



# Canvey Island Town Council Annual Report - 2015/16



Chairman  
Cllr Peter Greig

## Town Council opens new office meeting space with prestigious award recognition

Canvey Island Town Council opened their new office and meeting space at 13 High Street on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June. As part of the event, the Essex Association of Local Councils recognised the Town Council's achievements by presenting them with the foundation level of the prestigious Local Council Award Scheme. The association praised the town council's high level of professionalism, informative website and financial practices. Canvey Island Town Council is one of the first 10 councils to receive this award. The new space will allow the town council to hold meetings in their own facilities, which will help to reduce the rising cost of hiring out rooms for this purpose. The town council will look to offer the space out to community groups in the future



## Chairman's Report

It has been a privilege to represent the Town Council for the year 2015/16 and I am pleased to say that the council has achieved many things this year including achieving Foundation Level of the new Local Council Award Scheme.

The new scheme is designed to celebrate the successes of the very best local councils, and to provide a framework to support all local councils to improve and develop to meet their full potential.

Working together with Essex County Councils Flood and Water Management Team, the Town Council assisted with the mapping of local ditches, dykes and culverts on Canvey Island. This was part of the Where does Water Go project which was an extensive mapping task aimed at identifying blocked or filled water ways.

The Town Council established a Lake Watch Group which is a group of volunteers who act as the eyes and ears for the Town Council patrolling Canvey Lake to ensure that there is a constant presence in an attempt to prevent incidents of anti-social behaviour.

The Town Council appointed a new Community Warden on a full time basis in September and she has proven to be a great support to the work that Canvey Island Town Council is doing.

I am proud to say that the council continues to work very hard to bring its open spaces up to standard including at Canvey Lake, Concord Beach Tidal Pool, Tewkes Creek and also the seafront gardens.

The Town Council's hanging baskets and planters in the Town Centre, Jones Corner, Canvey Way, Ferry Road and Eastern Esplanade look fantastic again this year.

The Events Programme for 2015/16 has been hugely successful with the Wildlife Day Event seeing over 1000 visitors enjoying hands on craft, mini-beast hunting, bouncy castles, small animal encounters and pony rides.

The Armed Forces Day saw hundreds of people line the streets of Canvey Island to honour the brave men and women of our Armed Forces. This year had the largest parade ever with three bands taking part and for the first time veteran vehicles also took part in the parade. Special thanks to all sponsors and volunteers who helped make the event a success and to all of the groups and individuals who took part in both parade,

thanksgiving service and exhibition.

The Garden Trail proved very popular again this year with 12 gardens opening their gates to the public. The day was so successful that the proceeds of the event raised £900.60, which was split between two charities chosen by the Town Council, Breathe Easy Canvey Island and Community First Responders who both received £450.30.

The Town Council's eighth annual Christmas Event and Light Switch on went extremely well with Christmas food, gift, charity and craft stalls, staged entertainment along with children's entertainment and activities in the Library and a special visit from Santa and his sleigh. The Town Council organised lighting in the town centre with rope lighting on lamp columns and icicle lighting along Furtherwick Road. Special thanks go to Burt Haulage and Aspect Maintenance who installed the two 20ft trees at either end of the Town Centre.

Working together with Essex County Council and Thames21, the Town Council held a hugely successful Love your Lake family fun day to enjoy the wonderful natural environment and green space provided by Canvey Lake.

The Town Council introduced new Byelaws for Pleasure Grounds, Public Walks and Open Spaces which came into force on 21st February 2016 covering Canvey Lake nature reserve. Any person or persons breaching the conditions of the byelaw may be issued with a fixed penalty notice or could face prosecution.

At the Annual Town Meeting, I had the pleasure of presenting the Chairman's Awards in the categories, Citizen of the Year, Community Group of the Year and Young Citizen of the Year. Judging proved difficult however all proved to be worthwhile recipients.

