy football, and build lasting relationships both on and off the pitch. Director of Football Guy Kefford also highlights, ***"The club belongs to the community, and it's the people around it who make it what it is."***

Alongside our football facilities, we offer a versatile function hall available to hire for a wide range of occasions, from birthday parties and celebrations to meetings, classes, and community events. Located in the centre of town, with free car parking available, the venue is both convenient and accessible.

Our friendly and professional staff are on hand to ensure your event runs smoothly from start to finish, creating a welcoming experience for you and your guests. By choosing to hire our hall, you're not only securing a quality venue, but also supporting your local football club. For enquiries or to check availability, please email bookings@leightontownfc.co.uk or call 01525 373311 we look forward to welcoming you to Leighton Town.

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Rotary's First Lantern Parade

Christmas Eve 2025 marked a magical first for the Leighton Linslade Rotary Club as it launched its inaugural Lantern Parade, and what a spectacular debut it was.

An enchanting procession of 84 handmade lanterns illuminated the High Street, setting the scene for Rotary's much-loved Carols on the High Street, a cherished community tradition for over 70 years.

In the weeks leading up to the event, the town came alive with creativity. Families and individuals crafted an array of festive lanterns, from glowing Christmas candles to show-stopping designs like Father Christmas descending a chimney. Using willow, vibrant papers, and plenty of imagination, participants of all ages brought their ideas to life.

Rotary helped make it all possible through lively community workshops and by delivering lantern-

making kits across the town, ensuring everyone could take part. It was a joy to see generations coming together to create something truly special.

On 24 December, at 6:30 pm, the community gathered on a crisp winter evening for a celebration filled with traditional carol singing and magical lights, an unforgettable new addition to Leighton Linslade's festive calendar.

Following its huge success, the Lantern Parade will return this year, bigger and brighter.

Keep an eye on the Leighton Linslade Rotary Facebook and Instagram pages for this year's theme and workshop dates.

For more information, email lanterns@leightonlinsladerotary.com





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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 May Day Fayre and the Programme today.

A special thanks to Everyone Active for sponsoring the Main Arena and High Street this year.



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

Happy May Day Fayre Leighton-Linslade

Proud to be serving the
community for over 40 years.

With thanks to the Leighton-
Linslade Rotary Club for a
fabulous day of celebration.

How to get in touch

OSBORNE MORRIS & MORGAN SOLICITORS

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