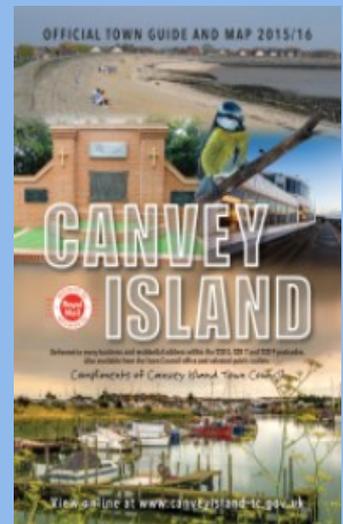
The Town Council formed a number of working partnerships with local groups and organisations and also provided £2,860.00 in grants through the Town Council's Grant Support Scheme.

The Town Council has managed all of its achievements in 2015/16 without raising its precept and I would like to thank the Council staff as without their hard work and support in my opinion it could not have achieved any of this.

## Chairman's Awards

Chairman's Awards recognise those individuals and organisations who have made a significant contribution to the quality of life for residents on the island. There are three award categories; Citizen of the Year, Community Group of the Year and Young Citizen of the Year.

Nominations were received in each category and the winners each received a trophy bearing their name which was presented to them at the Annual Town Meeting on the evening of 14th March 2016. The Winners were; in the category of Citizen of the Year - Antony Smith, Community Group of the Year - Canvey Island Rotary Club and Young Citizen of the Year - Luke Halsey.



## Canvey Lake — New Pleasure Ground Byelaw & Love your Lake Day Event

### BYELAW FOR PLEASURE GROUNDS, PUBLIC WALKS AND OPEN SPACES

Canvey Island Town Council implemented its Byelaw on 21st February 2016 covering Canvey Lake Nature Reserve, which covers protection of the ground, its wildlife and the public, horses, cycles and vehicles, play areas, games and sports, waterways, model aircraft and other regulated activities and has installed appropriate signage around the lake in strategic locations which reflect the byelaw. Any person or persons breaching the conditions of the byelaw may be issued with a fixed penalty notice and could face prosecution. The byelaws are available to view on the Town Council's website [www.canveyisland-tc.gov.uk](http://www.canveyisland-tc.gov.uk) and copies can be obtained from the Town Council offices, 11 High Street, Canvey

Island, Essex, SS8 7RB in accordance with its publication scheme.

### LOVE YOUR LAKE DAY 30<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2016

Canvey Island Town Council held a hugely successful Love Your Lake family fun day event at Canvey Lake Nature Reserve in partnership with Essex County Council and Thames21. The aim of the day was to encourage visitors to take an active interest in the Lake and to take part in activities taking place there.

Activities on the day included pond dipping, a water pollution game along with a variety of arts and crafts. There were also a number of stands providing a range of information to raise awareness about different aspects of the lake or life close to

it, valuable background information and local knowledge about the Lake, educating visitors about the effect of dog fouling and litter on the environment and promoting healthier feeding habits for the wildfowl, an opportunity to see some of the creatures that can be found in watercourses in Essex, and learn about 'invasive species'.



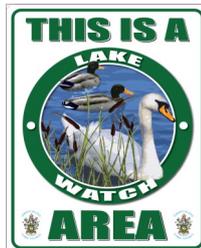
### Dogs Trust Information Day

Canvey Island Town Council recently facilitated a Dogs Trust Information Day as part of their "City Dogs" campaign which aims to promote responsible dog ownership as well as offering free microchipping and vouchers for low cost health services. The event was held at Canvey Lake on the 27th August seeing 14 dogs being microchipped and many more owners receiving vouchers for low cost neutering, vaccinations and "vet checks". There was also a fun agility course for owners to try. Pictured is the Vice Chairman Cllr Martin Tucker and his dog Remy.



### Lake Watch Volunteers

The Canvey Lake is at the centre of our island and many people use this reserve to walk through whether they are visiting the town, going to school, walking their dog or just getting from A — B. Volunteers are the council's eyes and ears who gather information about, fly-tipping, dog fouling, motorcyclists, suspicious behaviours or any issues of concern. If you are interested in joining Lake Watch please feel free to attend meetings to find out more information and meet current volunteer members.



### Seafront Gardens

The Town Council appointed a new grounds maintenance contractor to undertake the ongoing maintenance of the Labworth Memorial Gardens, Bumblebee Park and Seafront beds.



### Planters and Hanging Baskets

The hanging baskets and planters were planted up with their summer and winter planting schemes throughout the town centre, Jones Corner, Canvey Way, Ferry Road and Eastern Esplanade. They are looking fantastic, keep your eye out for them!

## Wildlife Event 28th May 2015

Canvey Island Town Council, working in partnership with the RSPB held their annual Wildlife Day at West Canvey Marshes at the end of May. BBC's The One Show's Mike Dilger once again lead guided walks around the site and over 1000 people enjoyed the many attractions that were on offer. There were hands on arts and crafts, mini-beast hunting, den building, bouncy castles as well as a 6m high climbing wall. Local wildlife and conservation groups were in attendance as well as a mobile farm that offered pony rides and small animal encounters for young visitors. The Children's Centre were on hand to keep smaller children entertained with interactive games and crafts.

New and traditional arts and crafts were showcased in their own marquee with pyrography, willow basketry, knot trying and paper making all available to try. Other activities on the day included pond dipping and bug hunting for the children and many local wildlife, conservation and arts and craft groups stalls promoting what they do. The event was free entry including free face painting. A big thank you to Sainsburys and Canvey Supply for sponsoring part of the event and all the volunteers for helping to make it a success.



## National Poop Scoop Week

Canvey Island Town Council recently took part in National Poop Scoop Week. The initiative created by Dogs Trust aims to raise awareness of responsible dog ownership, the issue of dog fouling and the very simple "grab it, bag it, bin it" advice to dog owners.



## Armed Forces Day — 27th June 2015

Armed Forces Day saw hundreds of people line the streets of Canvey Island town centre, to honour the brave men and women of our Armed Forces. A parade of veterans and current armed forces, uniformed youth and dignitaries, local rescue services and youth organisations marched through the town centre followed by a thanksgiving service outside the Paddocks War Memorial with a wartime exhibition of photographs and memorabilia on display in the main hall. For the first time, veteran vehicles took part in the parade, as well as exhibiting outside of The Paddocks centre. This year the event had its largest ever parade with three bands taking part, and more youth forces, and veterans than ever before. We were lucky to

have excellent weather, which meant we could see the Sea King helicopter flypast during the service and later on in the day the Spitfire that honoured all of Canvey Island. We were very privileged to have The Band of the Parachute Regiment play for us as well as so many veterans including Chelsea Pensioners and the Ghurkhas who are celebrating their 200<sup>th</sup> year of serving in the British Army. Thank you to all sponsors and volunteers, who helped to make the event such a success.”



## Charity Garden Trail — 25th July 2015

On Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> July twelve Canvey Island residents and churches opened their garden for the Canvey Island Charity Garden Trail. Most gardens were open from 10am – 6pm, with members of the public allowed entry to all 12 gardens by purchasing an official programme. Monies were also raised on the day through the sale of refreshments, plants and jams, which were available at the majority of gardens taking part. The event raised £900.60 for local charities and this year two charities chosen to receive the funds raised,

Breathe Easy – Canvey Island and Canvey Island Community First Responders, who both received £450.30. Thanks must be given to all of the residents that have been generous enough to open up their gardens to the public, and for raising funds for these two invaluable local charities. Thank you to all of the local businesses, as well as the residents and organisations involved in the Charity Garden Trail the Town Council is grateful for your continued support.



## Christmas Event—28th November 2015

Around two thousand people attended the Town Council's eighth annual Christmas Event and Lights Switch On in Canvey Island's town centre. The event started at 12 noon with Christmas food, gift, craft, local charity and community group stalls, a fun fair and real reindeers on display as part of the Christmas market. The staged entertainment was hosted by Town Crier Jack Burns until Martin and Su from Heart Essex Radio's Breakfast Show arrived at 1pm. There were performances from a range of local groups, individuals and schools: Chantelle Pasquale, Rosalia Morales, ATC air cadets band, Canvey Island Golden Eagle Majorettes, Canvey Community Choir, Razamatazz Theatre School, Northwick Park School Choir,

William Read School Choir, and a Disney Princess. There were also performances from X Factor contestant Lucy Duffield and local bands Bif Bam Pow and Rollin Machine. The circus skills workshop returned this year and offered visitors the chance to try several different activities. Canvey Island Library and The Children's Centre entertained the children with craft activities. The library hosted story telling by Ginny Bench with guest appearances from Rudolph and Snowman. Santa arrived on his sleigh at 3.30pm to greet the children and pose for photos. Hot chocolate and mince pies were offered at Canvey Island Library before the Christmas lights were switched at 5pm.

The Town Council provided the two 20ft lit Christmas trees and lighting displays on many of the businesses in the town centre and at Jones Corner.



## Fly a Flag for the Commonwealth

Canvey Island Town Council joined over 730 local, national and international organisations in flying the Commonwealth flag on Monday 09<sup>th</sup> March 2015, as part of Commonwealth Day 2016. Now in its third year, “Fly a Flag for the Commonwealth” is an international event that aims to recognise the friendship and co-operation of Commonwealth citizens around the world, by flying the Commonwealth Flag for a period of 24 hours. The Town Council were proud to have joined so many other councils, governing bodies and organisations in flying the Commonwealth flag as it allowed us to show our support and appreciation for the Commonwealth.





**THE COUNCIL AND ITS COMMITTEE SYSTEM**

The Town Council resolved to establish a system for carrying out its business through committees. The committees will normally meet in turn throughout the Council year to assist in progressing the Council's business. The Planning and Personnel committees will meet on an ad hoc basis when required.

Planning Committee meetings will normally start at 7.00pm. All other Committee meetings and Council meetings will commence at 7.30pm. All scheduled meetings take place on a Monday unless otherwise stated.

The Town Council holds an Annual Town Meeting between 1<sup>st</sup> March and the 1<sup>st</sup> June which is a forum for the public to come along and question members on any matters relating to the work of the Town Council.

Canvey Island Town Council  
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SS8 7RB

Phone: 01268 683965  
Events: 01268 683971  
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**Opening Hours**

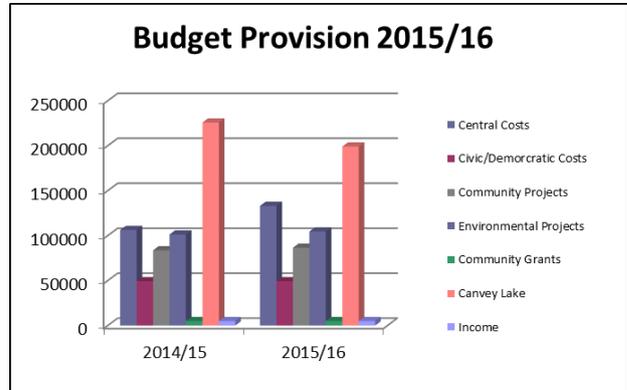
Monday — Closed  
Tuesday — 9.30am to 12pm  
Wednesday — 12.30pm to 2.30pm  
Thursday—9.30am to 12pm  
Friday—Closed



The Policy & Finance committee is responsible for reviewing all Council policies and overseeing the financial administration of the Council. It monitors the Council's income and expenditure against budgets, makes recommendations for action to the Council and provides financial support to local groups through the Grant Scheme. The committee co-ordinates the budgetary process and recommends a precept to cover its annual expenses for approval by the Council at a meeting in December/January each year.

In 2015/16 the Council will raise a precept of £231,492 with the addition of a Council Tax Grant of £18,869. This represents a reduction of £2,855 from 2014/15 in order to allow a 0% increase in the annual charge.

Any additional funds required will be raised from grants and allotment rents.



**Grants awarded in 2015/16:**

Canvey Island First Responders	£500.00
Canvey Island Swimming Club	£500.00
Canvey Island Baywatch	£500.00
Canvey Community Archive	£500.00
Friends of St Katherine's Cemetery	£500.00
Canvey 1st East Girl Guides	£360.00
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>£2,860.00</b>

**Grants Received in 2015/16**

Essex Heritage	£5,000.00
MOD	£2,000.00
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>£7,000.00</b>

**COUNCILLOR CONTACT DETAILS**

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**STAFF**

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Deputy Clerk: Ellea Hunt  
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Community Warden: Adele Ruskin  
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**Website details:** [www.canveyisland-tc.gov.uk](http://www.canveyisland-tc.gov.uk)